

STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska

AMTII "Prof. Assen Diamandiev"

Dissertation for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education in the field of higher education Pedagogical Sciences, professional field Pedagogy of..., doctoral program Methodology of Music Education

Author.

Topic: "Pedagogical technologies for improving the sound production in the upper register of the saxophone"

Scientific supervisor: assoc. dr. Diana Stancheva

General presentation of the procedure and the PhD student

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for providing the procedure for the defense of the dissertation thesis entitled "Pedagogical technologies for the improvement of the sound extraction in the upper register of the saxophone" with the author Tsvetana Karageorgieva, for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of..., doctoral programme "Methodology of Music Education". The author of the dissertation is Tsvetana Karageorgieva - PhD student in full-time studies at the Department of Music, Paisii Hilendarski University of Education. Doctoral student Tsvetana Karageorgieva has submitted a set of documents (on paper and on magnetic media) related to the dissertation defense procedure, as well as 3 publications related to the topic of the dissertation under consideration. I have no comments on the submitted documents and materials.

Tsvetana Karageorgieva is a talented musician with diverse interests in both performing and teaching. A graduate of the Music School in Shiroka Luka, during her studies in Music Pedagogy and later in the Master's Degree in Art Management at AMTII-Plovdiv, she directed her performance and professional interests to the saxophone and deepened them with her three-year studies in the Jazz Saxophone specialty at the Music Academy in Bern. The following years of improvement, of concert activity as a saxophonist in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, in various brass bands in Bulgaria, of pedagogical consolidation as a saxophone teacher at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Performing Arts and the Prof. Assen Diamandiev. For more than twenty years I have been following her professional growth and her rich repertoire. The original CD Smooth jazz album City Night Lights reveals to a great extent Karageorgieva's magnificent performing and compositional skills, as well as improvisational freedom in interpretations. In addition to her skills as a teacher and performer, with this dissertation she proves herself to be a researcher who is able to delve deeply into the issues at hand and to summarize on the basis of logical reasoning, a solid theoretical basis and empirical accumulations.

Topical relevance

As the doctoral student himself says in the introduction, "*Only some fragmentary guidelines and pedagogical technologies are found in the methodology of saxophone teaching, which, however, are incomplete and extremely insufficient to achieve a qualitative tone in this register*" (p. 1), and this largely determines the relevance of the present work. The lack of a sufficiently thorough methodological and research literature on the problems under consideration in theoretical and analytical terms, not only in Bulgarian musicology, but also worldwide, determines not only the topicality of the topic. It is a necessity to which Karageorgieva responds professionally and

profoundly. The topicality of the development is complemented by the fact that the present dissertation also deals with applied pedagogical aspects of saxophone teaching - a response to modern times and the increasing penetration of this beautiful and interesting instrument into the Bulgarian sound environment.

Knowledge of the problem, characterization and evaluation of the dissertation and contributions

The dissertation "Pedagogical Technologies for Improving Saxophone Upper-Register Sound Production" comprises 187 pages divided into 158 pages of main text and 29 pages of Appendices with illustrative material. Literature from 124 sources is used, of which only 8 are in Bulgarian, which is another proof of the lack of sufficient theoretical developments in this direction in Bulgarian musicology. The text is divided into an Introduction, three chapters and a Conclusion. The various theoretical propositions are illustrated with 12 tables, 35 figures, 18 diagrams and 28 musical examples. The scholarly merits of the work are combined with a clear reading style and a perfect balance between rigorous terminology, a high degree of competence, and a well-constructed, unencumbering statement. The goal set in the Introduction of the dissertation is brilliantly fulfilled.

Apart from the historical data on the development of the saxophone, which are correctly presented in a synthesized form, **Chapter I** traces in detail the methodological literature on upper register sound production, and it is clearly established that there is no system of pedagogical technologies for its improvement in the Bulgarian scientific and methodological literature. In a sense, Chapter One reconciles the history of the instrument and a literature review proving the necessity of developing the topic.

Chapter two fully corresponds to the topic of the thesis. The detailed discussion of staging issues and proper sound production is justified by the dissertation, "*Certainly the embouchure is an important component of many contemporary practices in jazz, rock, and pop today, where even the flexibility of the neck and lower jaw create new ways of bending pitch and other effects of so-called 'extended techniques'...*" (p. 55). Attempts to create technologies for mastering the high register of the saxophone, and basic parameters for selecting appropriate mouthpiece and cloth, represent a theoretical proposition with proven utility relative to problems previously unaddressed in the methodological literature. I believe that the author's proposed exercises on phrasing, rhythmic and dynamics are contributory and of profound empirical value - the result of Karageorgieva's extensive performance experience.

In Chapter Three, a pedagogical experiment is described and traced, taking place in three stages: Initial (ascertaining), Formative (developing) and Final. The indicators on which the experiment is based are selected in direct relation to the topic of the thesis - instrument staging and fingering technique, embouchure, breathing, dynamics and phrasing, sound extraction in altissimo register. Applying an individual approach to the level of the saxophonist being trained provides a variety of opportunities and demonstrates once again Karageorgieva's deep knowledge of the material. The way in which the processes of applying the pedagogical technologies for the improvement of the saxophone's upper-register sound production are illustrated in diagrams makes a very good impression.

Among the most important contributions of the dissertation is the fact that her proposed technologies for the sound extraction in the altissimo-register of the saxophone optimize the learning process, lead to better results in mastering the saxophone technique and improve the artistic performance - findings proven by Karageorgieva in practical-applied experiments with trainees, as well as in her personal practical-performing experience. Despite the fact that the contributions are not formulated at the end of the scientific work, the conclusions and results of the research

presented in the **Conclusion** reflect to the full extent the "filling" of the gaps in the Bulgarian scientific-methodological literature and the confirmation of the hypothesis set in the Introduction.

Assessment of the publications, abstract and personal contribution of the PhD student

The PhD student presents 3 publications on the topic of the dissertation - "The choice of mouthpiece for saxophone - an important condition for the formation of quality sound in the performance of jazz music", "Sigurd Rascher - Contribution to the development of the upper register of the saxophone (Altissimo)" and "The saxophone - constructive development of the instrument from its inception until today". The abstract is 32 pages long and accurately and clearly presents the overall scholarship in a synthesized yet comprehensive form. On the basis of the documentation, scientific publications, dissertation and abstract provided to me, I believe that the research on the present work is entirely the work of the PhD student and we can assume with full certainty that Tsvetana Karageorgieva's dissertation is her personal work.

Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results

I would recommend that this research paper be formally published. Publication may assist a wider range of educators and performers towards a deeper understanding of the issues involved in playing the saxophone and a full appreciation of the specifics of sound production in the altissimo register. Detailed formulation of the contributions of the thesis may be considered.

CONCLUSION

Within the framework of his studies, the PhD student has carried out a considerable amount of research and scientific activity. A large amount of material has been synthesized, on which valuable original results and contributions have been obtained. The dissertation work shows that the doctoral student Tsvetana Karageorgieva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty "Pedagogy of Education in...", demonstrating qualities and skills for independent scientific research. In the presented work there are scientific and applied results, which represent a contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LADAP). Due to the aforementioned, I confidently give my positive assessment of the scientific work presented in the dissertation, the abstract, the results and contributions, and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to Cetana Karageorgieva in the field of higher education. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. 1.1 Pedagogy of Music Education, doctoral programme "Methodology of Music Education".

I congratulate Tsvetana Karageorgieva for her serious and thorough scientific work. I also congratulate her scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Diana Stancheva for the successful guidance and achievement of the impressive final result.

28.04.2024

Prepared by:

Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska