

## OPINION

By

Assoc. Prof Iliana Ognyanova Petkova, PhD

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

Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching

Author: Anastasiya Ivanova Batkova

Title: *Pedagogical technologies for building singing skills in children aged from 7 to 10 years in an extracurricular vocal group*

Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD

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

The review of the administrative documents of the procedure prove its legality. The doctoral student was enrolled by Order No RD-27-087/16.12.2019 of the Rector of Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts full-time study for a period of 3 years. She was discharged with the right of defense by Order No RD-27123/14.12.2022. The doctoral student meets the minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "doctor", thereby meeting the requirements specified in Art. 2, para. 1 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

### **2. Brief biographical data of the candidate**

As evident from the presented autobiography, the candidate has devoted herself to music from an early age. At first, she was in the role of a student and was accepted in the 1st grade at National School of Music and Dance "Dobrin Petkov", Plovdiv, majoring in Classical Singing. Then, in 2016, she decides to assume other role, that of a teacher, and began her training at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" in the specialty Pedagogy of Music Education. She obtains Bachelor degree, and the very next year she upgrades to Master degree with the professional qualification Master - Music Teacher. In 2018, she starts her professional career as a vocal pedagogue in the Art Voice Center Association, and since 2021 until now she has been a music teacher and conductor of the choirs at NSMD "Dobrin Petkov". She decided to defend her pedagogical research, experience and knowledge as a conductor theoretically and prove it experimentally in a dissertation, and in 2019 she passes the candidacy exam and is enrolled in the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting with scientific supervisor Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska.

### **3. Relevance of the topic**

The relevance of the topic can be sought in three directions. First – in the pedagogical aspect - the use of appropriate technologies is one of the most difficult processes in pedagogical practice. Knowledge of different pedagogical methods and approaches provide the "freedom" of the teacher to create, to be "flexible" in their use. The extracurricular forms of education are a rich environment for

the development of children's creative potential. The specificity of work in a vocal group reflects on the correct choice of methods. One of the most important didactic questions is to whom the training is aimed, and here comes the second, psychological aspect. Knowing the age characteristics of children at age 7 to 10 years will allow the vocal pedagogue to select the most appropriate technology and apply it. The candidate herself realizes their importance and emphasizes this on page 50, from page 70 onwards when describing the vocal qualities of children. The third aspect is the content, related to the application of specific pedagogical technologies when working with children to develop their singing skills and their participation in a vocal group. Each of these three aspects make the topic of the dissertation relevant and important for theory and practice.

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

To achieve the goal set in the dissertation and to prove the formulated hypothesis, the author has chosen appropriate methods. She uses pedagogical experiment, in its three stages - ascertaining, developing and concluding. Targeted surveillance and diagnostic testing have also been used. Each of the research methods is implemented technologically correctly, at an appropriate stage of the research and in support of proving the research hypothesis. The method of application of each one is described in detail.

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

The classic structure of a dissertation work is observed. In the introduction, Anastasiya Batkova explains her research interest in the topic. The object, subject, purpose, tasks and research hypothesis and methods are correctly formulated. Two theoretical chapters follow, devoted to the main emphases of the work. The first – of the extracurricular activity and more specifically of the vocal group as its manifestation and of pedagogical technologies - their essence, classification of the specific methods of training in the vocal group. In a separate subsection, the requirements for the preparation of the vocal pedagogue as a leader and the qualities he must possess are described. The second theoretical chapter is devoted to the singing activity. Emphasis is placed on 1) musical abilities as the main reason for participating in singing activity, 2) the physiological components of vocal development - anatomical features of voice formation in children between the ages of 7 and 10, the children's voice with its qualities such as strength, timbre and range. A special place is devoted to the singing warm-up as an important technological stage in the vocal activities, to the process of building singing skills and artistry in the vocal performance. In the two theoretical chapters, the doctoral student Anastasiya Batkova has demonstrated skills for correct selection of scientific literature, correct citation and reference, in-depth analysis, summarization and synthesis. The theoretical analysis is based on 132 scientific and 19 internet publications. The third chapter is devoted to the pedagogical experiment. Its detailed description, as a way of organizing and applying each of the methods, is indisputable proof of the work's authorship. The author seemed to have anticipated every single

question that might arise and strove to answer it. The criteria and indicators for evaluating choral skills are clearly and precisely formulated. They are sought in three directions - Artistic Skills, Singing Skills and Musical Skills. The analysis of the results is thorough and aimed at proving the formulated hypothesis. The included tables and figures indisputably prove that the constructed author's methods for forming singing skills when working with children from 7 to 10 years of age in the extracurricular vocal group Magic, where the pedagogical experiment was conducted, are effective and actually lead to their development. The entire text of the dissertation is written in conceptually correct and professional scientific language. The clear logical structure and analyticity make it readable.

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

I accept the contributions formulated by the doctoral candidate. However, if they were to be divided into theoretical and practical levels, how would they sound? There are three publications on the topic, mainly from scientific conferences, and they reflect the research findings and results.

#### **7. Critical remarks and recommendations**

Recommendations: 1) To refine the scale described on page 112 of the dissertation, related to the indicators of the individual evaluation criteria. There it is indicated that its values are from 0 to 4, and the substantive explanation is from 0 to 3. 2) To present the author's methods to a wider circle of specialists by publishing them in refereed scientific journals. I recommend that the dissertation work be published as an independent work so that other vocal pedagogues and choir conductors can apply the described methods and enrich their pedagogical work.

Question - If we refer to the classification of the pedagogical technologies by Petrov and Atanasova (p. 36), which of them does the author use as a vocal pedagogue in her work with the children from the vocal group Magic?

#### **8. Abstract**

The abstract reflects the full and detailed content of the dissertation work.

#### **9. Conclusion**

The dissertation work submitted for opinion meets the requirements for a similar scientific work. The legal and procedural requirements have been met. Anastasiya Batkova demonstrates her skills in conducting scientific research, which also has a sufficient theoretical and practical-applied contribution. This gives me the reason to recommend to the members of the scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Anastasyia Ivanova Batkova in professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in..., doctoral program Methodology of Music Education.

Date: 23.09.2023

Author of the opinion:

/Assoc. Prof Iliana Petkova/