

PEER REVIEW

for competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, Department of Musical Folklore, announced in State Gazette, Issue 40/17.05.2019, under Professional field: “Music and Dance Arts” – cipher 8.3, Scientific field: “Folk Singing and Teaching Methodology”, with candidate: **Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Yordanova Tsvetkova** by **Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov Dimov, Doctor of Sciences**, Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

The candidate has submitted all the documents and materials necessary and required by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations, which are enclosed in the submitted documentation for review as: Folder 1 (creative CV, higher education diplomas for and for obtaining a scientific and educational degree “Doctor”, certificates – medical and of criminal record, certificates of internship in the specialty and of teaching activity); Folder 2 (table for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position “Associate Professor”, evidence on the table under indicators “A”, “C” and “D” – diploma for the scientific degree “Doctor”, monograph with summary of contents, list of publications and printed studies and articles, creative achievements – concert activity in Bulgaria and abroad); Folder 3 (evidence under indicator “E” in the table – reference for citations and reviews); Folder 4 (evidence under indicator “F” in the table – educational and artistic information, study aids, awards); Folder 5 (reference for habilitation materials, contributions of the dissertation, books of published music albums with her participation). The materials contain correct and comprehensive information about the scientific, teaching and artistic activity of the candidate and are the basis for my evaluation as a reviewer.

I. Scientific and research activity

The candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova has provided for reviewing papers and citations that characterize her scientific and research activity according to the group of indicators “A”, “C” and “D” from the table and can be divided into the following groups: 1) Dissertation work (group A); 2) Habilitation work (group C); 3) Published books, studies and articles that are scientific and applied publications (group D); 4) Citations and reviews (group E).

1) Dissertation work (Group A): Tsvetkova presents dissertation work for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree “Doctor” – “The Pazardzhik Folklore and Singing Style and Its Local Manifestations in Some Settlements in the Region”, and fulfills the requirement for a number of points under the Rules for application of the Act – 50 points.

2) Habilitation work (group C). The candidate presents a monographic work – the book “Male Folklore Performance in Sliven – Known and Unknown” (Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2019). The book consists of 130 pages and the content is structured in an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. Chapter I presents the Sliven region as part of the Thracian folklore region. Chapter II reveals the regional specifics of the music folklore in Sliven: genre characteristics, style and manner of performance. Chapter III is central to the book, as it presents the most famous Thracian singers from Sliven, who, according to Danka Tsvetkova, are of three generations: Mr. Kolev, Yovcho Karaivanov and Ivan Kremov are representatives of the first, Petko Stamov, Andon Daskalov and Mityo Valkov – of the second, and Dobromir Yordanov and Dian Mitev – of the third. The book

contains 28 photo illustrations, 31 note examples, an application of 5 interviews with folk singers and 2 reviews by the professors Lyuben Dosev and Kostadin Buradzhiiev. The cited literature sources are 19. The qualities of the book reviewed are contained in the appropriately chosen research object, in the analyzes contained and in the proposed summaries, which have practical values in the study of a regional style of male folklore singing; and methodologically – in the processes of training and performing skills. The work covers several of the indicators referred to in Art. 27, para. (4), item 2 of Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria: as scientific and applied development and as an application to the practice of research results. The applied work proves the fulfillment of the required number of points under the Rules for application of the Act, Indicators group C – 100 points.

