

REVIEW

by **Prof Sevdalina Ilieva Dimitrova, PhD**

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of dissertation for awarding 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

doctoral student: **Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis**

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*

Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD

AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”

Faculty of Music Pedagogy

at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting

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

By order No PD-27-147 of 21.10.2024, of the Rector of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" and pursuant to Art. 31, 1 of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Protocol No 6/21.10.2024, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work 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*, or the acquisition of 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, individual form of study, in professional field 1. 3. Pedagogy of Education in... Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Education at the Department at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting with supervisor Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska from AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting.

The materials presented by Dai Liping is in accordance with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev".

2. Brief biographical data for the candidate:

The biography of Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis reveals a very good, innovative teacher, hardworking, responsible and purposeful. He has very good writing skills, as well as the ability to

conduct scientific research. He has the qualities to adapt and overcome difficulties. Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis graduated from the Academy of Music and Performing Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev", with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees giving him the opportunity to realize himself as a music teacher. This was followed by specializations in Music Therapy at the OPERA Conservatory, Athens, Greece (2017-2018), Special Pedagogy and Education for Children with SEN (2020-2021), Aegean University, Mytilene, Greece (2021), Master Class History and Technique of the Bulgarian Tambura, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece (2021). From 2001 to 2024, he works actively as a music teacher, both in the music schools in the cities of Serres, Drama, Xanthi, Katerini, Karditsa, Thessaloniki, and in the general education schools in the city of Heraklion on the island of Crete, Greece, Limenas, Prinos and Limenaria on the island of Thasos, Greece, and in the villages of Pontismeno, Dasochori, Vamvakofito and Kimisi, Serres region, Greece. In 2022-2023, he simultaneously works in the general education schools in the villages of Pentapoli, Chryso, Orini, Vamakofito and Neo Petritsi, Serres region, Greece. From 2016 to 2021, he also worked at the Therapeutic Center ANEMI, Serres, Greece. In the listed schools, he performed exceptionally well as a music teacher. This is a serious work experience in different regions of the country, which is enough for him to gain experience and knowledge in the work with children with special educational needs. The education he received and the subsequent specializations, as well as the experience he gained later helped him and he skillfully used them to write his dissertation.

3. Relevance of the topic

For his dissertation Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis has chosen a key topic for the music education. It has significant research value, and is of great importance for the music education in the Greek schools and more specifically when working with children with special educational needs, and it also justifies the role of the Greek folk songs and folk musical instruments in this education.

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

The research methods used by the author - literary, theoretical and empirical research methods, personal professional experience for organizing and conducting music education with children with special educational needs, with educational and therapeutic goals, as part of a comprehensive therapeutic program within an interdisciplinary therapeutic team, didactic experiment, as well as a method of statistics and analysis and summarization of experience, are in full accordance with the topic of the author's dissertation work. Each method chosen by the author has clarity, definiteness, focus, effectiveness and reliability.

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

The dissertation complies with the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the Implementation of DASRBA and the relevant Regulations of the Academy of Music Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev", Plovdiv. There are no reported violations of the procedure.

The **dissertation** consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, prospects for development, publications on the topic of the dissertation, contributions, sources used, a total of 178 pages, as well as ten appendices (243 pages), presented in a separate book body. 6 tables and 3 diagrams are used for illustration. The sources used in the text of the dissertation and in the appendices are 182 in number - 76 in Cyrillic, 64 in Latin, 42 in Greek. The author convincingly argues the relevance of the topic he has chosen, emphasizing its importance for contemporary music education in Greece.

It is impressive that already in the **Introduction**, Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis competently formulates the methodological characteristics: his personal motives for choosing a topic for his dissertation, highlighting the motive and occasion for writing, as well as the purpose of the study, the tasks arising from the purpose, object, subject and research hypothesis, as well as the significance and expected results, which are fully in line with the requirements of the methodology of pedagogical research.

Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis applies methods adequate to the research objective for testing the hypothesis and realizing the tasks set, namely: theoretical and empirical, diagnostic and experimental research methods, which he presents with arguments in the introduction to his dissertation.

In Chapter One: Relevance, Significance, Framework And Approaches To The Researched Problem, the author systematizes and analyzes the theoretical information in the specialized literature on the problem he is considering. He selects certain fragments of the pedagogical approaches and successful pedagogical experience of prominent educators, such as Carl Orff, Zoltan Kodály and Maria Montessori, exploring possibilities for their applicability in music education for children with SEN. Based on this, the conclusions he reaches are drawn and graded in a logical sequence.

In Chapter Two: Music as a means for the emotional and cultural development of children, Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis presents music education, focusing on the therapeutic effect of music and instruments when working with children with SEN. He examines music therapy, the main musical activities and in relation to the specifics of their applicability in music education when working with these children. The author points out valid reasons for including elements of integrated activities in education. He devotes special attention to songs and instrumental melodies from regional Greek folklore. He offers a general structural idea and guidelines for conducting a music lesson, based on a well-founded concept, as well as the need for the music educator to also have a music therapy qualification. He reaches important insights and conclusions for the music education of children with SEN.

