

OPINION

by Prof Sevdalina Ilieva Dimitrova, PhD
Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen,
Department for Information Qualification and Lifelong Learning
of dissertation for awarding of the educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences
Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in ...
Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching
doctoral student: **Tong Guiyang**
topic: *A Comparative Study of the Ideas of Music Education of
Xiao Youmei and Zoltán Kodály*
Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD
AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”
Faculty of Music Pedagogy
at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting

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

By order No PD-27-109 of 20.07.2023 of the Rector of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic: *A Comparative Study of the Ideas of Music Education of Xiao Youmei and Zoltán Kodály*, for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "**doctor**" in the Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field: 1.3. Teaching Pedagogy in... Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching. The author of the dissertation is Tong Guiyang - a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting with supervisor Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska from AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting.

The materials presented by Tong Guiyang is in accordance with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev".

2. Brief biographical data for the candidate:

Tong Guiyang's biography reveals his as a teacher who is extremely hard-working, goal-oriented and innovative. She is an Associate Professor at the Conservatory of Huizhou University, majoring in Guzheng. Her affinity for this traditional Chinese instrument began in childhood, which led her to the Faculty of String Instruments at the Art Institute of Harbin University. Four years later, she received a Master's degree in Musicology. She started her career as teacher in Guzheng at the Institute of Music and Choreography of Daqing University, and from May 2020 she is a lecturer in the Guzheng specialty at the Conservatory of Huizhou University. In 11 years as a teacher she has trained over 100 students and successfully participated in 9 scientific research projects, published 3

monographs, over 20 articles, three of which are awarded. She holds 4 utility model patents. She has won 3 awards for teacher training and over 20 awards for research supervisor. Organizes concerts. She is a member of the Chinese Association of Musicians, the Association of Ethnic Instrumental Music of Heilongjiang Province, she is also the chairman of the Guzheng Council of the Daqing City Musicians Association.

3. Relevance of the topic

Tong Guiyang has chosen a key to the music education and significant research problem, and the topic of her dissertation, having a fundamental significance in creating a new stage of development of music education in China.

4. Expediency of the research methods used to achieve the set goals

The comparative research method, mainly used by the doctoral student, is in full accordance with the topic of her dissertation work.

5. Evaluation of the dissertation work (knowledge of the problem, content and structure according to the established norms, credibility, analytical approach, derived results)

The dissertation complies with the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the Implementation of DASRBA and the relevant Regulations of the Academy of Music Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev", Plovdiv. There are no reported violations of the procedure.

The **dissertation** consists of introduction, four chapters, conclusion, contributions and bibliography including 79 titles – a total of 179 pages. The author convincingly argues the relevance of the topic, highlighting its importance for the modern music education in China. Already in the **Introduction**, the competent formulation of the methodological characteristics: subject, object, goal, the resulting tasks, as well as the working hypothesis of the study, which are fully in accordance with the requirements of the pedagogical research methodology, makes a good impression. The **Conclusions** in Tong Guiyang's dissertation work are a logical summary of the entire research. It shows a logical structure of the work presented by the author, an excellent command of scientific terminology, as well as compliance with the standards for the layout of a dissertation work. The literature she uses includes works of music theorists and educators, as well as their quotations, which support major theses in her research. I believe that Tong Guiyang's dissertation work, with the literature sources she uses, is precise and professional, and her knowledge of the scientific field in which she works is sufficiently thorough and wide-ranging.

The dissertation is the original work of the author.

6. Contributions and significance of the thesis and the relevant publications

The contribution of Tong Guiyang's **scientific work** to China's music education is indisputable. The main achievements in this dissertation work and the **contributing elements** in it, are as follows:

1. Scientific information on Xiao Youmei's contribution to the music education in China is systematized, presenting a complete history of music education in the country;

2. An important contribution is examining and analyzing the development of Zoltán Kodály's educational system in China, as well as its adaptation to the local conditions, summarizing its trends in the field of music education in the People's Republic of China in recent years;

3. The process of transforming Zoltán Kodály's system to meet the needs of the local situation is clearly demonstrated;

4. The comparative study of the ideas of the founder of the work of music education in China Xiao Youmei and the Hungarian music pedagogue Zoltán Kodály is well-founded, with the aim of interpreting their content, comparing similarities and differences in them;

5. The reliability of the conducted comparative research on the development of music education in China has been proven;

6. A serious contribution in the dissertation work is the proven continuity and high value of the results obtained from the two systems of music education, as an opportunity to create a new stage of development of modern music education.

The contributions identified by the author correspond to the content of the work and objectively reflect what Tong Guiyang has achieved as a doctoral student.

The **indicated four scientific publications** reflect essential aspects of the content of the dissertation, without duplicating it. They undoubtedly have scientific value.

The general characteristics of the presented dissertation work and the publications, are: relevance of the discussed problems, logical structure of presentation, precision in the use of basic concepts, competent systematization and analysis of significant literary sources, substantiation of productive practical ideas, as well and highly professional language and presentation style.

7. Critical remarks and recommendations – I don't have any.

8. The Abstract presents the dissertation work in a summary. It contains all the chapters of the dissertation and correctly presents the main research results it reaches. It also contains ideas and conclusions.

9. Conclusion - The dissertation *is an original contribution to science* and **meets all** the requirements of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the DASRBA and the relevant Regulations of the AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev".

The dissertation work shows that Tong Guiyang has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Music Education Methodology, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conducting of scientific research.

Considering all of the above, I confidently give my *positive assessment* of the research presented in the dissertation work reviewed above, abstract, scientific publications, achieved results and contributions, and *propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor"* to Tong Guiyang in *Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in ... Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching.*

28.08. 2023

Reviewer:
Prof Sevdalina Dimitrova, PhD