

The Role of the Elementary Music School “Petar Bogdanov-Kochko” In Cultural Life in Gostivar

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The Elementary Music School (EMS) “Petar Bogdanov-Kochko” has an important role in the development of the cultural life in Gostivar in the recent years. The EMS, like all EMS in Macedonia, acts in three directions:

- Spreading musical education and development of musical culture in the city
- Professional orientation of future musicians
- Participation in cultural activities in the city.

The EMS “Petar Bogdanov-Kochko” is established in 1991 initiated by counsel of interested unions for education in Gostivar. From the beginning, the school got its name after the outstanding Macedonian musician, one of the pioneers in the Macedonian modern musical culture, Petar Bogdanov-Kochko.

This school is placed on the exit of the city, in the space used as a kindergarten before. Although it is out of the city center, many children are interested in attending this school. Unfortunately, the school has limited working space, because a huge part of it is used by Turkish College also placed there since 1999, which means that the number of students and teachers in the EMS is limited.

Today there are four teachers (graduated at Faculty of Music – Skopje, dept. Music Theory and Pedagogy) who are employed in the EMS with full number of classes of piano, accordion and solfeggio.

Chronology of the school:

- 1991: EMS established, first schoolmaster – Bogoslav Strasevski
- 1991: courses in accordion, solfeggio and piano started
- 1996: Boban Bogdanoski denoted for a new schoolmaster

- 1999: course in violin started
- 2005: course in violin was stopped

The course in violin was stopped because the teacher from Gostivar went to work in Skopje. Number of students attended the course in violin was 3-4 per one school year.

Gostivar is a city with multi ethnic population. The EMS thus can play very important role in making contacts, mutual understanding and mutual friendship of the children from different national and ethnic groups. In the following table we have presented the number of students in preparing classes and their ethnicity:

Table 1

School year	Total number of students	Macedonian	Albanian	Turkish	Roma
1991/92	15	13	2	/	/
1992/93	14	11	3	/	/
1993/94	16	12	3	1	/
1994/95	17	12	4	/	1
1995/96	16	10	6	/	/
1996/97	14	8	5	1	/
1997/98	19	10	7	1	1
1998/99	17	8	8	1	/
1999/00	18	9	7	/	2
2000/01	16	9	6	2	/
2001/02	17	10	6	1	/
2002/03	18	12	5	1	/
2003/04	18	9	6	3	/
2004/05	17	6	8	1	2
2005/06	15	8	4	1	2

From this table we can see that the number of enrolled students in preparing classes is constant. Positive fact is the increasing number of students of other ethnicities (especially from Albanian ethnicity) which means that the mutual communication and cooperation of the youth is also increased.

In the following table there is a review of total number of students who have attended the classes in the EMS from its opening till now. We have given total number of students in appropriate school year, number of the students who has finished the school year and number of students who has finished elementary school:

Table 2

School year	Total number of enrolled students	Finished the school year	Finished elementary school
1991/92	15	14	/
1992/93	28	25	/
1993/94	55	48	/
1994/95	65	56	6
1995/96	66	60	5
1996/97	69	63	5
1997/98	75	62	8
1998/99	71	60	7
1999/2000	71	62	8
2000/01	70	58	6
2001/02	69	61	7
2002/03	72	63	8
2003/04	73	61	5
2004/05	73	66	6
2005/06	75	/	/

From this table we can see that the number of the students from the beginning, was increased, but from 1997 till now the number has been constant, because of impossibility to open new working places and new departments on one hand, and the lack of rooms on other. The positive fact is that almost all of the students enrolled in appropriate school year finish it.

