

OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Momchil Lyubenov Georgiev –
National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov"

On a dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor"
of Rumyana Nikolaeva Petrova on the subject

"The role of ensemble playing in early learning on orchestral instruments"

Professional direction 8.3. Music and dance art

Doctoral program "Musicology and musical Faculty of Music Pedagogy"

Department "Classic and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts"

Academy of Music, Dance and Visual Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv

Research supervisor: Associate Professor Kiril Ivanov Chaplikov

1. General presentation of the procedure and the materials received for review

By order No. PD-27-024 dated 17.02.2023 of the Rector of AMDVA "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for opening a procedure for the final defence of Rumyana Nikolaeva Petrova's dissertation work on the topic "The role of ensemble playing in early learning on orchestral instruments".

The set of materials presented by Rumyana Nikolaeva Petrova includes: order for deduction, order for a scientific jury, dissertation, author's abstract, three publications and a professional autobiography.

2. A brief information about the doctoral student

Rumyana Petrova has many years of experience as a soloist, orchestral and chamber music performer, teacher of viola, chamber music and orchestral playing. Her music education includes two master's degrees - "Music Pedagogy" in AMDVA - Plovdiv and "Performing Art" at the University of Pretoria - South Africa, and her professional activity spans three continents – Europe, South Africa and North America. Since 2008, she has been working as a teacher at National school of arts "Dobri Hristov" - Varna, and in 2019 she became the school principal. She invests a lot of knowledge and energy in the last decade in the organization and logistics of the International Music Festival "Varna summer".

3. Relevance of the topic

The topic of adequate realization of the professional musical staff in our country through their early and indeed timely profiling, is particularly relevant in the context of reforms in our education system. The doctoral student makes arguments in favour of early profiling and points out a number of specific ways to apply it in within the framework of the existing regulations.

4. Expediency of research methods

The PhD student's research methods include review and analysis of existing publications on the topic and a presentation of her own research. The selected publications reflect different points of view and own research respects with its duration - part of the author's pedagogical activity is the revival of the Youth Symphony Orchestra at the school through a joint project with the Municipality of Varna and BNT for educational concerts by children-performers for audience of children and parents. The research is also related to acquisition and processing of data through surveys with orchestra participants and interviews with their teachers and mentors over a 12-year period, tracking changes in attitudes of respondents with the accumulation of orchestral and stage experience. The juxtaposition of the conclusions from the analysis of publications and research results contributes to a broad scope of the problem and achieving the set goals.

5. Evaluation of the dissertation work

The content of the work shows not only excellent knowledge, but also deep involvement with the problem on the part of the doctoral student. The work is structured according to the established standards - introduction, three chapters, conclusion, contributions, bibliography and applications in a total volume of 176 pages. The reliability of the material is ensured by accuracy when citing the literature used, and the tables with summary results of own research are graphically presented. An analytical approach was used in interpreting the results of the surveys, comparing them not only with the conclusions from the conducted interviews, but also with the examined academic publications. The conclusion of the paper clearly shows the results of the research with the relevant deductions and five important elements are indicated for the correct integration of the ensemble playing at an early stage of learning in the context of the overall music-educational process.

6. Contributions and significance of scientific development and publications on the subject of dissertation work

The candidate conducts her research in a dynamic environment in which she not only analyses the collected data, but also experiments on the target group which is the subject of the research with ideas emerging in the course of the analysis. This process gives an opportunity to draw valuable conclusions relevant to both theory and practice: the development presents an up-to-date perspective on implementation of ensemble playing in the early stages of orchestra training instrumentalists; the question is raised about the adequate career guidance of the young musician with a view to successful professional realization; five important elements are indicated for proper integration of ensemble playing into the overall musical- educational process; foundations are laid for further research on the subject in order to aim at creating a methodology for the systematic study of ensemble playing in the early stages of instrumental learning.

7. Critical notes and recommendations

The proposed research has a practical-applied nature and can be issued as a valuable aid in the learning process of music schools. The work presents samples from the viewpoints of active professional music school teachers taken at the time of the research and these interviews may pose an interest to become a monography in their entirety.

8. Abstract

The abstract contains an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, contributions and a bibliography. The exposition reflects the purpose, object and subject of the study and gives an adequate idea of the problems posed in the work, the author's research methods and her analytical approach to the derived results. The main part of the work - the author's own research – is presented in the abstract by means of summaries tables, comparing the results of surveys conducting within 12 years, well-formed and synthesized presentation. The deductions in the conclusion are clear and precise formulated, the contributions are presented correctly in the area of the considered problems.

9. Conclusion

The dissertation combines theoretical and practical aspects, it shows professional competence on the part of the doctoral student, the text corresponds to the requirements for a dissertation work, there are contributing moments and part of its conclusions could have a practical-applied character. Given the above, I believe that the presented dissertation work gives a real basis with my full confidence to propose to the honourable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Romyana Nikolaeva Petrova.

May 2023