

**Peer Review**  
**by Prof. Dr. Svetla Georgieva Kaludova-Stanilova**

under a procedure for awarding of the academic position “Associate Professor”  
Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, Specialty: “Folk Singing and Teaching  
Methodology” for the needs of the Department of Musical Folklore, Faculty of Musical  
Folklore and Choreography at Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv.  
Candidate for the competition: Danka Yordanova Tsvetkova

Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Yordanova Tsvetkova graduated from the Shiroka Laka Specialized Music School (1986) and the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (1991) with professional qualification: “Head of Folk Groups and Teacher of Folk Singing”. Since 1996 she has been working at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts as a part-time teacher of folk singing, and since 2011 she has been appointed as an Assistant in the same discipline. In parallel, she has worked as a Solo artist in a full-time national choir and as a Vocal Educator at the Academic Folk Choir. She participates in seminars and master classes as a teacher of folk singing. In 2014 Danka Tsvetkova acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” with a dissertation on the topic: “*The Pazardzhik Folklore and Singing Style and Its Local Manifestations in Some Settlements in the Region*” with scientific adviser Prof. Dr. Lyuben Dosev.

Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova applies for the competition with reference for habilitation materials, including information in different directions: publications, studies, collections – solo songs with piano accompaniment, a monograph, sound recordings – concert and public activity, pedagogical activity and personal awards. A good impression of her research aspirations is the focus on the problems of the traditional folklore performance on a regional scale – the Pazardzhik and Sliven regions.

Danka Tsvetkova is an experienced *performer*. As a singer from the Pazardzhik region, she possesses the characteristic of the regional manner and skillfully applies it in her pedagogical activity. She is familiar with the specifics of folk singing training and has gone through the establishment stages as a performer and teacher. This gave her the opportunity for professional and academic growth.

Her work as a *teacher* is diverse: she teaches folk singing for Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in the fields of “Performing Arts – Folklore”, “Pedagogy of Music Training” and “Folk Groups Conducting”; she also teaches foreign students and participates in projects. Periodically, students from her folk singing class are involved in concerts and productions at an academic level. Her students are winners of a number of national folk singing

competitions, and some of them have made recordings in prestigious media. She successfully teaches a master class at the Prof. Veselin Stoyanov National School of Arts – City of Ruse and *workshops* with the Sedianka Choir from Denmark and the Perunika Choir from Sweden, as well as with students from York University – Toronto (Canada).

Her work as a vocal educator motivates her to focus on the issuance of *teaching aids* – three collections of solo songs with piano accompaniment, two of which were issued after the acquisition of the scientific title “Doctor”: “Folk Songs from Shopluka” (2016) and “Where Tears Fell Songs Blossomed” (2017). Both teaching aids are widely applicable in the teaching processes of music schools in folklore, as well as at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Tsvetkova’s concert activity is extremely intense: as a Soloist she has recorded records for the Bulgarian National Radio and the Bulgarian National Television. She is also a Conductor of a folk choir at the Sliven Folk Song and Dance Ensemble and a Vocal Educator and Assistant Conductor of the Academic Folk Choir at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Her performing and pedagogical activity has received public recognition and she has won numerous personal awards. Tsvetkova is also a member of juries at prestigious national folk arts competitions.

The scientific activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova is represented by the publications: “Trembling – a Phenomenon in Bulgarian Folk Singing Art” in the magazine “Musical Horizons”, Vol. 5/2007 and “Male Folk Singing in the Pazardzhik Region” - Yearbook of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (2011).

The two studies presented “*Folk Singing in the Pazardzhik Region*” and “*Local Manifestation of the Pazardzhik Folklore and Performing Style in the villages of Belovitsa, Lyuben and Dragomir*” represent an excerpt from her dissertation work.

The emphasis in the scientific activity is on the presented monograph “*Male Folklore Performance in Sliven – Known and Unknown*”. The candidate started the study of “male singing” in her dissertation work, determining its regional focus in the Sliven region. The work presents the folklore of Sliven through the stylistics and repertoire of three generations of male singers who have become popular in time as an “emblem” for imitation and continuity. The thorough study of the problem has meaning and contribution, both regionally and in the field of the musical folklore.

The provided reference of the habilitation materials shows the high activity of the candidate in several directions. All of them are in the required volume of national requirements for successful application in this competition. I believe that the submitted activity and quotations

meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its implementation. That is why I declare my support for the election of Chief Assistant Dr. Danka Tsvetkova as “Associate Professor” in Professional field: 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, Specialty: “Folk Singing and Teaching Methodology” for the needs of the Department of Musical Folklore at Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv.

Plovdiv

03.09.2019

Pier review performed by:

Prof. Dr. Svetla Stanilova