In the third chapter: Pedagogical system for music education of children with SEN, Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis presents a technological model for music education of children with SEN with educational and therapeutic purposes. He competently highlights the qualities of the

proposed innovative model, giving its theoretical justification and practical applicability. Its effectiveness, verified in practice, stands out in the foreground.

The pedagogical experiment includes music training, in which the author actively uses the three main musical activities – perception, performance and creativity. The experiment was conducted within the framework of an innovative pedagogical system and according to the technological model proposed by the doctoral student at the ANEMI therapeutic center, Serres, Greece. The presented results cover 23 children.

The research results are convincingly presented. The analysis of the results achieved in the study has an evidentiary nature, which confirms the formulated working hypothesis.

The insights and the conclusion in the dissertation work of Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis are a logical summary of the entire work. It shows a logical structure of the work presented by the author, as well as excellent command of scientific terminology, as well as compliance with the standards for the design of a dissertation work.

The literature used by the author includes works of music theorists and pedagogues - Bulgarian, Russian, Greek, etc., as well as their quotes that support the main theses in his research. I am of the opinion that the dissertation work of Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis, with the literary sources used by him, is precise and professional, as well as his awareness in the scientific field in which he works, which is sufficiently in-depth and broad.

The dissertation is the original work of the author.

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

The contribution of the scientific work of Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis to music education in Greece and more specifically in working with children with special educational needs is undeniable. The main achievements in this dissertation work and the contributing moments in it include the following aspects: theoretical and applied-practical, as follows:

In the theoretical aspect:

1. An important contribution is the constructed by the author conceptual model of an innovative pedagogical system for music education for children with SEN with educational, upbringing and therapeutic goals, functioning within a specialized center for correctional therapy for children with SEN.
2. The author has created an adequate technological model especially for this system to implement this training, provided with all the necessary components - a fully equipped methodological toolkit, in which folklore songs and folklore instruments have their own special place and which is provided with all the necessary didactic materials, with rich musical material from specially selected folklore musical samples, etc.;

In an applied and practical aspect:

1. The innovative model has been experimentally tested in a real environment with the personal participation of the author for five years (2016-2021), in the specialized center for

correctional therapy ANEMI, Serres, Greece. Real positive results have been reported and its effectiveness has been proven in a long period of testing, and continues to be proven with its successful implementation in this center after the test period;

2. A real contribution is the practically oriented interdisciplinary research conducted with the constructed innovative pedagogical model, its long-term testing and the reported results of the conducted pedagogical experiment;
3. An important contribution is also the team practical implementation of effective correctional therapy for children with SEN in the specialized center ANEMI, applying a comprehensive approach to the correctional therapy of children with SN/SEN, as well as for other such centers;
4. A serious contribution is the establishment of the role of folklore songs and folklore instruments in similar music education for children with SEN;
5. A contribution is the categorical distinction between “children with SEN, Group A” and “children with SEN, Group B”, formulated on relevant definitions and the indication of convincing arguments and reasons for such a distinction;
6. A contribution is also the increase in the influence of the discussed scientific theories in the popularization of a number of useful results from the relevant cognitive areas, leading to a kind of enrichment of their scientific fields.

The contributions listed by the candidate in the dissertation correspond to the content of the work and reflect objectively the achieved results.

The four scientific publications reflect essential aspects of the content of the dissertation, without duplicating it. They undoubtedly have scientific value. They reflect the most important parts of the work of Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis. The publications not only correspond to the quantitative requirement of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", but also exceed them in number.

The general characteristics of the presented dissertation work and the publications, are: relevance of the discussed problems, logical structure of presentation, precision in the use of basic concepts, competent systematization and analysis of significant literary sources, substantiation of productive practical ideas, as well as the highly professional language and presentation style of the author.

7. Critical remarks and recommendations – I don't have any.

8. The abstract presents the dissertation work of Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis in a summary. It mentions all the chapters of the dissertation. The main research results that he reached are presented in a very correct way. The abstract contains ideas and conclusions, a list of scientific and applied scientific contributions, as well as the practical applicability of the results obtained. A list of scientific publications on the issues of the dissertation work is also provided.

9. Conclusion - The dissertation is an *original contribution to science* and meets all the requirements of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the DASRBA and the relevant Regulations of the AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev".

Based on the analysis, I believe that the 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*, developed by Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis is completed.

The evaluation for the dissertation is **positive**.

The dissertation work shows that Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Music Education Methodology, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conducting of scientific research.

Considering all of the above, I confidently give my *positive assessment* of the research presented in the dissertation work reviewed above, abstract, scientific publications, achieved results and contributions, and *propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor"* to **Andreas Georgios Triantafillidis** in *Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of Education in ... Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Education*.

17.12.2024

Reviewer:

Prof Sevdalina Dimitrova, PhD