

OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova, PhD

Prof Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas

of dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”

Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Education, Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting, AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv,

Author: **Wu Meihong**

Title: *A Comparative Study of the State Educational Standards for "Music" in the School Education in China and in Bulgaria*

Academic supervisor: **Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD**

1. Procedure

On the grounds of art. 24, para. 4 and para. 6 of the Regulations on the implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and based on the decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, the doctoral student full-time studies, Wu Meihong has been discharged with the right to defend a dissertation work.

The procedure is observed. The documents and publications submitted by the candidate have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

2. Information about the doctoral candidate

Wu Meihong was born in Chongqing, China. From September 2003 to June 2007, he studied at Chongqing Changjiang Normal College, majoring in Musicology, and received Bachelor's degree. From September 2007 to June 2010, he studied at Zhejiang Normal University, majoring in Musicology, where he obtained a Master's degree. Since June 2010 to now, he has been working as a teacher of music appreciation, choir and conducting, and making and playing ceramic instruments at the Ceramics University in Jiangxi Province. From 2020 to 2023, Wu Meihong is successfully studying as a full-time doctoral student at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" in a doctoral program. Methodology of Music Education with academic supervisor Prof. Tsvetanka Kolovska.

Wu Meihong's research interests are in the field of music pedagogy. The topic of his Master's thesis is the construction of rules for music education in modern Chinese schools. He has published more than 10 articles, 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. In his biography, Wu Meihong has awards for: young teachers lectures; advanced

personality in teaching and education; a good teacher award, as well as dozens of other provincial and municipal honors and awards.

3. Relevance of the topic

The relevance of the proposed dissertation is indisputable, because it discusses:

1. Perspectives and trends towards diversifying and deepening the Chinese-Bulgarian exchange with the aim of developing musical culture and improving cooperation in education.

2. Comprehensive and systematized state standards for music curricula for primary and secondary schools in China and Bulgaria.

3. Similarities and differences in the state educational standards for music education in the schools of China and Bulgaria.

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4. The educational concepts behind the different standards informing the development and reform of the music education curriculum in both countries.

Wu Meihong's methods of scientific research: historical retrospect; theoretical analysis and synthesis; comparison; concretization; summary; study of pedagogical experience; survey and interview, are useful and expedient, both in the context of the discussed problems and in the research work carried out.

4. Evaluation of the dissertation work

The dissertation work *A Comparative Study of the State Educational Standards for "Music" in the School Education in China and in Bulgaria* is total 203 pages and includes: introduction, six chapters, conclusion, contributing points, bibliography and two appendices. The bibliography includes 77 titles.

The author has presented 3 publications on the subject of the dissertation: *The Historical Development of the Chinese Standards for Music Curricula; Changes and Existing Problems in Music Education according to the Arts Curriculum Standards in Compulsory Education* (2022); *The Chinese-Bulgarian Exchange in the Field of Musical Culture and its Development*.

The research presented in the dissertation shows a focused, committed and effective approach to the issue on the part of the doctoral student. The educational standards in music in China and Bulgaria analyzed by him, their interpretation and explanation, lead to a logical and meaningful comparison, in which the similarities and differences in the individual types, dictated by the cultural, historical and geographical characteristics of the two countries, are noted.

The good and correct Bulgarian language used by the doctoral student, as well as his mastery of the scientific terminology is also impressive.

5. Contributions

1. The presented work is an overview of the Chinese music education from ancient times to the present day and can be used as a reference for studying its history.

2. The work collects and summarizes the history of the bilateral exchange in the field of music culture and education between China and Bulgaria for more than 70 years.

3. The comparative study of the Chinese-Bulgarian standards for music curricula and the suggestions made by the author help provide guidance in various aspects: content and assessment of music education; experience in preserving and inheriting the national musical culture; attitude and position regarding future music education and curriculum reform.

4. This research fills a gap in the insufficient information on the subject.

6. Conclusion and reasons for proposal

My assessment of the doctoral student's overall work is **positive**.

I believe that the presented material meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff Act and the regulations for its implementation. I propose to the scientific jury to accept the results and contributions in the dissertation work and to award the doctoral candidate **Wu Meihong** the educational-scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in..., in the doctoral program Methodology of Music Education.

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Author of the opinion:

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