

# REVIEW

by  
Prof Svilen Raichev, PhD

on dissertation work for awarding  
educational and scientific degree *Doctor*

to

**Wu Meihong**

titled

## **A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE STATE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR "MUSIC" IN THE SCHOOL EDUCATION IN CHINA AND IN BULGARIA**

Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in ...

Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching

Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD

Wu Meihong was born in June 1982 in Chongqing, China. In 2007 he received Bachelor's degree in Musicology, and in 2010 Master's degree in the same specialty. His research interests are in the field of music pedagogy. During this period he published three scientific papers. The topic of his Master's thesis is "The construction of rules for music education in modern Chinese schools". From June 2010 until now, he has been working as a teacher of music appreciation, choir and conducting, and ceramic instrument making and playing at Jingdezhen Ceramic University, Jiangxi Province.

- Second prize at the competition for young teachers lectures
- Award for advanced personality in teaching and education at Jingdezhen Ceramic University
- Award for a good teacher in the heart of students in the second new era in Jingdezhen Ceramic University

- as well as dozens of other provincial and municipal honors and awards.

He has published more than 10 articles and has supervised one university-industry cooperation research project of the Ministry of Education of China, and supervised and participated in three other projects at the university or higher level.

Since December 2020, he has been a full-time doctoral student in professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in ..., doctoral program Methodology of Music Teaching at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv. During his studies, he published three scientific publications in specialized editions in Bulgaria. In 2023, he successfully completed his studies as a full-time doctoral student.

He was discharged with the right of defense by order of the Rector No RD-27-181 of 18.12.2023.

The dissertation was discussed and proposed for public defense at a meeting of the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting at AMDFA "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, held on 21.02.2024.

The dissertation comprises a total of 207 pages, which include an introduction, six main chapters with sub-sections, Conclusion, Contributions of the dissertation and Bibliography and appendix.

I am impressed by the way the dissertation was conceived and constructed - academically, with an excellent style.

The main goal of this work is to present the ideas of music education and to make a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the standards for music curricula for primary and secondary schools in China and Bulgaria in order to achieve mutual cultural and educational exchange with the aim to improve the overall quality of education.

The idea of a thorough research and analysis of the characteristics of training is in itself a great challenge. The concepts, methods and results of teaching experience in music education are summarized, based on which recommendations are made for increasing the value of music education by directing the public's attention to the social value of music education and at the same time popularizing national music.

Already in the *Introduction* of the dissertation, the objective and the tasks of the research are clearly stated, showing the trends in music education in China and Bulgaria at the moment and the process of adaptation of the music education system is fully traced.

The *first chapter* of the study *International context and bilateral exchange in Chinese-Bulgarian music education*, presents the methods of teaching music aimed at students of different age groups and compares the standards of the music curriculum of the primary and secondary schools of the two countries. The trends for the development of educational philosophy are also discussed.

In the *second chapter*, the attention is on the historical evolution of music education in China. The current state and problems of the Chinese music education system and the measures for its improvement are presented, and feasible suggestions are offered. According to the author, the most important is to create a system of music curricula with national characteristics and the development of personalized courses using various forms of educational organization.

The *third chapter* focuses on the standards for school curricula in music education in China, providing strategic guidelines for improving students' abilities in music perception, understanding, appreciation, expression, and even creativity and innovation. The students' aesthetic taste is cultivated and their artistic talents are developed. All this helps to build adequate aesthetic views.

The *fourth chapter* of the dissertation is an attempt to present the current state of education in Bulgaria and, more specifically, the school music education. Special attention is given to the creation of State Educational Standards in Bulgaria.

The *fifth chapter* analyzes the standard for music curriculum in the Bulgarian primary, junior high and high school stages of education. The author summarizes that the current state educational standards for the subject "Music" in Bulgaria in the individual stages of education provide the necessary level of knowledge and skills that students must master in the school education.

The *sixth chapter* is a comparison of the music education standards and curricula in China and Bulgaria. The similarities and differences regarding these standards are analyzed, specified and summarized.

In the *conclusion*, the author concludes that music education in China and Bulgaria has been influenced by the Western European music education system, but both countries have created their own modern music education systems.

The dissertation is an analytical reflection of the author on the traditions of the Chinese and the Bulgarian music culture and music education. The dissertation is very useful and will be useful to young people who are training to be music educators.

The dissertation thus presented enriches our scientific literature and can serve with its ideas for new scientific studies.

The work has a pronounced applied character. In this sense, it is a natural link with the past and prospective development of the Chinese and the Bulgarian musical culture and education. Problems existing in the teaching and management of music education are pointed out and ways to solve these problems are explored.

I fully agree with the contributions of the dissertation work pointed by the author.

The doctoral candidate also has the necessary scientific publications on the subject. The bibliography, including 77 titles is impressive and correctly cited and arranged.

As an advantage of the dissertation, I would also note the presence of two appendices and the use of 15 tables which are suitably complement the work.

As a conclusion, I would like to say that the work has the necessary contributing qualities of a dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

I am convinced that the dissertation of Wu Meihong has a contribution nature, both in a theoretical and an applied sense. With his overall work and contributions, the candidate meets the requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in Professional field 1.3 Teaching Music Pedagogy.

Prof Svilen Raichev, PhD

