

## REVIEW

by **Prof. Dr. TANYA BURDEVA**  
**PAISII HILENDARSKI PU**

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences  
Professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in...  
Doctoral Program: Methodology of Music Education

### **Author.**

**Topic: pedagogical techniques to improve sounding in the forest register of the saxophone**

**Scientific supervisor: assoc. dr. DIANA STANCHEVA**

### **1. General description of the submitted materials**

By Order No. P3D-21-710 dated 01. 04. 2024ng. of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to provide a procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic "Pedagogical technologies for improving the sound extraction in the upper register of the saxophone", for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Educational Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of..., doctoral programme Methodology of Music Education. The author of the dissertation work is Tsvetana Ivanova Karageorgieva - PhD student in full-time studies at the Department of Music with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Stancheva from Paisii Hilendarski Pedagogical University.

The set of paper materials submitted by Tsvetana Ivanova Karageorgieva is in accordance with Article 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes the following documents:

- a request to the Rector of PU for disclosure of the dissertation defense procedure;
- CV in European format;
- Minutes of the Departmental Council relating to the reporting of readiness for the opening of the procedure and to the preliminary discussion of the thesis;
- Dissertation;
- Author's abstract;
- list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation;
- copies of scientific publications;
- list of noticed citations;
- a declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;

## **2. Brief biographical data about the PhD student**

Tsvetana Karageorgieva graduated from High School of Music in Shiroka Luka,, AMTII - Plovdiv, She studied at the University of Bern, Switzerland. She has worked as a performer in various European countries, in Plovdiv Opera, Plovdiv Wind Orchestra, Plovdiv Big Band. She also has a long practice as a saxophone teacher.

## **3. Relevance of the subject matter and appropriateness of the set goals and objectives**

The subject of the dissertation presents the object of research as a highly specialized problem in the field of saxophone teaching methodology. The relevance of the research is determined by the need to derive pedagogical technologies to improve the technical competence of saxophone students to improve the sound production in the upper register of the instrument. This would broaden the possibilities of performing prominent solo passages and their application in the improvisational parts in the interpretation of musical works.

The methodological literature does not sufficiently elucidate the issues related to the sound characteristics, performance technology and application of the high register of the saxophone in musical works; the articulatory devices used in contemporary world performance practice are not addressed. There is a lack of Bulgarian teaching aids in this respect, as well as musical works related to the acquisition and use of the altissimo register.

## **3. Knowledge of the problem**

The qualities that distinguish Tsvetana Karageorgieva's work are persuasiveness, competence, accessibility, clarity, logical consistency in the conception and implementation of the research. The work shows a maximum of information regarding everything concerning the saxophone in its historical and contemporary parameters and dimensions.

## **5. Research methodology**

The aim, objectives, working hypothesis and research methods are clearly stated at the beginning. They are very well formulated, so that they give a clear idea for the further exposition. The chosen research methodology allows achieving the stated aim and obtaining an adequate answer to the set tasks.

## **6. Characteristics and evaluation of the thesis**

The study stands on a solid pedestal, developing consistently. Chapter One is very detailed because it is the theoretical foundation on which further work must be built. It discusses the original

patents of Adolphe Sax, the emergence of the modern saxophone, and its application in various styles. The literature on upper register sound production, the use of extended techniques such as sound effects, and Sigurd Rascher's view of playing in the altissimo register are examined. In the first chapter, the PhD student has shown the necessary skill to summarise rather than just describe the literature read. Its content shows a deep knowledge and insight into the problem. The second chapter presents pedagogical technologies for the formation of sound production skills in the upper register of the saxophone. The types of embouchure setups are discussed: mouthpiece and cloth selection, performance breathing, and articulation. The third chapter is an experimental study with application of relevant pedagogical technologies. It is the meaningful centre of the whole work, as it describes the pedagogical experiment in terms of organisation and practical implementation and analyses the results. The three stages in the work, carried out as initial ascertainment, training and final experiment, are very clearly presented. The criteria and indicators for reporting the results are precisely formulated. This is evidence of detailed consideration of specific steps in the implementation of the research design. The learning experiment was constructed so that all tasks followed a well thought out and logical algorithm. The methodological sequence applied in the selection of the learning tasks reveals a gradual progression from the easy to the difficult. The assessment criteria are very well chosen: breathing, articulation, dynamics, phrasing. At the end, in the final stage, one more criterion is logically added: speed of learning the altissimo register. The work with the experimental group and the control group is very well described: the synchronization between breathing, tongue, fingering, ambucular staging. The appendices offer a wealth of illustrative material to illustrate the text. All results are commented in detail, making the necessary comparisons, and the achievements at the end of the experimental activity are summarized in a professional and competent manner. The results are very well presented, including diagrams.

