

## **PEER REVIEW**

by Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak  
in connection with a competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”  
announced in State Gazette (Issue 35/18.04.2023)  
under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”,  
specialty “Folk Singing and Methodology of its Teaching” for the needs  
of the Musical Folklore Department, at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and  
Choreography of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Petrova-Kirkova is the only candidate participating in the announced competition. The documents and materials presented by her meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

### **General presentation of the candidate:**

Galya Georgieva Petrova-Kirkova has been an Associate Professor of “Folk Singing and Methodology of its Teaching” since 2018 and a Doctor of “Musicology and Musical Art” since 2015. She was born in the City of General Toshevo, Dobrich District. Kirkova is a graduate of Filip Kutev Secondary Music School in Kotel, where she graduated in 1994 in the specialty “Rebec and Folk Singing”. In 1998 she obtained a Bachelor’s degree at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, in the specialty “Folk Ensembles Conducting”, as well as a postgraduate qualification, with specialty “Pedagogy of Music Education” in 1999. Her Master’s degree is in two specialties – “Instrumental Art – Folk Singing” and “Instrumental Art – Rebec”. After graduating, she worked as a choir performed in Trakiya Folklore Ensemble – Plovdiv, a vocal teacher at L. Karavelov Secondary School in the City of Plovdiv, a part-time lecturer of folk singing at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, as well as a lecturer of folk singing and rebed at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. In 2010, Kirkova won a competition for an Assistant of “Folk Singing” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, and in 2016 for a Chief Assistant. She was awarded the educational and qualification degree “Doctor” in Musicology and Musical Art in 2015, after a successfully defended dissertation on the topic: “Musical and Folkloric Heritage of Dobrudzha – Connection with the Ethno-Demographic State and Migration Processes”. Since 2018, she has been an Associate Professor of “Folk Singing and Methodology of its Teaching”. Dr. Kirkova is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers and of the Academic Ensemble of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. She is also a Chairman of the Attestation Commission at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography. Associate Professor Kirkova has been the Director of the Language and Specialized Training Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv since 2020. Her graduates participate in national and international competitions, during which they have won prestigious honors and special awards.

### **Assessment of the compliance with the minimum national requirements:**

The materials presented for review according to the various indicators from the scientometric

table under Professional field 8.3. are respectively:

**Group of Indicators A – minimum required points: 50**

1. Dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” – *“Musical and Folkloric Heritage of Dobrudzha – Connection with the Ethno-Demographic State and Migration Processes”*

**Total points for Group A – 50 points**

**Group of Indicators C – minimum required points: 100**

3. Habilitation work – published monograph in the relevant scientific field *“Repertoire in Folk Singing Education”*, ISBN:978-619-7682-19-9, 2023, p. 242.

**Total points for Group C – 100 points**

**Group of Indicators D – minimum required points: 150**

8. Published book based on a defended dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” – *“Musical and Folkloric Heritage of Dobrudzha – Connection with the Ethno-Demographic State and Migration Processes”*, ISBN: 978-619-7682-07-6, 2022, p. 240 – 75 points

9. Articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts: **1.** Petrova-Kirkova, G. – *“Repertoire in the Folk Singing Teaching and the Possibilities for the Formation of Creativity in Students – Future Educators”* //Knowledge – International Journal, Vol. 30.2, Scientific papers HUMANITIES, Brnjaska Banja, Serbia, March, 2019, ISSN 2545-4439, p. 453-458. **2.** Petrova-Kirkova, G. – *“On Some Problems of the Repertoire of Solo Folk Songs with Piano Accompaniment for a Male Voice”* //Collection of reports. “Science, Education and Innovations in the Field of Art” International Scientific Conference, October 24-26, 2019, Plovdiv, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2019, ISBN 978-954-2963-56-1, pp. 304-310. **3.** Petrova-Kirkova, G. – *“On the Principles of Selection and Structuring of the Repertoire in Collections of Solo Folk Songs with Piano Accompaniment”* //III International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovations in the Field of Art”, Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 28.10.2021 – 30.10.2021, Volume 2, ISSN 2738-8964, pp. 4-10. **4.** Petrova-Kirkova, G. – *“On the Repertoire in the Teaching of Folk Singing – a View from the Position of Students Studying at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv”* // Collection of reports from the “50 years of Traditions and Development of Bulgarian Folklore Jubilee International Scientific Conference”, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 28.10.2022 – 29.10.2022, ISBN 978-619-7682-17-5 (soft cover), ISBN 978-619-7682-18-2 (e-book PDF), p. 142-153. **5.** Petrova-Kirkova, G. – *“Possibilities for Optimizing the Learning Process in the Folk Singing Discipline Through the Application of Digital Resources and Digital Transformation of the Program Musical Content”* //Collection of reports. “Digital Transformation of Education – Problems and Solutions, Assessment and Accreditation” National Scientific-Practical Conference, 27.04.2023 – 28.04.2023, ISBN 978-954-712-892-7 (e-book), p. 210-214 - 75 points.

