

OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof Biser Petrov Grigorov, PhD

on dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree “Doctor”,

Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art,

Doctoral program Choreography,

Author: Martin Stoyanov Petkov

Topic: *The Wedding Ring Dance* – **Specific dance practices and rituals from the region of Sliven**

Academic supervisor: Prof Anton Andovov

General presentation of the procedure and the presented materials

This review is prepared on the grounds of Order RD-27-108/ 11.07.2024 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, regarding the opening of a procedure for the defense of the dissertation work of Martin Petkov.

For this purpose, all materials are provided, including the dissertation work, publications by the doctoral student, abstract and the cited order.

All of them fully meet the legal requirements and the current practice of the Bulgarian universities.

Biographical data of the candidate:

Martin Petkov in born in 1990. in Sliven.

2009 – Graduates secondary education with the major Bulgarian Folk Dances;

2013 - Graduated AMDFA – Plovdiv with Bachelor’s degree;

2014 - Master's degree in Bulgarian Folk Choreography and Art Management;

In the period 2010 - 2015, he is a dancer in the Dance Team at AMDFA;

2016 - Ballet master at ensemble "Zagore" - Stara Zagora;

Since 2017 - dancer in ensemble "Trakia";

Head of the Bulgarian dance club "Gaitani";

Relevance of the topic

The creation of a family and the wedding rituals have always been present as a fundamental and important moment in the entire history of mankind. Undoubtedly, the wealth of traditions of the Bulgarian wedding is fully revealed in Thrace. In this regard, the region of Sliven logically provoked the doctoral student, as a suitable "ground" for research. And the personal emotional connection to this field only contributes to his responsible scientific view of the problem.

In view of the author's professional interests and specializations, Martin Petkov's work is focused on dance practices, but like any ambitious researcher, he did not limit himself to that and tried to go into details of all kinds. And that deserves respect.

Appropriateness of research methods.

The "Wedding" custom from the Sliven region is indicated as the purpose of the research. 4 main tasks and 5 research methods are correctly formulated, which include:

Literature review;

Field research;

Observation;

Audio and video analysis;

Comparative-analytical;

Evaluation of the dissertation work.

Martin Petkov's dissertation work is properly structured, well-formed and scientifically sound, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science.

The work is total 189 pages:

Main part - 165 pages and appendices - 24 pages;

It contains: Introduction, Objective, tasks and methodology and five main chapters.

The literature used includes 96 titles in Bulgarian.

In general, the doctoral student demonstrates a high professional culture as well as in-depth knowledge in the field of folk dance.

Contributions and significance of the thesis and the publications on the subject of the dissertation.

1. First comprehensive study of the custom "Wedding" from the region of Sliven;
2. Comparative analysis of the wedding rituals from Sliven and those from other regions of Bulgaria;
3. Description of the dance practices in the custom and study of the relationship ritual - dance;
4. Preservation and popularization of the Bulgarian folklore;
5. Created basis for stage productions based on the folklore of the studied region;

Critical notes and recommendations.

Our remarks are mainly related to the fact that there is no numbering of the photographic material.

Conclusion

We express a positive opinion and propose that Martin Petkov be awarded the educational and scientific degree "doctor", in field 8. "Art", professional field 8.3. "Music and dance art"

30.07.2024

Assoc. Prof Biser Grigorov, PhD