3) Published books, studies and articles (Group D): The main work in other scientific publications proposed for review under group D is “Folk Singing in the Pazardzhik Region” (Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2018). The book is a publication under Tsvetkova’s defended dissertation on the topic: “The Pazardzhik Folklore and Singing Style and Its Local Manifestations in Some Settlements in the Region”. Its genre, in terms of style and volume, can be defined as “theoretical and practical research” and as study of scientific and applied character. The book consists of 73 pages, structured in 7 parts. The main content is divided into the following topics: “Historical and Geographical Data on the Pazardzhik Region”, “Style Characteristics of Folk Singing in the Pazardzhik Region”, “Performing Manners in the Pazardzhik Folk Singing Style”, “Traditional Female Singing Performing Arts in Pazardzhik”, “Male Folk Singing”, “Trembling and its Varieties in the Folk Singing Practice”. The scientific character of the book is indicated both by the topic, the approaches and the theoretical and terminological basis of the work, as well as by the scientific literature used – over 94 titles of key Bulgarian researchers, such as the folklorists and ethnomusicologists Stoyan Dzhudzhev, Elena Stoin, Ivan Kachulev, Nikolay Kaufmann, Svetlana Zaharieva, Dimitrina Kaufmann, Lozanka Peycheva, Mariya Samokovlieva, etc., the music educators Anka Kushleva and Yordan Dafov, the historians and dialectologists Ivan Duychev, Stoyko Stoykov, Maksim Mladenov and others. In addition to the book under review, the folder with scientific publications also contains the studies “Local Manifestation of the Pazardzhik Folklore and Performing Style in the villages of Belovitsa, Lyuben and Dragomir”, consisting of 94 pages, which is also related to the topic of her dissertation work (Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts).

The materials in this column add up to a total of 105 points, but they are not a definitive sum of the contributions in Table D, as the candidate also has contributions from creative appearances in the same table (they will be discussed below).

4) Citations. In the columns of the table in Group E, items 17 and 19, Tsvetkova applies evidence of 3 citations and 3 peer reviews with the total points of 60 for this indicator.

II. Teaching (pedagogical, educational and methodological) activity

The candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova has provided for review documents (creative CV, collections of songs, contributions, etc.) that outline a rich and varied educational (pedagogical, educational and methodological) activity that can be separated in several directions: 1) Publications of teaching and methodological materials; 2) Pedagogical and teaching practice in the field of Arts. In the review they will be considered according to the columns of the table of evidence (Group F, item 27 and item 28).

1) Publications of teaching and methodological materials: As published academic textbooks, the candidate has submitted 4 collections of solo folk songs accompanied by a piano: “A Song Has No Limits” (Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2006); “Folk Songs from the Pazardzhik Region” (Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts,

2006); “Folk Songs from Shopluka” (Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2016) with 18 folk songs from the repertoire of Pavel Sirakov, Slavka Sekutova, Olga Borisova, Pavlina Gorcheva and others, and “Where the Tears Fell, Songs Blossomed” (Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2017) with 18 folk songs from the regions of Pirin, Shopluka, Rhodopes, Thrace, Strandzha, Graovsko and Pazardzhik. In the last two collections, Danka Tsvetkova worked as a compiler in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Kostadin Buradzhev – editor, and Nikolay Gurbanov – author of piano accompaniment and computer note writing. These collections are indicative of the candidate’s educational and methodological work as they are applied in the teaching processes of folk singing.

2) Pedagogical and teaching practice in the field of Arts: Danka Tsvetkova teaches 5 master classes in folk singing in Bulgaria and has implemented 8 workshops with foreigners from Denmark and Sweden performing Bulgarian folklore. The conducted master classes in folk singing are at the Veselin Stoyanov National School of Arts – City of Ruse (2011-2018), for which programs, certificates and a thank-you note have been attached. As a vocal educator, she teaches several master classes abroad and in Bulgaria with foreigners – choirs and students: with the Sedianka Choir in the City of Aarhus, Denmark (2008-2018), with the Perunika Choir in Stockholm, Sweden (2015, 2017, 2018), with the Sedianka Choir in Gothenburg, Sweden (2011-2012) and with students at the Music College in Umeå, Sweden (2012).

3) Awards from competitions for creativity and performance, given by national professional forums and institutions and organizations abroad (column F, items 29 and 30): the candidate applied data on 4 awards (medals, titles) in Bulgaria, Austria and Serbia, 9 certificates and 4 diplomas for laureate titles. Her prestigious awards from forums abroad are 3. The total points for these indicators are 230.

