

**ACADEMY OF MUSIC, DANCE AND FINE ARTS
"Prof Asen Diamandiev"-Plovdiv**

Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography
Department of Choreography

OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof Biser Grigorov, PhD

Appointed as a member of the scientific jury
by order of the Rector of AMDFA, No RD 27- 106 of 16.12.2022

on dissertation work titled:

***Influence of the Vayats on shaping the style and character of the dance
folklore from Varna Region***

for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree **Doctor**

Doctoral Student:
Svilen Krastev Hristov

Scientific adviser:
Prof Daniela Dzheneva

Professional field **8.3 Music and Dance Art**
Doctoral program Bulgarian Folk Choreography

Sofia, 2023

Undoubtedly, the academic scientific community will always be in debt regarding the study and analysis of the Bulgarian folklore. This applies to a large extent to specific regional "on-the-ground" studies.

I "immersed" myself with great interest in the presented scientific research of Svilen Hristov. The reasons are mainly two – the first is the professional interest in the topic and its indisputable importance, and the second is that I have the pleasure of knowing most of the mentioned authors and performers /prof. Petar Angelov, Belcho Stanev, Georgi Kolev, Georgi Karamitev/!

In this sense, I congratulate the doctoral student and his supervisor - Prof Daniela Dzheneva for the choice of topic, the efforts made and the results achieved!

The presented dissertation consists of 257 pages. Logically structured, well-illustrated and written in professional language.

It is structured in the standard and approved way and includes:

- Introduction;
- Objective, tasks and methods of the research /p. 5 and 6/;
- Literary analysis /of 19 pages/;
- Three main chapters offering:
 - Historical information about the studied ethnic group /72 pages/;
 - Analysis of the ritual system of the Vayats /12 pages/; and
 - The influence of the Vayats on the formation of the dance style from Varna region /- 12 p./;
- Conclusions and scientific contributions;
- Appendix;
- Bibliography;

The used literature includes 101 titles, of which - 99 in Bulgarian and 2 in Russian language.

In Chapter I, the doctoral student defines the objective, tasks and methods of his research. Obviously proud of his origin and regional affiliation, Svilen Hristov, with undisguised interest and ambition, embarks on an analysis of both the dances and the material and spiritual culture of the studied ethnic group.

The main focus of the dissertation is Chapter Five – *Influence of the Vayats in the shaping of the Varna dance style*.

Unquestionable merit is the candidate's pursuit of maximum insight into the details of the local dance style, as well as visualization, with the help of video links.

Professional and useful is the analysis of the relationship between the authentic performing dance style (presented by G. Velev, G. Karamitev and G. Kolev), and its stage transformation (in the works of M. Dikova, P. Angelov, B. Stanev)!

We also find some weaknesses in the work that are very easily rectified! The following redundant tautologies, for example, are incomprehensible:

- The last paragraph from page 137 can be found again on pages 140 and 160.

- We find the first paragraph from page 155 as the second on page 167.
- The same applies to the third paragraph on page 140 and the last paragraph on page 161

The author's idea is understandable – to recall and emphasize the main conclusions in his work, however, in this case this is not in favour of the research.

At the end of the dissertation, the doctoral candidate indicates 4 main contributing points of his work. I will allow myself to add other merits to them - the professional description of local dances, melodies, costumes and dialect words. As well as the detailed name list of residents - informants!

In conclusion:

Svilen Hristov's dissertation is dedicated to an interesting and significant problem in the Bulgarian folk choreography. The author demonstrates a permanent scientific interest in the topic, as evident by the presented three additional publications.

In his research, the candidate demonstrates extensive and in-depth knowledge, as well as a good command of professional dance terminology.

Considering the above,

I give my **positive opinion**, vote "**In favour**" and propose to the scientific jury to award Svilen Krastev Hristov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the doctoral program Bulgarian Folk Choreography.

06.02.2023

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof Biser Grigorov, PhD