

# OPINION

by

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on

Dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree "Doctor"  
Professional field (code 8.3) "Music and dance Art",  
Doctoral program "Choreography", Department of Choreography  
Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv

Author: Svilen Krastev Hristov

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

**Academic supervisor** Prof Daniela Kirilova Dzheneva

This opinion is prepared on the basis of Order RD-27-113/ 25.11.2022 of the Rector of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv, regarding the approval of a scientific jury in accordance with the requirements of Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), and the Regulations for its implementation, for obtaining educational and scientific degree "doctor" and scientific degree "doctor of sciences".

The doctoral candidate Svilen Krastev Hristov has presented a dissertation titled ***Influence of the Vayats on shaping the style and character of the dance folklore from Varna Region***. In terms of formal elements, the dissertation fully meets the requirements for this type of scientific work. It consists of 258 pages, of which 213 are the main text, 11 pages are a vocabulary of Vayats dialect words used in the studied villages. The bibliographic reference includes 102 titles in Cyrillic - both from recent years and titles of some of the first authors on the subject of the dissertation work. There is also photographic material from the field surveys in the villages of Manastir, Cherkovna, Chernevo, Golitsa, Kozichino /Erkech/, Asparuhovo /Chengya/, the towns of Provadia and Suvorovo. The abstract is 57 pages and is prepared in accordance with the academic requirements, analytically presenting the main points and ideas in the dissertation work. A list of the contributions and three publications on the topic of the dissertation in Bulgarian scientific journals work are also presented: *Celebration of Petlyovden by the Vayats*, *Historical information about the Vayats* and *Silivria (Rinachovden), when the adolescent becomes a man*. The submitted materials, in terms of number and content, fully meet the requirements for admission to public defence.

After completing his secondary education in 1992, Svilen Hristov continues his studies at Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" where he acquires Bachelor's degree as Choreographer, and in 2011 Master's degree as Choreographer-Director at AMDFA-Plovdiv. During the period 1986-

1999, he is a dancer at SMK-Varna under the direction of Hristo Ignatov, and since 01.09.1999 he is the Chief Artistic Director of the Folklore Ensemble "Gergana" in the city of Varna. Under his management, the Ensemble actively participates in all significant events of the city's cultural calendar and in a number of festivals in the country and abroad. It is a representative ensemble of CIOFF - Bulgaria and is the winner of the Grand Prix at Sofia – Eurograde. At his suggestion and personal participation in the organization, and with the support of the Municipality of Varna, the National Student Folklore Festival "Meetings of Friendship" was held. He is the author of the folklore performances presented by Ensemble Gergana *Forget Me Not, By the Sea My Love, Mother's Curse* and *With Love*. With his overall work as a leader and choreographer, Svilen Hristov shows an increased interest in preserving and promoting the local layer of folklore culture, studying dance patterns from all over Bulgaria and developing them into stage dance productions. His doctoral studies are a natural extension of his professional and personal interests.

The dissertation of Svilen Hristov is a completed work with relevant content and theoretical and applied value. This is the first attempt to study and analyse the interaction, influence and interpenetration of the dance culture of the Vayats with the rest of the ethnic groups of the region. The highlights of the dissertation work were selected after researching the dance tradition of the Vayats. The limits of influence of the Vayats ethnic group on the other subgroups that belong to the Varna folklore tradition are outlined. The author examines the traditions, customs, specific dance style of the Vayats and their contribution to shaping the folk dance tradition of the Varna region. He also presents extensive information based on field studies in the region of eastern Stara Planina and Northeastern Bulgaria, over one-hundred informants from more than forty villages have been interviewed. The candidate discusses the work of prominent Varna choreographers, in order to prove the idea that the Varna dance folklore is "*a compilation of the folklore tradition of the Erli, Vayats, Gagauz, Thracians, Sart, etc. Definitely, the style and character of the dance folklore from Varna is different from the dance style of the people of Mizia and Dobrudzha. Influenced to a great extent by the Vayats, today we consider this folklore as Varna folklore*".

The professional experience of the doctoral candidate, as a choreographer and a leader, additionally contributes to the objective nature of the obtained results and their importance in the contemporary manifestations of folklore culture in the region.

The positive features of the dissertation work can be summarized in several main points:

- There is an in-depth and complex analysis of the dance culture of the Vayats and other ethnic groups in the region in the context of the dissertation research.
- A significant element of the dissertation work is the large-scale field research.

**I would make the following recommendations:**

- Shaping the structure of the thesis in logical way that is consistent with the set goal.
- Connecting the individual parts into compositional unity in line with the common goal.

- Adding academically written and scientifically substantiated conclusions after each paragraph.

### III. CONCLUSION

Considering the above, I hereby give my **positive** assessment for the dissertation work *Influence of the Vayats on shaping the style and character of the dance folklore from Varna Region*, and I propose to the respected scientific jury that Svilen Krastev Hristov be awarded the educational and scientific degree **Doctor** in Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, doctoral program Choreography.

14.02.2023

Varna

Kayryakova

Reviewer:

Assoc.

Prof

Katya