

OPINION

by

Prof Ermila Schweitzer, PhD

NMA „Prof Pancho Vladigerov”

on the dissertation of

WU MEIHONG

full-time doctoral student

Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching

at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting

AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”

Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD

on topic:

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

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

On the grounds of a decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy dated 18.03.2024, to open a procedure for the defense of the dissertation work of Wu Meihong, I was provided with the following materials: CV of the candidate, dissertation work, abstract, a reference to the contribution nature of the dissertation, list of publications on the topic.

Brief biographical data for the candidate:

Wu Meihong is born in 1982 in Chongqing, China. In 2007 he receives Bachelor's degree from Chongqing Changjiang Normal College, majoring in Musicology, and in 2010 Master's degree in Musicology from Zhejiang Normal University. Since 2010, he has been working as a teacher of music appreciation, choral conducting, and making and playing ceramic instruments at Jingdezhen Ceramic University, Jiangxi Province. He has won a number of awards for young teachers at the municipal and district levels. He has published more than 10 articles and has managed various university and national projects.

Mr. Wu's research is dedicated to the national educational standards in music education in primary and secondary schools and is very relevant in its subject matter, as it provides comprehensive information on music education in China and Bulgaria, as well as a comparison between the two education systems, in order to achieve mutual cultural and educational exchange.

The research methods include: historical study of music education in both countries, theoretical analysis and synthesis of the collected information, comparative analysis and summary, study of pedagogical experience, surveys and interviews conducted with school administrators, music teachers, experts, in order to collect information about the current situation and the implementation of reforms in music education.

Wu Meihong's dissertation is an analytical and comparative study. It includes a historical overview of the emergence of the idea of music education, of the philosophy of music education in the works of the American researchers Bennett Reimer and David Elliott, as well as the concept of multicultural music education by Wayne Bauman. The author also examines world music-pedagogical systems such as the methods of Dalcroze, Kodály, Orff and Kabalevsky. The author also offers a historical review of the Bulgarian-Chinese exchange in the field of musical culture and education in the period 1949-2024.

The author traces the evolution of the idea of music education, starting with Confucius and his "*ritual spirit Li and music*" (p.10), i.e. through music the student should be enlightened so as to ennoble his own emotions. He analyzes the work of Kang Youwei (1858-1927) – the first reformer who advocated school music education, following the example of Germany and Japan. He introduces us to other important personalities who contributed to the development of music education - Wang Guowei, Cai Yuanpei - the founder of the "music pedagogy" specialty, Xiao Youmei, etc.

In a separate chapter, the problem of the music education in primary and secondary schools is considered. The importance of including folk music in the educational process in order to preserve the traditional culture is emphasized and concrete strategies are proposed: creating courses on traditional folk music, new teaching methods, combining classroom and extracurricular activities. The author pleads for a balanced model of music education that skilfully combines multicultural trends with traditional musical heritage.

After making a detailed analysis of the music education and a description of the educational standards in China and Bulgaria, the candidate compares the two systems (Chapter Six). He compares the objectives, core/ key curriculum competencies, music curriculum concepts, the interpretation of the concept of aesthetic education, the importance of the artistic experience and practice, the overall concept of art curricula, standards for promoting national musical culture and understanding multiculturalism, as well as the study materials. The author also gives specific examples – conducting a music lesson in a Bulgarian and Chinese school, comparing a music textbook for the 8th grade in both countries. A survey on the curricula in China and an interview with a Bulgarian music teacher are included in the thesis.'

The author lists five contributions of the dissertation that I fully accept. A large amount of information has been collected, which can also be the basis for future research.

The publications on the subject of the dissertation work are sufficient and testify to a serious research interest and professional experience of the author. The submitted abstract corresponds to the dissertation.

Wu Meihong's dissertation is a thorough analytical-comparative study, with emphasized practical value, detailed analyzes and well-formulated conclusions. Based on everything that has been said so far, I propose to the respected scientific jury to award Wu Meihong's the scientific educational degree "Doctor" in professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Sofia, 30.04.2024

Prof Ermila Schweitzer, PhD