

OPINION

by

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National Music Academy "Prof Pancho Vladigerov" – Sofia

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

in professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art,

doctoral program Music Studies and Music Art

titled: **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEL CANTO STYLE AND ITS
USE IN VOCAL PERFORMANCES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES**

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The dissertation work was discussed and proposed for public defense at a meeting of the Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", the city of Plovdiv, held on 01.07.2021.

Yang Chang is born on 23 May 1994 in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province, China. She received Bachelor's degree from the China University of Media and a Master's degree from the Academy of Music in Rome - Italy. She currently works as a soloist at the Chongqing Opera in China and is a student of Professor Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak.

She has participated in numerous opera productions and concerts, including performances of Rossini's *Stabat Mater* at the Church of San Nicolas of Tolentino in Rome; the role of Flora in Verdi's *La Traviata* at the Sala Academica, Rome; collaboration with the Arcus Regalis Orchestra in Albano, Italy to perform Vivaldi's *Magnificat-RV611* and *Gloria-RV 589*; joint performances with the University of Rome Symphony Orchestra "Muse" during the 14th Music Season 2018-2019 in Viterbo, the conference center in Rome and the university where she performed *Carmen*; collaboration with the Chongqing Symphony Orchestra to perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in D minor as mezzo-soprano; and appearing in original Chinese national operas *Coming Down the River Clear Water* and *When the Dust Settles* as Han Yuying and Tusi's Wife. She also participated in *Nabucco*, *Suor Angelica*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and other operas.

Awards:

- First place at the 2nd National Music Competition Giulianova City Trophy

- First place in the 13th and 14th China Golden Bell Opera Singing Competition
- Third place at the New York International Opera Competition, 2020.
- Excellent Award at the First Classical Chinese Song Contest

The dissertation contains a total of 178 pages, which include introduction, five chapters, conclusion, bibliography, contributions, appendices and list of scientific publications on the subject of the study.

Motivation for choosing a topic.

First, the subject involves an in-depth study of vocal techniques and performance art, especially bel canto, which has a rich history and cultural value. A comparative analysis of the use of bel canto in different language contexts, can fill an existing research gap by increasing the academic community's understanding of vocal education and intercultural communication.

Second, in the context of globalization, the study of how bel canto adapts to the different cultural and linguistic changes can help educators and performers exchange and collaborate. Furthermore, choosing this topic can help promote and preserve this old and refined vocal art form, ensuring that it is not neglected by the modern music education.

Finally, the research can demonstrate how language and culture influence the forms of vocal performance, providing practical methods and theoretical support to scholars and artists from diverse cultural backgrounds, increasing their competitiveness and innovative capabilities on the global artistic scene.

Objectives of the study:

On the basis of the historical context, to clarify with examples the differentiated in technical and vocal aspects in the performance of bel canto in works of different styles and in different languages.

1. Origin and development of the European civilization.
2. History of European music.
3. The process of formation and development of the bel canto technique.
4. Use of bel canto in vocal musical works.
5. The use of bel canto in view of the human physiology.
6. The use of bel canto in the performance of Italian, Russian and Chinese vocal works.

Research methodology:

1. Analysis of historical documents: The researcher can analyze in detail historical documents, musical works, critical articles and other related archival materials to examine the origin, development and influence of the bel canto style.

2. Musical analysis: By analyzing bel canto musical works from different periods and in different languages to examine their musical structures, melodic lines, harmonic treatment and aesthetic characteristics.

3. Comparative study: Comparing usage and adaptation of the bel canto style in vocal performances in different languages, which may include a transcultural analysis.

4. Field research or field work: Visiting different music academies, opera houses, observing and interviewing singers and educators who use bel canto techniques in their performances.

5. Case studies: Selection of specific cases or examples of performance, to deeply analyze the specific application and manifestation of the bel canto style in different languages.

6. Combining theory and practice: Exploring the adaptation and transformation of the bel canto style in contemporary vocal training and performance by combining theoretical training and vocal practice.

Expected results and contribution moments.

A comprehensive and focused interpretation of the historical development of bel canto, with an analysis of its continuous changes in terms of performance and aesthetic principles. An innovative study of the different uses of the bel canto technique in view of the characteristic features of different languages. Analyzing the ways in which the bel canto technique is adapted to vocal works in another style and in a different language and explaining the differences in detail.

Contributions of the Dissertation

This dissertation systematically examines the use and adaptation of the bel canto style in vocal works in different languages. Includes a blend of history and theory, cross-cultural comparison, providing practical guidance for teaching faculty and students, and promoting international exchange. Blending history and theory: Through an in-depth analysis of the use of bel canto in Italian, Russian, and Chinese vocal works, the dissertation not only traces the historical development of this vocal style, but also explores how it adapted and influenced different languages and cultural environments. Transcultural comparison: The study highlights the influence of language structure on singing techniques, showing how the bel canto technique is adapted and modified in different linguistic contexts. This comparative approach provides valuable multicultural perspectives and methods for vocal training and performance.

Guidelines for education and practice: Through a specific analysis of the use of bel canto in the three languages, the dissertation provides practical instructional guidelines and technical exercises that help teachers and students better understand and apply the bel canto technique.

Promoting international exchange: The study highlights the importance of understanding and adapting different cultural vocal techniques in the context of globalization, promoting international education and the performing arts.

Overall, this dissertation provides new perspectives and in-depth analysis of the global use and development of bel canto, contributing significantly to the internationalization and multicultural development of the vocal art.

Scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation work

1. *The Birth of Opera* Yearbook 2021

pp. 185-193-10.

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Art "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv ISSN 1331-6526(Print), ISSN 2738-7712(Online)

2. *Breathing in Bel Canto*

SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND ART INNOVATION, 2023

pp.154-159,

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Art "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv ISSN 2738-8956(Print), ISSN 2738-8964(Online)-15 cr.

3. *Vocal Music during the Renaissance* - Collection of reports

Spring Scientific Readings, 2024

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Art "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv ISSN 1314-7005(Print), ISSN2738-7720(Online)-in print-15 cr.

Having reviewed in detail the candidate's dissertation work, I confidently recommend to the scientific jury to award the scientific-educational degree "doctor" to Yang Chang.

29.09.2024

Prof Deyan Pavlov, PhD