

REVIEW

by

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on Dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree “Doctor”

Professional field 8.3 “Music and dance Art”,

Doctoral program “Choreography”

Author: **Marina Semenova Bankova** – Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, Department of Choreography

Topic: **The Dance Folklore of the Bessarabian Bulgarians**

Scientific adviser: Prof Daniela Dzheneva, PhD

This review is prepared on the basis of Order RD-27-108/14.07.2023 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, regarding the approval of a scientific jury and the presented by the doctoral student dissertation work, abstract, reference for the contributions to the dissertation work, publications on the topic of the dissertation.

The dissertation consists of 207 pages, including introduction, four chapters, conclusion, contributions, list of informants and bibliography.

The research work is the result of Marina Bankova's long professional/ practical experience in the field of dance in Bessarabia, described in detail in the provided professional biography.

The relevance of the topic is undeniable, given the trends to transform the pure stylistic characteristics of dance folklore within the borders of Bulgaria and the aspiration to preserve the identity of the Bulgarian. The work presents a region (the Bulgarian diaspora in Bessarabia), which, despite its remoteness, carries within itself the pure Bulgarian tradition carried over and survived in the whirlwind of geopolitics and globalization as a multi-component process.

The set objective and tasks in the work justify the choice of field research, analysis, comparative characterization, classification and summary, as well as work with archival materials, as the main toolkit in the methodology of the dissertation work, which is suitable for this type of qualitative research.

Before starting the actual part of the research, the candidate includes an **Overview of scientific research on the dance folklore in the region**, focusing on the works of Yov Titorov, Georgi Yankov, Nikolay Sevastiyanovich Derzhavin, Stoyan Dzhujev, Raina Katsarova-Kukudova,

Nikolay Kaufman, Nikolay Chervenkov and Ivan Grek, Kiril Jenev and Kiril Kharlampiev, Anna Ilieva, Krasimir Petrov and others.

The review of literary sources, presented in full and in chronological order, gives a clear idea of the scientific interests towards the Bessarabian Bulgarians and is in addition to the author's thesis that there are no studies, in which the direct object is the dance folklore.

Sections **2.1. Geographical location and historical information about Southern Bessarabia and the Bulgarian settlers in the region** and **2.2 The Bessarabian Bulgarians in Moldova - territorial-administrative situation of the investigated settlements in the Taracli region** are of extreme importance with a ascertaining aspect – what dance archetypes could be found today and from which ethnographic areas of Bulgaria, as well as what ethnic communities are distinguished that influence the style and character of the dance tradition.

After the general historical and geographical overview, the perimeter is logically narrowed in **2.3 Historical information on the Bulgarian villages in the Taraclia region**, the settlements discussed in the dissertation (the town of Taraclia and the villages Tvarditsa, Korten and Kairaklia) are clearly distinguished.

The contributions of the work become more evident in the Third Chapter **Description and analysis of the dance folklore of the Bessarabian Bulgarians**, where the exposition of the text is focused on the dance tradition of the settlements investigated in the field. It should be noted that more than fifteen dance examples are described in detail according to the established standards: information about the dance – name, form, way of dancing, participants, size, accompaniment, description of the movements, sheet music, and description of the dance. Specific dances per song are also introduced. It is noted exactly where Moldavian, Russian, Ukrainian and Romanian influence is observed, which is inevitable but not dominant. An analysis of the step movements has been made, a detail that preserves the dance characteristic, which is missing in most similar descriptions and a fact that reinforces the significance of the dissertation. Information is given on the tempo and the direction of the dance, the change of the figure, the role of the hands. We are witnessing a complete description in which the reader cannot go wrong.

The description and the accompanying analysis of the dances and performances reveal a great deal of skill and professionalism. Information that complements the richness of the Bulgarian dance tradition, preserved outside the borders of the homeland, added at the end of the third part is contained in section **3.4 Conclusions about the style and character of the dance folklore performed by the Bulgarians in Moldova and the whole of Bessarabia**.

Chapter IV. **Occasions and place of folk dancing and performances among the Bessarabian Bulgarians. Periodization. Musical accompaniment**. Information without which the style and character of the dance cannot be accurately presented. And here the author easily examines the accompanying components in the dancing process.

I believe that the scientific contributions are correctly pointed in the dissertation work.

The abstract provides information on all parts of the dissertation.

Generally, I would define the style of the dissertation work as scientific and readable, providing an opportunity for easy comprehension of the material not only by specialists in the field of dance, but also by the general reader.

I would like to congratulate the doctoral candidate and her supervisor for the enormous work that has contributed to the completion of the scientific database in the field of Bulgarian folk dance.

Recommendation: After a positive evaluation by the scientific jury, the work should be published in order to reach educators and educational institutions in the field of dance.

In conclusion, in my opinion the dissertation of Marina Semenova Bankova *The Dance Folklore of the Bessarabian Bulgarians*, presents an in-depth analysis of the topic with a contributing character for the preservation of the Bulgarian dance tradition.

I propose to the Scientific Jury **to award** the doctoral student Marina Semenova Bankova with the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, professional field 8.3. “Music and dance art”, doctoral program “Choreography”.

19.09.2023

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Assoc. Prof Mariya Kardzhieva, PhD