13. Leading (or independent) creative expression in the field of arts, which is not the main habilitation work: <https://bnt.bg/news/mladata-dobruianska-pevica-galya-petrova-kirkova-294119-news.html>, soloist-performer in a TV show on the Bulgarian National Television “Since the Dawn of Time”, 17.04.2021 – 35 points.

14. Supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gmjNOCMVok> – soloist-performer in a TV show on the Bulgarian National Television “Here Comes Our Music”, 10.04.2021. Soloist-performer in the concert “With Soul...”, 15.12.2022, Pirdop – 20 points.

**Total points for Group D – 205 points**

**Group of Indicators E – minimum required points: 80 points**

17. Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 20 points.

18. Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 55 points.

19. Reviews of realized author’s products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts – 40 points.

**Total points for Group E – 115 points**

**Group of Indicators F – minimum required points: 120**

28. Leadership of a master class, studio, or workshop in the field of arts – 160 points.

30. Prizes of competitions for creativity and performance, given by national professional forums and organizations – 30 points.

**Total points for Group F – 190 points**

**Assessment of scientific and scientific-applied activity:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Kirkova presents her monograph “*Repertoire in Folk Singing Education*” as a habilitation thesis. The research foregrounds the repertoire issue in the teaching of folk singing. Associate Professor Kirkova uses her serious theoretical knowledge, accumulated from many years of teaching practice and her solid singing career, by carrying out a comprehensive study of important problems related to the repertoire in the folk singing teaching. For the first time, a terminological and conceptual system for the classification of repertoire sources based on content analysis is derived. A repertoire for a male voice is specially presented, according to the peculiarities of sound extraction, tessitura, tonal volume, and the region to which the song belongs. I accept the contributions made and presented by her in the “*Author’s reference for the scientific contributions of works and citations*”, noting in particular the realized “feedback” with the students, who share personal and pedagogical experience regarding the application of innovative practices in the educational process of folk singing.

In the report prepared, Associate Professor Kirkova also presents articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts, through which she poses current problems directly corresponding to the goals and tasks of modern education and training. In some of them, Associate Professor Kirkova introduced the terms “*monodialect* and “*polydialect principle*” of selection and structuring of the repertoire in song collections. In her report “*Possibilities for Optimizing the Learning Process in the Folk Singing Discipline Through the Application of Digital Resources and Digital Transformation of the Program Musical Content*”, the author refers to the application of digital resources and digital transformation of program music content (sound recordings, videos, the music platforms YouTube, Spotify, and other media music productions) in the process of folk singing teaching. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Kirkova is the author of three monographs, two music-folk song collections, a number of articles (in periodicals, anthologies, etc.), participations in scientific conferences, Internet publications,

journalistic materials, etc.

I define the active executive, academic, pedagogical, and research activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Petrova-Kirkova as markedly contributing. The practical results achieved by her are valuable, and her professional experience is an important prerequisite for her future development. The presented materials have been prepared correctly, and the indicated activities have a certain contribution value, which covers the requirements for occupation of the the academic position “Professor” under Professional field **8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”**. **After what has been said so far, I would like to propose to the respected Scientific Jury to award her the academic position of “Professor”** in the specialty “Folk Singing and Methodology of its Teaching” for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department, at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

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Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak