

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof Dimo Enev Enev – AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev"-Plovdiv

on dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”,
Professional field 8.3 Music and dance Art, Doctoral program “Choreography”
Department of Choreography, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography at
Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv

Author: Ventseslav Mihaylov Nedelchev

Topic: Characteristic Features of the Hartsoy Dances and Games

Academic supervisor: Prof Daniela Dzheneva, PhD

General presentation of the procedure and the materials received for review

The doctoral candidate Ventseslav Nedelchev has presented a set of electronic and paper documents related to the procedure for defending the dissertation work, as well as 4 publications and 4 reports related to the main topic of the scientific research. All of them comply with the regulations for the development of the academic staff and the scientific activity of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv and therefore I have no objections to the presented documents and materials.

Brief biographical data of the candidate

Venceslav Mihailov Nedelchev was born on 05.01.1976 in Ruse. He began his dance career in 1982 at children's dance ensemble "Zdravets", after which he improved as a stage performer in the period 1991-1995 at the folklore dance theatre "Nayden Kirov" in Ruse and subsequently completed Master's program in “Bulgarian folk choreography” at AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” - Plovdiv. In parallel with his studies, he worked in the dance ensemble of the same institution and taught (for two years) Bulgarian folk dances in a choreography class at the "Patriarch Evtimiy" school in Plovdiv.

His professional career continues at the Municipal Children's Center for Culture and Art - Ruse, as a choreographer of the folklore ensemble "Ruschuklyche" and as instructor-folklorist at the club of Bulgarian folk dances "Chanove" – Ruse. In 2011 he founded Bulgarian Dance Club “Nashentsi”. In 2021, he was admitted into the doctoral program at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv with the topic of the dissertation work "*Characteristic features of the Hartsoy dances and games*".

He is author of 14 stage works, such as "Torlashka sitnitsa" and "Pirinsko veselie" and he has worked with prominent composers - Todor Prashtakov, Dimitar Bonev, Georgi Andreev and Borislav Galabov.

Awards

Third prize for choreography from the contest for humorous songs and dances " Zlaten Trandafil" - Kazanlak, 1996.

Special award of the Union of Bulgarian Music and Dance Artists from the "Atanas Atanasov" competition - Stara Zagora 1997.

First prize for the choreography of the dance "Katsnal Brambar..." from the national competition for chamber dances in the city of Gorna Oryahovitsa and the third prize for the same work from the Chamber Dance Festival - Haskovo - 2003.

Ventseslav Nedelchev has worked for 12 years as a sound engineer at Radio Ruse and was appointed to BNT-Ruse as a sound engineer, where he helps digitize the film archive and consults on the inventory of folklore archives.

The problems researched in the scientific work *Characteristic Features of the Hartsoy Dances and Games*, are extremely relevant in the study of the dance folklore of the Hartsoy ethnographic group, which fills another gap in the ethnochoreological puzzle of the Bulgarian folklore tradition.

The dissertation work of Ventseslav Nedelchev is structured correctly according to the regulations for scientific writing in AMDFA. It consists of 206 pages, including an introduction, three main chapters and a conclusion with contributing points. The bibliography includes 98 book and electronic titles, and the work is adequately supplemented by digital video archives of BNT-Ruse and 2 appendices with table and photo visualization.

Introduction

Already in the introductory part, the dissertation enters into the specific directions of the work, making a detailed description of the origin of the Hartsoy ethnographic group. It correctly formulates the goals, tasks, object and subject of the research, as well as the methodology used in empirical and theoretical terms. It presents the researched settlements and sets its author's idea, as well as the upcoming searches in the development.

First chapter - Characteristics of the Hartsoy ethnographic group (way of life, mentality and customs)

The author smoothly enters the investigated issues, first presenting the "Review of Scientific Research", which is structured chronologically and is sufficiently thorough. In it, the doctoral student presents both researchers with an outstanding contribution to ethnographic science, and young specialists dealing with specific areas of the studied ethnographic group, highlighting the problems and defining the need for a more in-depth analysis of the dances and games of the Hartsoy. In the presentation of the settlements, the traditional house, the rural way of life, livelihood and crafts as well as the mentality of the Hartsoy ethnographic group, associated in ritual - their system of customs, he delicately interweaves some of the performed dances and games. He unites all this with a short concluding statement about the influence, importation and assimilation of the other folklore groups by the Hartsoy.

In the **second chapter**, *Influence of refugees from Dobrudzha on the dance folklore of the Hartsoy* the author focuses on the migration processes that have influenced the studied ethnographic group. He makes a comparative analysis of the local dance patterns and the imported folklore of other more distant groups and communities, weaving in part of the ritual characteristics of the "Brazaya", "Kukove", "Buenets" customs. He finds many similarities in the dance folklore of the Hartsoy people with the Grebentsi, Shikovtsi, Glavantsi, Polyantsi and Sartovtsi. He does this using comparative analysis of the Dobrudzha and the Hartsoy rachenitsa dance, taking into account the differences in style, character and manner of performance depending on the temperament of the ethnographic group. In his empirical study, he even found some transformations in the performance of the dances, such as changing and adding dance moves, changing musical scale and different grip characteristics. At the end of the chapter, Nedelchev summarizes and synthesizes the presented and analyzed information, formulating specific conclusions.

Third Chapter *The influence of immigrants from the Balkan on the formation of the dances and games in the Hartsoy ethnographic group. Penetration of Kapan and Thracian dances and games in the dance folklore of the Hartsoy*

In this chapter, the author skillfully collaborates with the studies made by researchers such as Miletich, Haliolchev, Trifonov, Bakalov, Grigorova and others, with his personal field observations and establishes specific interrelationships and assimilations of the settlers and the local population. He presents in details the migration processes, goes through the household needs and reaches the essence of the investigated issues, namely to the two sub-points of the chapter *The influence of the musical accompaniment of the dances and the games between the Balkanjiy, Kapan, Thracians and Hartsoy* and *Analysis of the dances and the games from the repertoire of the Hartsoy, influenced by Balkanjiy, Kapan and Thracians*. The correctly presented examples of music and dance show the interrelationship between the individual ethnic groups sought-after by the author. He achieves this by detailing the examples, comparing them not only as a whole, but also modularly – rhythmicity, phrasing, lyrics and message in the musical examples and form, way of performance and hand-holding, dance phrase and spatiality in the dance examples.

Conclusion

The conclusion is built in a retrospective plan, with the author correctly systematizing and summarizing the research work performed. From what has been said, it is clear that the author got to know the researched material in detail, through theoretical and field work, and bearing in mind all his professional experience, we can trust him for the scientific interpretation made in this way, namely: *"The conclusion reached is that the Hartsoy satisfy their aesthetic and emotional need for dances, enriching their dance traditions, through the interpretation of people and games from the*

ethnographic groups of the Grebentsi, Satovtsi, Glavantsi, Kapan, and communities of Balkanjiy and Thracians." p.165

Contributions

The significance of the work is convincingly complemented by the presented contribution points, with which I fully agree. They correctly reflect the researched topic and give completeness and scientifically applied value to the work.

Abstract

The 56-page abstract follows the course of the doctoral dissertation and fully reflects the overall content of the work. The articles and reports written by the candidate are correctly referenced, showing various stages of his research work.

Conclusion

I express my positive assessment of the candidate's scientific work and, with a recommendation for its publication, I strongly recommend the Scientific Jury to award Ventseslav Mihailov Nedelchev the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", professional field 8.3, "Music and Dance Art", doctoral program "Choreography" .

12.01.2024

Assoc. Prof D. Enev, PhD