

REVIEW

by **Prof. Dr. Tony Dimitrova Shekerdzhieva-Nowak**

Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts
Department of *Orchestra Instruments and classical singing*
at AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv

Regarding competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor*,
Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts
specialty *Solfeggio*, Department of *Music pedagogy and conducting*
at AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv
announced in the State Gazette No. 40 of May 17, 2019
with one applicant **Assistant Professor Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD**

General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

The set of documents submitted by the sole candidate for the competition, Assistant Professor Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD, is in compliance with the requirements of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, with the Regulations for its implementation and the Statute of AMDFA for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions.

The applicant has submitted 1 monograph; 24 scientific publications, 10 of which are for participation in the competition (The articles were published in 2015-2019, after obtaining the PhD degree.); list of citations in monographs, studies and collective volumes with scientific review; author's lectures and workshops held in Bulgaria and abroad. The articles are published as follows: four of them abroad – in specialized editions with scientific review (3 of them in collective volumes from international conferences), 5 in collective volumes from conferences in Bulgaria (one of them international) and one in a collective volume with scientific peer review.

Short professional curriculum vitae of the applicant:

Milena Ivanova Bogdanova completed her secondary education at the High School of Music (now National School of Music *Lubomir Pipkov*) in Sofia in 1989 majoring in piano. In 1995 she graduated from AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev in Plovdiv as a Master of Music Pedagogy with two professional qualifications: *Teacher of solfeggio and piano* and *Teacher of music in kindergarten, elementary, secondary and high school*. In 1998, she completed a two-year postgraduate qualification in *Methodology of Teaching Solfeggio* at AMDFA. As a

PhD student at the AMDFA, Plovdiv, Bogdanova defended her dissertation on the topic: "*Solfegging with piano accompaniment - a tool for optimizing aural musical skills training*" and received her **PhD degree** in Musicology and Music Arts (diploma No. 0016 dated January 16, 2015).

She started her teaching career at AMDFA in 1998, where she taught the following subjects: Solfeggio, Theory of musical elements, Solfeggio teaching methods, Pedagogical practice in solfeggio, Methods and psychological techniques for the aural musical skills development. Bogdanova's pedagogical and scientific interests are entirely dedicated to the issues of aural musical skills – their development and enhancement. Since 2012, the candidate has been the secretary and coordinator of the Academic Club *Young Scientist* at AMDFA, where she develops and manages stimulating and significant research projects. There she is both an event moderator and an active participant. Milena Bogdanova is also the author of course curricula in her field for the bachelor's and master's programmes at AMDFA.

General characteristics of the applicant's activities

The author's statement of scientific contributions and citations of Milena Bogdanova, PhD, outlines her main scientific, applied and methodological contributions for the period 2015 - 2019, after the defence of her dissertation for obtaining the scientific and educational degree PhD. Particularly important for the current competition is the fact that **the applicant meets the minimum science-metric indicators prescribed by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor as follows:**

Group A [A] indicators - 50 points required / defended PhD dissertation: "*Solfegging with piano accompaniment – a tool for optimizing aural musical skills training*", diploma No. 0016 of 16.01.2015

Group C [B] indicators - 100 points required,

- from **Indicator 2** - Habilitation thesis - published monograph in the relevant scientific field: "*Musical and pedagogical contributions of Prof. Zdravko Manolov in the field of aural musical skills training*", 2018, FastPrintBooks, ISBN: 978-954-2963-35-6 – **100 points**

Group D [Γ] indicators - 120 points required,

- from **Indicator 9**. Articles and reports published in specialized editions in the field of arts - 8 articles with correctly cited data. $8 \times 15 = 120$ **points**.

- from **Indicator 14.** (proven by evidence) supporting artistic performance. $4 \times 10 = 40$ **points.**

The total number of points in Group D [Γ] indicators is 160.

Group E [Δ] indicators - 40 points required,

- from **Indicator 17** - Citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review, $4 \times 10 = 40$ **points.**
- from **Indicator 19** - Reviews of recognized author's/copyright products or creative appearances in specialized editions in the field of art., $4 \times 10 = 40$ **points.**

The total number of points in Group E [Δ] indicators is 80 points.

Group F [Ε] indicators - 50 points are required.

- from **indicator 22**, participation in national scientific, educational or artistic project, **15 points.**
- from **Indicator 24**, management of national scientific, educational or artistic project projects, $3 \times 30 = 90$ **points.**

The total score of group F [Ε] indicators is 105 points.

The amount of evidence submitted regarding the candidate's scientific and artistic production in accordance with the national requirements for occupying the academic position of *Associate Professor* is remarkable in scope and nature and presents the applicant in a multifaceted manner: a knowledgeable scientist, lecturer, author and performer.

The monograph *"Musical and pedagogical contributions of Prof. Zdravko Manolov in the field of aural musical skills teaching"*, 2018, FastPrintBooks, ISBN: 978-954-2963-35-6 is the major habilitation thesis that Milena Bogdanova, PhD, submitted to us for review. This is a 276-page edition comprised of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, four appendices, two reviews, and references. It is a comprehensive scientific study, devoted to the theoretical and pedagogical contributions of the composer Zdravko Manolov to Bulgarian musical culture. Milena Bogdanova's book presents new facts from the life and career of the composer and professor Zdravko Manolov, introduces the reader to documents and photographs unpublished so far. The biography presented in Chapter 1 is quite interesting in the context of the educational system and pedagogical practices of that time. The story of Prof. Manolov, which Bogdanova tells in first person, captures the reader through its emotional essence and adds special colour and warmth to his personality.

The study provides an overview of the emergence and development of aural musical skills

training in Bulgaria and creates a detailed classification of the existing educational literature on solfeggio in Bulgaria. Of particular interest is the presence of example pieces composed by Prof. Manolov published in the coursebooks of solfeggio, which are thoroughly analyzed and evaluated by Bogdanova as contributing to the process of ear training. Through her many years of experience in this subject matter which she thoroughly comprehends, Milena Bogdanova derives essential observations, well substantiated in her analyses.

The presented factual information together with the theoretical and scientific results should be considered original scientific contributions, while the scientific and applied potential of the monograph could serve as the basis for further research.

The four appendices that systematically describe published and available manuscript works, theoretical research, teaching and methodological works and tools, as well as newly discovered manuscripts by Zdravko Manolov, deserve special attention. For the first time, the archive of the Professor was published in Appendix No. 3.

The researcher's interest in Professor Manolov's personality is long-lasting. In 2015, she co-authored and edited an anniversary collection dedicated to the 90th birthday of the composer. Bogdanova is the author of a project to commemorate this notable occasion, the culmination of which was a gala concert, prepared and managed by her, including also an accompanying exhibition of photographs, documents and manuscripts of the composer.

Bogdanova is a very good pianist, with excellent reviews on her performances. Four concerts are submitted as evidence for the present competition, supported by three reviews. Her work as a lecturer and teacher is also significant; as a result of it her students won first and second prize at the Music theory competition “*Music and Knowledge*” at New Bulgarian University in 2016 and 2018.

Based on all of the above, given the high contribution of the proposed monograph, the pronounced creative and teaching activities of Assist. Prof. Bogdanova, PhD, **I give my positive assessment and propose to the honourable members of the Scientific Jury of the competition to approve Assist. Prof. Milena Ivanova Bogdanova for the academic position of Associate Professor in area of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.3 Musical and Dance Arts (Solfeggio), at AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv.**

Date: August 27, 2019

Prof. Dr. T. Shekerdzhieva-Nowak