These activities add up to a score of 570 points, which exceeds the required number of points under the Rules for application of the Act, Group F indicators (100 points).

III. Artistic and creative activity in the field of Arts

The analysis of the applied habilitation materials and my personal observations show that the artistic and creative activity of the candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova establishes her as a leader in her multifaceted activities as a singer, vocal educator and Assistant Conductor of the Academica Folk Choir at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The activities of the candidate in the following areas, under the groups of indicators of the table (group D, items 12, 13, 14), will be discussed here.

1) A realized own product in the field of Arts. The candidate presents the musical production “Sedenkarski Lakardiy”, performed with students of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in 2016 (group D, item 12 – 30 points)

2) Lead or solo creative performance. Tsvetkova presents 3 concert solo performances (group D, item 13 – 105 points)

3) Supporting creative appearances as a participant in a collective product. The candidate has had enviable activity in the period from 2014 until 2019 in Bulgaria and abroad. She has participated in 35 concerts and sound recordings in Bulgaria and 13 in Denmark, Sweden, France and Belgium (group D, item 14 – 480 points)

The analysis of the artistic and creative activity of Danka Tsvetkova documented in the table shows that she has an active, significant and highly acclaimed participation in artistic stage and media appearances. Part of the candidate’s creative appearances is on international stages and forums. As a vocal educator, singer, choir performer and assistant conductor, Tsvetkova has made a significant contribution to the performance of the Academy, its Academica Choir and the students in Bulgaria and around the world. The total sum of the

indicators of the creative appearances under group D, items 12, 13 and 14 is 615 points. I would like to specify that Tsvetkova has 105 points in column D of the table. The points required for column D under the Rules for application of the Act are 150, i.e. the candidate repeatedly exceeds the minimum for group D for scientific publications and creative appearances in the field of Arts.

Summary and conclusion

The scientific, applied, educational, methodological and artistic and creative contributions of the work of Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova stand out in several directions. The achievements of the candidate as a creator, practitioner, lecturer and methodologist, who has considerable pedagogical experience as a university lecturer and who through her teaching aids and collections have introduced this experience into circulation among students and colleagues, are indisputable and definite. Tsvetkova's scientific, applied and educational activities show the establishment of her own research field, in which knowledge and skills are mastered and her own field experience is gained. Perhaps most eloquent, due to their prominence in the public domain, are Tsvetkova's artistic performances as an interpreter of vocal folklore tradition and choral performing skills. Danka Tsvetkova deserves high praise for her entire professional activity and has the qualities to acquire the academic position of "Associate Professor". An eloquent proof of this is the fulfillment of the scientometric requirements according to the table under the Regulations for application of the Act under Professional field 8.3 "Music and Dance Arts". The minimum national requirements for scientific, teaching and/or creative and artistic activity of the candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" under Scientific field 8 "Arts", Professional field 8.3 "Music and Dance Arts" are met for all indicators, most of them exceeding the required points several times. I would like to note that the documents of the candidate contained only Table 2 (Number of points under indicators) and there was no Table 1 (Minimum required points for different degrees and academic positions), which in turn motivated a review of the materials provided and a more focused attention, which at the expense of any wasted time provided a more argumentative reading of the achievements of the candidate. I would like to remind that the highlighting of the points for the creative activities of the candidate is in the spirit of the law and the Regulations and follows Art.15, para.(4) of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria ("It could be applied with specific artistic and creative achievements in the respective field in higher institutions and faculties of Arts and Sports for the occupation of academic positions") and Art.27, para.(5) of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria ("For scientific specialties in the field of Arts, artistic and creative activity may be evaluated instead of research activity"). The above arguments give me reason to give a high and positive assessment of Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova as a candidate in the competition and to propose to the Scientific Jury to select her for the academic position "Associate Professor" at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts under Professional field "Music and Dance Arts", specialty "Folk Singing and Teaching Methodology".

11.09.2019
Sofia

Reviewer:
(Assoc. Prof. Ventsislav Dimov, Doctor of Sciences)