

## **REVIEW**

**by Assoc. Prof Lilia Vitkova Stoilova, PhD**

on dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree

**Doctor**

Professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of Education in...

Doctoral program Methodology of Music Education

Author: Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis

titled: *Technological model for music education of children with special educational needs and the role of the folklore songs and folklore musical instruments in this education*

Academic supervisor: **Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska**

### **General presentation of the procedure and the materials presented for review**

By order No PD27-147/ 21.20.2024 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic *Technological model for music education of children with special educational needs and the role of the folklore songs and folklore musical instruments in this education* for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in, doctoral program Methodology of Music Education. The author of the dissertation is Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis - a doctoral student at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting, with academic supervisor Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska from AMDFA "Prof. Asen Diamandiev".

The documentation submitted by the doctoral student shows that all requirements of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at AMDFA "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv have been met. No violations were found in the course of the procedure. The dissertation, as well as the scientific publications, cover the Minimum National Requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the relevant regulatory framework from the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act. The abstract adequately and comprehensively reflects the content of the dissertation work.

The published materials are directly related to the topic of the dissertation and present key aspects of the theoretical content and research activities contained therein.

### **Brief biographical data of the doctoral student**

Andreas Triantafillidis graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor's degree, in 2017 - a master's degree in "Performing Arts (Folklore Instrument - Tambourine)", and in 2018 he completed a second

master's degree in "Music Pedagogy" at the Academy of Music and Theatre Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev". In 2021 he was enrolled in the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting in doctoral studies, individual form of study, and in 2024 he was discharged with the right to defend his thesis. During the period of study, he also completed several specializations in Greece. The doctoral student has very extensive work experience as a music teacher in various educational institutions in Greece. He is fluent in Greek, Bulgarian, English and German.

### **Relevance of the topic**

The relevance of the problem related to the provision of quality music education for children with special educational needs is determined by the growing understanding of the right of every individual to full participation in society. Despite legislative changes aimed at inclusion, there is a significant deficit in the preparation of pedagogical staff for working with diverse children and students. The need to develop innovative methods and approaches to music education that take into account the individual characteristics and needs of children with special educational needs /SEN/ is particularly relevant. The present study aims to contribute to filling this gap by creating a conceptual and technological model for music education.

The chosen topic of the study can be defined as pedagogically significant and relevant. The analysis of the theoretical basis of the dissertation research shows that the formulated goal, object and subject correspond to the topic of the study (p. 8). The main hypothesis put forward by the author (p. 8-9) is subjected to empirical verification in the present study. The tasks set are interconnected and aimed at achieving the general goal of the study (p. 9-11).

The problem studied in the dissertation, related to the identification of a set of scientific, empirical and cultural-historical prerequisites and current conditions for creating an effective technological model for music education, is extremely relevant. This study contributes significantly to the development of pedagogical science in the field of psychological support of children with SEN and helps to strengthen their psychological resilience.

The author, who has extensive experience working with children with special educational needs, has developed a new technological model for music education. This model demonstrates a high degree of professionalism and is the result of in-depth theoretical and practical research.

### **Expediency of the research methods used for achieving the set goals**

The choice of the research methods in the dissertation is justified and consistent with the set goal - creating an effective technological model for music education of children with SEN. The doctoral student used the combination of different methods, which allows to consider the problem from different perspectives and to obtain a more complete picture. The applied methodology provides

a solid basis for empirical confirmation of the research hypothesis. The results of the conducted analyses demonstrate consistent achievement of the previously defined goals and objectives.

### **Evaluation of the dissertation**

The dissertation work is a total of 181 pages, including drawings, tables and diagrams. Structurally, the scientific work consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, development prospects, publications on the topic, contributions, sources used and ten appendices (243 pages), presented in a separate book body. The literature includes 182 sources, of which 76 are in Cyrillic, 64 in Latin and 42 in Greek. The bibliography is written in accordance with established standards, and the literature review is selected in accordance with the research problem.

The introduction provides a detailed justification of the relevance of the research problem, the author's motives for investigating the given issue. The concepts of scientific research are correctly formulated - subject, object, goal and objectives of the study.

