

OPINION
for the dissertation of
Maya Penkova Andasorova,
PhD student at the Department of Music
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Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "
on the topic:

"INTEGRATED APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY
OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN 4TH GRADE"

for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional
field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Methodology of teaching music)

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The dissertation of Maya Penkova Andasorova is aimed at defense, meeting all the requirements of the Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. . Kliment Ohridski ". The presented text and scientific publications cover the Minimum National Requirements, which is evident from the report on the implementation of scientometric indicators.

The dissertation contains an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, literature and appendices in a total volume of 207 pages, of which the main text is 188 pages. The bibliography includes 90 sources.

Maya Andasorova undoubtedly has respectful competencies and strong motives for developing a topic related to the methodology of music education and the integrative approach. She is a co-author of music textbooks from 1st to 4th grade and the relevant Teacher Books of

Riva Publishing House, which means that she knows in depth the legal framework, educational documentation and curriculum in the subject of Music. At the same time, in her rich professional pedagogical experience, her personal observations and experience as a practicing pedagogue and project manager for an innovative school during the last four years occupy an important place. This gives her the opportunity to conduct an empirical study with a large sample: an experimental group of 90 students from 4th grade, graduating from primary school in the innovative 7th Sofia School "Seven Saints", and a control group - 68 students graduating from primary school at Ivan Vazov High School, Stara Zagora. Therefore, the author has a stable theoretical awareness and extremely useful empirical material, which is a prerequisite for the serious achievements and results that lead to scientific development.

The emphasis in the dissertation is the integrated approach to education. According to the original idea of M. Andasorova, it combines three complementary components: multidisciplinary problem-based lessons, project activities and observations in extracurricular learning environment, integrating knowledge from different subjects and scientific fields. In the introduction the dissertation the writer expresses her conviction that "this integral methodology of pedagogical interaction builds a more complete and complete picture of phenomena and processes, reveals in depth causal relationships, forms the ability for independent, analytical and critical thinking, supports personal development of students, builds skills for teamwork, helps to avoid one-sided and limited presentation of knowledge, the alternation of subjects and addiction to facts and theories "(p. 6). The large-scale thesis is developed purposefully and argumentatively and is unconditionally protected by the results of empirical pedagogical research.

The dissertation work impresses with its rich methodology: analytical, synthetic, comparative method, questionnaire research, pedagogical and scientific observation, interactive methods, test research and statistical methods for processing empirical results. Author's tools (Kahoot test) for measuring and assessing knowledge, skills and competencies in the field of music at the end of the fourth grade are developed and tested.

The three components of the proposed model for an integrated approach are convincingly presented in the coherent and logical structure of the text, introduced step by step with the overall methodology of their implementation: 3.2.1 Methodological guidelines for creating and implementing an integrated approach in conducting interdisciplinary problem-based lessons ; 3.2.2 Methodological guidelines for creating and implementing an integrated approach to the implementation of observations in outsourced learning environment; 3.2.3 Methodological guidelines for creating and implementing an integrated approach in organizing and conducting

project activities in music as part of the arts. The important appendices 1 and 2 also help to convincingly expose the problem-based lessons, through which the reader can follow the way of conducting the respective type of lesson.

The hypothesis of the study is tested by an experiment conducted in three stages. The results of the experiment convincingly confirm it - for each of the 16 studied indicators the achievements of students in the experimental group, which applied the integrated approach and innovative methodology for teaching music, are definitely higher and their measurement shows a steady positive trend.

I also congratulate the author for the fact that in the course of her research she managed to update the research subject, including the problem of distance learning, as "In the last two years the agenda of our society has been rearranged by the COVID-19 epidemic" (pp. 178). By the way, the situation with distance learning turned out to be a challenge for the doctoral students, who planned their empirical pedagogical research at a previous stage. But at the same time it has become an additional criterion for innovative thinking, for a quick and adequate scientific response, for the ability to analyze and systematize the problems and trends in modern education. The dissertation student brilliantly demonstrates these qualities in the fourth chapter of the paper.

At the end of the Conclusion M. Andasorova offers a summary in nine points, which I would like to highlight. It is large-scale and offers a realistic strategy for modern education through decentralization, flexible creative solutions, sharing good practices with an emphasis on interdisciplinary links and developing students' soft competencies.

Based on what has been said so far, I give my high positive assessment of the dissertation. I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award Maya Penkova Andasorova the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in ... (Methodology of teaching music), for which I will confidently vote!

May 2022 Author of the opinion:

Prof. Mariana Buleva