

## **OPINION**

by

Prof Ermila Schweitzer, PhD

NMA „Prof Pancho Vladigerov”

on the dissertation of

**TONG GUIYANG**

individual doctoral student

Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching

at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting

AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”

Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD

on topic:

***A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE IDEAS OF MUSIC EDUCATION OF  
XIAO YOUMEI ZOLTÁN KODÁLY***

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

On the grounds of a decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy dated 20.07.2023, to open a procedure for the defense of the dissertation work of Tong Guiyang, I was provided with the following materials: CV of the candidate, dissertation work, abstract, a reference to the contribution nature of the dissertation, list of publications on the topic.

Brief biographical data for the candidate:

Tong Guiyang teaches at the Conservatory of Huizhou University, majoring in Guzheng, a traditional Chinese instrument. She is a member of a number of professional unions and associations. She started studying Guzheng at the age of 8. In 2006, she receives a Master's degree in Musicology from the Harbin University. She has 11 years of teaching experience, during which she has trained more than 100 students. She has participated in numerous research projects and has published three monographs and more than 20 articles, three of which are awarded. She has also received teacher training awards and over 20 awards for academic supervisor. Organizes and participates in concerts with students on various occasions.

The presented work has relevant subject matter, dedicated to the ideas of music education of Xiao Youmei and Zoltán Kodály, the similarities and differences in their teaching methods, as well as a comprehensive overview of their work as educators. The author outlines the gradual coming of the European ideas on music education in China and their influence on the general development of the

country's musical culture.

The research methods include survey of numerous sources, reading of the existing literature on the subject in China, studying of historical documents related to the emergence and development of professional music education. Using comparative research method, the author establishes the similarities and differences in the ideas of music education of Xiao Youmei and Zoltán Kodály, and draws conclusions about the implantation of these ideas in order to raise the level of teaching in China's educational system.

The dissertation of Tong Guiyang is a serious analytical study, including a systematic review of the development of the professional music education in China, for which the composer and educator Xiao Youmei is greatly credited. The first and second chapters of the dissertation are devoted to a detailed study of his personality and work. The author follows the processes that lead to the formation of his teaching methodology based on Japanese and European teaching practices, which he learned during his studies in Japan and Germany. She also describes in detail his work related to the establishment of the first Chinese conservatory in Shanghai in 1927. The author summarizes Xiao's activities as follows: "*... [he] pays great attention to both education in society and the dissemination of knowledge about music in various ways, popularization of the social functions of music*" (p.11).

The third and fourth chapters of the dissertation discuss the personality of Zoltán Kodály and the development of his ideas on music education and his methodology, which gained worldwide fame, as well as its popularization in China after 1980, when a large part of his theoretical works are translated into Chinese. In chapter five, the doctoral student compares the ideas of music education of Xiao Youmei and Zoltán Kodály and draws important conclusions. She highlights the similarities - the emphasis on the national culture in music education, the attention to quality teaching materials and trained teachers. According to the author, the biggest difference is the attitude towards the national culture. In the last chapter, she traces in great detail the coming and popularization of Kodály method in China, demonstrating excellent knowledge of the facts.

The contributions of the work are formulated by the author in two directions – theoretical and practical. The theoretical part includes an in-depth study of the history and development of the professional music education. The practical – the influence and adaptation of Zoltán Kodály's educational system is traced so that it meets the modern needs.

I would recommend the author to translate the titles listed in the bibliography into Bulgarian or English, in order to make them understandable in Bulgaria and Europe.

The publications on the subject of the dissertation work are sufficient and testify to a serious research interest and professional approach of the author. The submitted abstract corresponds to the dissertation.

Tong Guiyang's dissertation is a historical-comparative scientific study, with an in-depth approach to the discussed issues, detailed analyzes and well-formulated conclusions. Based on everything that has been said so far, I propose to the respected scientific jury to award Tong Guiyang the scientific educational degree "Doctor" in professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Sofia, 12.10.2023

Assoc. Prof Ermila Schweitzer, PhD