

OPINION

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

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Topic: *Specificity in the performance of the maiden ritual songs and dance practices in some settlements of Southwestern Bulgaria*

Scientific adviser: Prof Daniela Dzheneva, PhD

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

This opinion is prepared on the grounds of Order RD-27-059/ 15.04.2024 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, regarding the approval of a scientific jury and presented by the doctoral candidate: enrollment order, dissertation, abstract, curriculum vitae, contributions and four author publications on the topic.

The dissertation consists of 175 pages and includes introduction, three chapters, conclusion, results, contributions, a named list of informants (29), publications and reports on the topic of the dissertation (4) and a bibliography (126 titles in Bulgarian).

2. Brief biographical data of the candidate

The autobiographical data presents information related to Rumyana Filkova's long professional/ practical/ pedagogical experience in the field of vocal folk art. Information related to the ancestral memory of the doctoral candidate is given, which additionally determines the choice of the topic of the research and locates the selected settlements.

3. Relevance of the topic.

The relevance of the dissertation work is already contained in the title itself, namely in the relation "maiden ritual songs and dance practices" for specific settlements in Southwestern Bulgaria.

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

The choice of field work, as the main methodological tool in the collection of empirical material, is at the core of the study and leads to data related to the object of study, not available to the interested/ professional reader today.

Despite my understanding of the structure and balance of an exposition in a dissertation work,

I believe that the content of the work develops in depth the underlying issues. The object, subject, purpose and six tasks followed. The author has clearly formulated the object, subject, purpose and six tasks.

5. Evaluation of the dissertation work.

The comprehensive overview of the topic in the first chapter, of the available works in the scientific database of Bulgarian folklore, is an excellent basis for the development of the research. Chronologically, without omission and correct citation, the efforts and findings of eminent researchers are presented.

The mandatory component with the presentation of the historical-geographical and ethnological characteristics of the region can be found in the second chapter. Paragraph 2.1 could be part of the first chapter, thereby achieving balance in the structure of the exposition. The finding at the end of paragraph (2.1) is a prerequisite for the detailed development of the research by examining the regional features in traditional song folklore and more specifically the specificity of the two-voice singing and familiarization with the characteristics of the traditional dance folklore.

The highlight of the dissertation work is the third chapter *Specificity in the musical-performance style and dance practices of the maiden customs*. The customs of Voditsi from the village of Dobarsko, Lazaruvane from the village of Igralishte, Easter from the villages of Nikudin and Igralishte and Lazaruvane from the village of Pirin are successively presented in the four paragraphs. It is necessary to note that the entire third part of the work is a new asset to the music and dance fund of the Bulgarian folklore. The complete description (including all components) and analysis of the customs and the accompanying sheet music and text materials for the songs with the specifics of performance, as well as the description of the people and the games, are proof of the professionalism and skill possessed by Rumyana Filkova. The dialect names of the songs, the people, the participants in the ritual actions, the actions themselves are accurately presented. Informants are cited in evidence of a specific action. Conclusions and summaries are clearly drawn after each paragraph.

The methodologically indicated conclusions at the end of the study represent a kind of teaching aid for the specifics of the music and dance folklore in Southwestern Bulgaria.

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

The contributions of Rumiana Filkova's dissertation work are indisputable for the development of science in the field of folk art. The in-depth analysis clearly shows the author's professionalism and her deep emotional commitment to the researched region that has lead her to the development of this topic, through which she presents a complex study of customary-ritual and song-dance practice, as well as the role of each participant in the dramaturgy of the custom.

The presented four publications fully correspond to the topic of the work.

7. Abstract.

The abstract provides information on all parts of the dissertation work.

8. Conclusion.

In its essence, the work *Specificity in the performance of the maiden ritual songs and dance practices in some settlements of Southwestern Bulgaria* is a scientific document preserving for generations of Bulgarians the ritual practices of three customs – Voditsi, Lazaruvane and Easter from the villages of Dobarsko, Igralishte, Nikudin and Pirin. This is the main reason for a **positive assessment** of the study.

I propose to the Scientific Jury **to award** the doctoral student Romyana Vangelova Filkova the educational and scientific degree "doctor", professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, doctoral program Choreography.

16.05.2024

Prof Maria Kardzhieva, PhD