The EMS “Petar Bogdanov-Kochko”, although very new in R. Macedonia, has already achieved positive results in music education of the students. In the past period, students from the EMS have taken part in all state competitions, in which they gained several acknowledgments and one award. In the following table we have shown the awarded students:

Table 3

Name and surname	Instrument	Gained rewards	School year
Zlatko Boshkovski	Accordion	Approval	1995
Andrijana Bogdanoska	Piano	Approval	2001
Emilija Jovcheska	Piano	Approval	2001
Antoaneta Cvetanoska	Solfeggio	Second reward	2005

Thus, it is not surprising that some students of the EMS have professionally oriented for music, continuing their music education. In the following table we have given information about these students:

Table 4

Name and surname	Instrument	Year of finishing elementary school	Secondary musical school	Higher education	Employed by their profession	Note
Igor Radeski	Accordion	93/94	Skopje	Faculty of Music (FM) Skopje	Elementary School (ES) Gostivar	
Aleksandar Nikoloski	Accordion	93/94	Skopje	FM Skopje	/	Student
Zlatko Boshkoski	Accordion	94/95	Tetovo	FM Skopje	State Music School – Tetovo	Student
Igor Simunoski	Accordion	94/95	Tetovo	FM Skopje	No	
Velko Solomonoski	Piano	94/95	Skopje	FM Skopje	ES – Gostivar	
Goce Jovceski	Accordion	94/95	Tetovo	FM Skopje	No	
Ivica Adamoski	Accordion	94/95	Tetovo	/	No	
Nita Vishka	Piano	95/96	Tetovo	FM Skopje	/	Student
Andrijana Andrijeska	Piano	96/97	Tetovo	FM Skopje	No	
Albert Saliu	Accordion	96/97	Tetovo	FM Skopje	/	Student
Daniel Pavloski	Accordion	98/99	Tetovo	FM Skopje	/	Student
Slavko Zafiroski	Accordion	99/00	Tetovo	FM Skopje	/	Student

Ande Petreski	Accordion	00/01	Skopje	/	/	Student
Ace Kostaski	Accordion	00/01	Skopje	/	/	Student
Darko Petreski	Accordion	01/02	Skopje	/	/	Student
Shendit Asani	Accordion	03/04	Tetovo	/	/	Student
Ulber Chamili	Accordion	03/04	Tetovo	/	/	Student
Ljupce Angjelkoski	Accordion	04/05	Tetovo	/	/	Student

From this table we can see that:

- 18 students of this EMS have continued their music education in secondary music schools all around R. Macedonia
- 6 students finished higher education
- 1 student is attending postgraduate studies
- 6 students are studying at the Faculty of Music - Skopje
- 6 students are studying in secondary music schools.

From the total number of students finished higher education, three of them are employed according to their education (2 of them in an elementary school in Gostivar, and 1 in secondary music school in Tetovo). The following table shows these students:

Table 5

Name and surname	Employed according their profession
Igor Radeski	PS "Goce Delchev" – Gostivar
Zlatko Boshkoski	SMS "Todor Skaloski" – Tetovo
Velko Solomonoski	PS "Petre Jovanoski" – Gostivar

The history of cultural activities up today:

The EMS "Petar Bogdanov- Kochko" organizes New Year concert, annual school concert and concert of talented students every year. These concerts, have been parts

of EMS activities since 1999, and they are performed in the concert hall of the school, which is currently a property of the Turkish College .

Besides these concerts the EMS participates in the New Year concerts in kindergartens and concerts performed during the Children's week in October. For other holidays and various exhibitions, the EMS has their own piano "Yamaha", which is used for performing concerts in places where there is no piano.

Conclusion:

In despite of educative results and constant interest of children for enrolling in the EMS "Petar Bogdanov-Kochko", the school has limited possibilities to develop the cultural life in the city, because of the following reasons:

- Location. As we said, the school is placed out of the city and it is the main problem for some students to attend every class.

- Missing own concert hall. Lack of its own hall limits the number of concerts in the school which can be presented through the year, and also performance of musicians- guests from Macedonia and abroad.

- Deficiency of teachers. The students can only choose course in accordion and piano. Courses in violin were sustained 6 years ago, but in 2005 were totally stopped, because the teacher of this course was from Skopje and started to work there. Another problem is that the teachers from other cities are not interested in working part-time because there is not enough number of classes for other instruments.

We suppose that these problems are typical for music schools in small urban places and they should be solved systematically, on the state level and local organs of administration. Triggering of the institutional forms on music education of children, solving the problem with the rooms and with teachers will contribute in enriching of cultural life in local areas, discovering talents and raising quality of education and everyday life.