The first chapter of the dissertation work provides an in-depth review of the existing scientific literature related to the issues of musical education of children with special educational needs (SEN). The author has very precisely clarified the conceptual apparatus and even makes some innovations in it - e.g. "*children with SEN, Group A*" and "*children with SEN, Group B*". Through an analysis of relevant and contemporary research and statistical data, the relevance and significance of the topic is established, as well as the specific research framework is defined. The author conducts a detailed analysis of the specific needs and characteristics of children with SEN, identifying the main challenges facing their musical education. Based on this analysis, the need for an interdisciplinary approach is justified, combining knowledge from pedagogy, psychology and music therapy. As a result of the conducted literature review, four main groups of competencies necessary for the music educator to effectively teach children with SEN have been formulated. For each of these groups, didactic materials have been developed that provide detailed guidelines and practical examples. The author also analyzes various concepts from the field of physiology of education and discusses their application in the context of music education. This contributes to a deeper understanding of the developmental processes in children with SEN.

Chapter Two presents an in-depth theoretical analysis of the literature aimed at developing a conceptual framework for music education for children with SEN. Through a systematic review of existing research in the field of music therapy and pedagogy, the author identifies key mechanisms of music's impact on cognitive, emotional and social aspects of

development. Based on this analysis, didactic materials have been developed that integrate elements of different pedagogical approaches and are adapted to the specific needs of the target group. Particular attention is paid to the use of folk music materials as a means of promoting cultural identity and social integration.

The first and second chapters provide a solid theoretical basis for the empirical part of the dissertation, in which the author tests the effectiveness of the developed model in practice.

The third chapter presents the technological model developed by the author for music education of children with SEN, in the context of a complex therapeutic program. The model is created on the basis of a thorough theoretical analysis presented in the previous chapters, and is adapted to the specific needs of the target group. Particular attention is paid to the role of music as a means of emotional and cultural development. The author justifies and argues the choice of folklore musical materials and develops a detailed methodological toolkit, which includes a variety of musical activities and exercises. To assess the effectiveness of the developed system, an empirical study was conducted with a total of 23 children with different diagnoses over a five-year period in a specialized center where the author works. The results of the study show that the proposed approach has a positive effect on various aspects of the development of children with SEN, such as emotional regulation, social skills, and cognitive functions.

The author has developed specific criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the program and used statistical methods for data analysis. The results of the analysis confirm the hypothesis of the effectiveness of the proposed technological model and show that the integration of music into the therapeutic process can be an effective tool for improving the quality of life of children with SEN.

The final part of the dissertation presents the achieved results and confirms the validity of the research hypothesis. The author presents a detailed analysis of the data obtained and formulates clear conclusions regarding the effectiveness of the developed pedagogical system.

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

The presented dissertation offers an innovative and proven effective approach to music education for children with special educational needs. By integrating music, folklore

and a personalized approach, the author promotes the development of musical skills, social competencies and emotional well-being of children with SEN. The developed methodological materials and tools can be adapted and used by other specialists working with children with SEN. The results of the study have the potential to transform practices in the field of special pedagogy and psychology and serve as a basis for future research aimed at optimizing the educational processes for all children.

Andreas Triantafillidis presents four articles on the topic of his dissertation. All publications testify to the in-depth study of the problems in the field of music education of children with SEN and have theoretical and practical value.

### **Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks.

I recommend that Andreas Triantafillidis publish a book, as the dissertation has great practical value and can significantly contribute to the music education of children with SEN. The results of the study provide a basis for their application in music pedagogical practice.

### **Abstract**

The abstract objectively and adequately reflects the content of the dissertation work. Within 50 pages, the main ideas, methodology and results of the research are systematized. The abstract emphasizes the original contribution of the dissertation and provides a detailed list of cited sources.

### **Conclusion**

Considering the above, I convincingly give my positive assessment of the conducted research and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award **Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis** the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in..., scientific specialty Methodology of Music Educatio.

Reviewer:

16.01.2025

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Stoilova/

