

## OPINION

on the dissertation work for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree “Doctor”  
of **Yang Zhiyu**, titled *Folk Features and Conductor Interpretations in the Chinese Choral Works* by

academic supervisor: Kiril Chaplikov

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Professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts

Doctoral program Music Studies and Music Art

from

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Yang Zhiyu is a young pianist who began studying piano at the age of four. He studied piano with famous Chinese pianists Professor Yang Ming, former dean of the Central Conservatory of Music, Professor Zhang Peili of the Music Department of Xiamen University, and Professor Zhu Yafen, former dean of the Shenyang Conservatory of Music. He studied conducting with the famous Chinese conductor Professor Yang Zhen. He graduated from the Polish National Conservatory of Music in Gdansk with a Master's degree in piano. He has rich experience as music teacher. He teaches piano at Huacheng Piano Academy, Xiamen Nanyang College, where he leads a conducting and choir class, and Xiamen Huatian College - teaches piano and leads piano improvisation courses. He works as a choir director of Xiamen Siming Music Association and as an accompanist for the Dream Children's Choir of Minnan Theater.

Jury of the 6th Youth Arts Festival's Jinping Prize Piano Competition; Jury of the West Lake Youth Music Festival's Piano Competition; Jury of the Youth Arts League Piano Competition. Won the Best Accompaniment Award at the 9th National Theater All-Star Choir Tournament in Beijing.

The candidate's dissertation consists of: introduction, three main chapters, conclusion, research summary, originality and innovation, contribution, bibliography, sources.

The Chinese choral music is the result of the "*spread of Western music to the East*" in the early 20th century. It reflects this spread, which began in the late 19th to early 20th centuries, continued its development in the 1930s, and received significant influence from the Soviet music school in the 1950s, as a major source of inspiration in the 20th century. After 1970, this music integrated with world choral art and continued its development together with the world choral music, passing through a difficult and challenging path. Over the past hundred years of its practical development, the Chinese choral music has begun its journey by applying the experience of the

Western choral art, from early forms of unison singing to mixed choir, and the musical form has developed from single-part choral works to large-scale multi-part "choral cycles". At first, the Chinese choral art was based on the Western, but gradually developed independently as choral works with its own national characteristics. The creative thinking, concepts, styles, techniques and aesthetic value orientations inherent in this art show obvious Chinese characteristics and in turn have influenced the world's choral art.

This work is divided into an "Introduction" and four chapters. The **first chapter** analyzes the national styles and conductor interpretations of choral music in different regions of China. According to the regional distribution of the Chinese folk choral music styles, choral works from the northwest, southwest, northeast, Inner Mongolia and southern regions of China are analyzed here. "Exorcism of Animal Spirits", "The River Flows", "Ussuri Boatman's Song", "Pastoral", "This Is Me" and other choral works with typical local characteristics are selected. Through the interpretation of the choral work "Dream in the Low Mountain Pass", operatic elements introduced into the Chinese choral music are analyzed.

**Chapter two** mainly classifies the Chinese choral works according to the different dimensions of their "nationalization". They are divided into choral works based on original folk melodies, choral works with local ethnic flavor, choral works created by borrowing foreign compositional techniques, and choral works based on ancient musical elements. An analysis and interpretation of typical representative works is made.

**Chapter three** describes the national characteristics of large-scale Chinese vocal cycles. The classical choral work "Yellow River Cantata" is used as an example. Its artistic characteristics are summarized and a comprehensive and detailed analysis of its creative techniques, themes, compositional techniques, etc. is conducted.

Finally, **chapter four** of this work analyzes contemporary choral works. Contemporary Chinese composers integrate Chinese traditional music in their choral works through innovative musical language, unique harmonic processing, and expression of current social themes, bringing new vitality to this genre.

The **conclusion** summarizes the two ways to preserve the national character of the Chinese choral music and puts forward constructive opinions and suggestions for the future development of the Chinese choral works.

#### **Originality and innovations of the dissertation**

The originality and innovation of this work lies in its comprehensiveness, depth, and new perspective in the study of the Chinese choral art.

#### **Contributions of the dissertation to music theory**

- This work improves the study of the Chinese choral art and is of great significance for the construction of its history and development, as well as for enriching theoretical research on it.
- In-depth research on the national characteristics of the Chinese choral music.

- Proposes effective conducting strategies and techniques.
- Explores ideas about the heritage and innovation of the Chinese choral music.
- Analyzes the inspiration and influence of the exchange between the Chinese and the Western musical culture on music creation.

The **publications** that Yang Zhiyu has presented are three:

- *Analysis of the Origin, Development and Features of Chinese Choral Music* – III International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art” October 28-30, 2021, volume 1, ISSN 2738-8956 (print), ISSN 2738-8964 (online), pp. 393-403 – 10 cr.

- *Chinese Polyphonic Folk Songs – Analysis of the Musical Characteristics of the Great Song of the Dong People* – Collection of Reports “Spring Scientific Readings” 2022, Plovdiv, AMDFA, 2022, pp. 198-209, ISSN 1314-7005 – 10 cr.

- *Musical analysis and conducting decisions in the mixed four-part choral part Rage fiercely, Yellow River* - Collection of papers from IV International Scientific Conference "Science, Education and Innovations in the Field of Art" - October 26-27, 2023, Plovdiv, AMDFA "Prof. Asen Diamandiev"-Plovdiv, ISBN: ISSN: 2738-8956 (Print) ISSN: 2738-8964 (Online) (in press) - 15 cr.

The candidate has presented with precise accuracy all 23 sources that he has used.

Having read in detail the dissertation work of Yang Zhiyu, I confidently propose to the esteemed jury to award the scientific and educational degree "**doctor**" to the candidate.

**23.09.2024г.**

**Prof Deyan Pavlov, PhD**