

## REVIEW

**by Prof. Dr. Yavor Svetozarov Konov,  
Department of Music, New Bulgarian University, Sofia,  
Regarding competition for the academic position  
of Associate Professor in Solfeggio  
in Professional field 8.3. Music and dance arts,  
announced by AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv,  
with an only candidate Milena Ivanova Bogdanova,  
PhD in Musicology and Music Arts**

Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD, was born in Sofia in 1970. She began studying music at the age of 5 in the experimental class at High School of Music *Lubomir Pipkov* (now National School of Music) in Sofia, graduating in 1989 majoring in piano. Six years later (in 1995) she graduated from AMDFA in Plovdiv as a Master of Music Pedagogy with the qualification Teacher of solfeggio and piano and teacher of music (in pre-school to high school education). Three years later (in 1998), she also completed a 2-year postgraduate professional qualification in methodology of solfeggio training. Seventeen years later (in 2015), she defended a dissertation on *Solfeggio with piano accompaniment* and received a PhD in Musicology and Music Arts.

M. Bogdanova, PhD, is the author of a considerable number of scientific articles and reports in the field of aural music skills teaching and its methodology; history, theory and psychology of music published in Bulgaria and abroad. She has taken part in a number of forums and conferences on theory and history of music. She has performed at numerous national and international scientific and cultural institutions and events - as a lecturer, practicing teacher, demonstrator, moderator.

For more than 20 years Milena Bogdanova has been working at AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv in the interrelated disciplines SOLFEGGIO and methodology and pedagogical practice of solfeggio; methods and cognitive techniques for aural musical skills development; music theory, etc.

Milena Bogdanova is the author of course curricula for the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes at AMDFA in the following subjects: solfeggio; teaching methods in solfeggio

and pedagogical practice in solfeggio; methods and cognitive techniques for aural musical skills development; music theory.

Since 2012 until now the candidate has also been secretary-coordinator of the Academic Club "*Young Scientist*" at AMDFA; and not only has she coordinated, but also actively participated as a scientist and moderator of events.

Milena Bogdanova, PhD, is the author of 23 scientific publications (not including 4 articles) – a number of them having been cited in other scientific publications; 10 of these 27 publications are related to the current competition for associate professor in solfeggio. She is a compiler and editor of Bulgarian and foreign periodicals, including the anniversary collection devoted to the renowned Bulgarian composer, theoretician and professor Zdravko Manolov (published in 2015).

Milena Bogdanova's students won the first and second prizes at the Theory of Music Contest "Music and Knowledge" at New Bulgarian University (2016, 2018).

Alongside her work as a lecturer and musicologist, Milena Bogdanova, PhD, is also a performing pianist.

I would like to especially highlight the monograph of Milena Bogdanova "*Musical, pedagogical and theoretical concepts of Prof. Zdravko Manolov in the field of aural musical teaching*" (Plovdiv, 2018, 275 pages – already cited in a scientific publication (book) <https://ikm.mk/ojs/index.php/KIJ/article/view/480>), which after a thorough review I accept as a habilitation thesis for the present competition for the position of an *associate professor* in solfeggio. In her monograph Milena Bogdanova also presents the history and evolution of the Bulgarian solfeggio school, with emphasis on the work of Dobri Hristov, Boris Tritchkov, Kamen Popdimitrov, Ivan Peev, Asen Diamandiev and, naturally, Zdravko Manolov.

Therefore, it is obvious that **the candidate in this competition for associate professor in solfeggio, Milena Bogdanova, PhD, has been interested and working in the field of solfeggio since her university studies, has gained significant knowledge and practical experience, which she uses not only in her work with students at AMDFA** (the organization that announced this competition), **but also in collaboration with her colleges in Bulgaria and abroad** - through lectures, as well as practical and demonstrative performances. Ergo, we have a full-fledged step-by-step-created and committed specialist in

solfeggio and music theory (theory, history, pedagogy, teaching practice). **A professional who has been working in this field for more than 20 years at the Academy that announced the competition for *Associate Professor in Solfeggio*; who knows both the history and present of the institution, its student body, the teaching staff, the issues of teaching and training at the Academy, and in particular the subject matter of solfeggio (and the domain of subjects that are intrinsically related to it) which is the field of the competition. This gives me full grounds to vote *For Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD, to take the academic position of Associate Professor of Solfeggio at AMDEA – Plovdiv.*** It is logical this appraisal to be shared and supported by the other colleagues in the scientific jury of the competition.

Sofia, Friday, 30 August 2019

Signature: *Sign. illeg.*

Prof. Dr. Yavor Konov