## **7. Contributions and Significance of the Development for Science and Practice**

The merits of the thesis can be summarized as follows:

1. The overall exposition presents the experiment in a way that is repeatable, which is evidence of scientificity.
2. The drawn conclusions follow logically from the conducted research work and are its adequate reflection.
3. The achieved positive results confirm the put forward scientific hypothesis. In an indisputable way, it is justified the statement that the application of the experimentally tested system of technologies for the improvement of the sound production in the high register of the saxophone in the advanced saxophone training contributes to the effective construction of the basics

of the embouchure, fingering technique and performance breathing, contributing to the overall technical development of saxophone students.

4. The dissertation in its entirety reveals the author's skills for in-depth teaching, for scientific research and finding the most accurate solutions in the process of research work.

5. The necessary ability to think analytically, critically and creatively.

6. The results are very well presented through tables and diagrams; the appendices, grouped in several sections, are closely related to the overall text of the three chapters, illustrating, complementing and clarifying it.

7. The conducted research work convinces that the proposed technology for improving the sound extraction in the upper register of the saxophone has an innovative character and that the contributions are of value.

## **8. Assessment of the publications on the dissertation**

Tsvetana Karageorgieva presents three articles on the topic of her dissertation. All the publications testify to the in-depth study of the problems in the field of saxophone teaching methodology and have theoretical and practical-applied value.

## **9. Personal participation of the PhD student(s)**

Tsvetana Karageorgieva's long-standing teaching and artistic activity, the overall reading of the dissertation work, the real contributions in her scientific research activity, convince unequivocally of the doctoral student's personal participation in the experimental activity and that the obtained results and contributions are her personal merit.

## **10. Abstract**

The abstract gives a clear picture of the work carried out, presenting the essential content of the individual chapters and reflecting the main results achieved in the thesis.

## **11. Critical comments and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks.

## **12. Personal impressions**

My personal impressions of Tsvetana Karageorgieva are excellent - they have been formed in the process of our joint work as lecturers at the Department of Music. She is an excellent teacher,

dedicated to her work and a very good colleague. She also enjoys the respect of her students, whose successes are a testimony to her high teaching abilities and achievements.

### **13. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results**

I recommend Tsvetana Karageorgieva to publish a teaching manual, as the dissertation has a great practical-applied value and can significantly assist the training of saxophone performers. The results of the research provide grounds for their application in music pedagogical practice.

### **CONCLUSION**

Tsvetana Karageorgieva's work has original scientific and applied contributions. The overall reading of the dissertation leaves an excellent impression. In terms of structure and content it fully meets the requirements for a dissertation.

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LADAPB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LADAPB and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University. The dissertation work shows that the PhD student Tsvetana Karageorgieva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the Doctoral Programme *in Methodology of Music Education*, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent scientific research.

Due to the foregoing, I confidently give my positive assessment of the research conducted, presented by the above reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the degree of Doctor of Education and Science to Tsvetana Karageorgieva in the field of higher education. 1.3. 1.4.3 Pedagogy of Music Education.

A good dissertation is always the result of the joint work of a PhD student and a supervisor. Therefore, I congratulate Tsvetana Karageorgieva and Assoc. Prof. Diana Stancheva for their excellently written dissertation.

20. 05. 2024r.

Reviewer: .....

Prof. Dr. Tanya Burdeva