

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Vesela Ivanova Geleva, lecturer of Choral Conducting at the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department at the Faculty of Musical Pedagogy at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

for Associate Professor Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska, lecturer of Methodology of Music Education, Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, candidate in the competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”, Higher education field 1 “Pedagogical Sciences”, specialty “Methodology of Music Education”, Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Training in ...”

Tsvetanka Kolovska graduated with full honors and gold medal from Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance – Plovdiv majoring in “Piano”. She completed her higher education at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, where she graduated as Master – Music Teacher. In 2007, Dr. Kolovska defended her doctorate in the scientific specialty “Methodology of Music Education” on the topic *“The Role of Musical Education for the Socialization of Students”* in the Music Department of Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. Tsvetanka Kolovska has the Professional qualification “Resource Teacher” from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, as well as First Professional Qualification degree from the Information and Teacher Development Department with St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, diplomas from numerous seminars, trainings and master classes. She also works as a teacher of piano and solfeggio at Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance, at P. Hilendarski Plovdiv University, as well as as a basic music teacher. Since 2012, she has been an Associate Professor of Music Education Methodology at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, held the position of Head of the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department, and is currently the Deputy Rector for “Education, Accreditation and Rating System” at the Academy. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska has numerous participations in national and international educational projects, active teaching activity as supervisor and reviewer of bachelors, masters and doctoral students, author and moderator of training courses, seminars and programs, active participant in the administrative and trade union activities of the Academy, as well as two-time winner of the Rector’s Award.

In the announced competition for the academic position of “Professor”, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska participates with monographic work, articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information /2/ and articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes /27/. The candidate submitted 30 scientific papers and 85 citations after her election as an Associate Professor in 2012. The attached certificate of fulfillment of the minimum scientific

requirements shows a rich and varied activity, exceeding the requirements multiple times.

The monographic work *“New Methods of Musical Education and Upbringing and Their Integration in the Training of Bulgarian Music Teachers”* /Plovdiv: M&BM Ltd., 2022 ISBN 978-619-7682-06-9/ is dedicated to the specifics of the methods of musical training and upbringing in the context of current trends in music education in Bulgaria and the world. It is structured in 4 chapters and a bibliography of 70 literary sources. The exhibition is the result of the author’s long-term personal pedagogical experience in the field of music education and all its units – from kindergarten to master’s and doctoral degrees. It is essential to refer to a number of normative documents that regulate the criteria for the quality of the educational process, the qualifications of teachers, funding and the development of their competencies. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska demonstrates a high level of knowledge of the education system in Bulgaria and around the world, supported by her participation in national and international forums on education issues, scientific conferences, organizational meetings, membership in commissions and units analyzing and controlling the educational process. For the purposes of the research, methodologically speaking, competence, activity, systematic and integrative approaches were used.

The new methods in training are presented as a necessity and adaptation to the dynamics of the educational process and the provision of well-prepared staff for work in the field of pedagogical education in the context of the launched national program *“Increasing the competences of lecturers from state universities preparing future educators”* from 19.01.2021. The program covers leading competency models that should be known and applicable in the practice of lecturers, inclusion of an innovative approach in the development of training plans, curricula, as well as qualification characteristics. Emphasis is placed on the complex nature of the pedagogical process and its relationship with digitalization, innovation and interculturality. Kolovska presents the new trends in education: integrality through STEAM-practices, gamification, project-based learning, use of various information and communication technologies as a tool, the “inverted classroom”, etc. Among the pedagogical methods, the “Dalton-room plan” stands out – giving students more freedom in terms of the individual pace of work and development, the method of “comprehensive education”, the Decroly method, etc.

The first chapter *“Axiology of Music-Pedagogical Education”* presents a theory of the orientation of the personality in the world of musical and pedagogical values and active participation in the creative process “music – teacher – student”. The need to constantly stimulate the creativity and imagination of the music educator, contributing to successful creative realization and reaching high pedagogical achievements commensurate with the requirements of the new era, is emphasized.

The object of the second chapter is the modern paradigm of music education. The main characteristics of the Bulgarian music education system, its national specifics and

current problems are presented. The author focuses on educational goals: creation of spiritual culture, building aesthetic taste, value orientation and attitude through art, education of creative attitudes and methods of self-expression in adolescents, etc. Musical activities in the music lesson, as well as in extracurricular activities, are considered in the context of the need for new methodological approaches in the formation of children's musical culture.

In the third chapter, the new methods of musical education and upbringing are presented in detail, which aim at integrated interdisciplinary interaction; learning from knowledge to practical skills; focus on achieving real measurable results. The innovative way of learning is expressed in changes regarding the position of the students, the learning content, the educational environment and the role of the educator.

The fourth chapter examines the professional and pedagogical training of music teachers, their qualification characteristics, study plans and the study content of the disciplines studied at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska examines the stages of planning and implementation of a learning process /music lesson/ with the relevant specifics, basic requirements, sample plan and actual course of the lesson. Analyzing and mastering an optimally good organization of the music lesson enables the participants in the educational process – students and educator – to build a creative educational environment that obeys certain rules. The role of creative invention, imagination and emotionality, necessary for all participants in the educational process, is emphasized, as well as the role of the educators themselves – musicians, teachers and moderators of the musical and educational process.

The monographic work *“New Methods of Musical Education and Upbringing and Their Integration in the Training of Bulgarian Music Teachers”* is of interest to specialist pedagogues, students, teachers, methodologists, basic teachers and a wider circle of readers interested in the problems of music education, who will find information about current trends, new training models and their practical applicability in our country.

The scientific developments of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska affect several thematic areas in which she has a proven contribution: the professional-pedagogical training of future music teachers, the pedagogical practice of music as an important factor in the professional development of young teachers, methodological foundations, approaches and problems in teaching the disciplines of the methodological cycle, as well as contemporary challenges, trends and perspectives in music education. In this regard, she is the author of numerous articles and reports published in prestigious publications in Bulgaria and abroad. Her awareness of the latest trends in music education is impressive, as well as her creative attitude and personal contribution to the relevant issues. An important place in the publications is occupied by the competence approach as dominant for the educational process in the last decade of the XXI century. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska argues the need for its implementation in the educational content, curricula and programs, in parallel with the introduction of unused or little popular until

now in our country innovative methods and approaches to education. Her active position on this matter contributes to the confirmation of the new standard and quality of music education, updated with the achievements of the European educational systems. In this sense, the large number of citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific reviews /85/, proving the scientific value and interest in her theoretical developments, is also logical.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska participates in a number of national scientific and educational projects, including “The Key to Music”, “Development of the Artistic Culture of Schoolchildren and Students” and the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science “For Better Education”. In her capacity as a leader, she implements 7 projects that have become traditional and attract more and more participants – young musicians, future and current teachers, who are motivated to develop and enrich their pedagogical practice with up-to-date methodological skills. Here, these stand out: “Development of the Practical and Artistic Skills of Students from the Pedagogy of Music Education Specialty at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv”, “Children’s Song Festival”, the national competition “Young Music Teacher”. The implementation of these projects undoubtedly contributes to maintaining the reputation of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts as an educational institution with long-standing traditions and achieved high results in the field of musical and pedagogical education.

In conclusion to all of the above, I strongly support the candidacy of Associate Professor Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska for the academic position of “Professor” in Higher education field 1 “Pedagogical Sciences”, specialty “Methodology of Music Education”, Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Training in ...” and I wish her success and satisfaction in her future research and teaching activities.

25.08.2022

Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva