

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Vesela Ivanova Geleva, PhD

Lecturer in *Choral conducting* at the Department of *Music pedagogy and conducting*
Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts *Prof. Assen Diamandiev* – Plovdiv

Regarding Assistant Professor Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD,

applicant for the competition, announced in State Gazette No. 40 of 17.05.2019,

for the academic position of *Associate Professor in Solfeggio*

at the Department of *Music pedagogy and conducting*

at AMDFA *Prof. Assen Diamandiev* – Plovdiv

in Area of higher education 8. *Arts*, Professional field 8.3 *Music and dance arts*

Milena Ivanova Bogdanova graduated from the High School of Music *Lubomir Pipkov* in Sofia in 1989 majoring in piano. In 1995 she obtained a Master's degree at AMDFA *Prof. Assen Diamandiev* in Plovdiv with the professional qualifications: *Teacher of solfeggio and piano* and *Teacher of music in kindergarten, elementary, secondary and high school*. In 1998, she completed a postgraduate qualification in *Methodology of solfeggio teaching*. In the same year she was appointed a lecturer at AMDFA teaching the following disciplines: *Solfeggio, Theory of musical elements, Methods of Teaching Solfeggio, Pedagogical practice in solfeggio, Methods and psycho-techniques for aural musical skills development (ear training)*. In 2015, Bogdanova defended her dissertation on the topic: "*Solfegging with piano accompaniment*" and received her educational and scientific degree PhD in Musicology and Musical Arts.

The submitted author's statement of scientific contributions and citations is for the period 2015-2019 and includes a habilitation thesis, 24 scientific publications, 10 of which are for participation in the competition, 8 citations in monographs, studies and collective volumes with scientific review.

The monograph "*Musical and pedagogical contributions of Prof. Zdravko Manolov in the field of aural musical skills teaching (ear training)*", is the first of its kind study of the life, professional activities and contributions of one of the most prominent 20th-century music theoreticians in Bulgaria. The work contains an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion

and four appendices, an abundance of illustrative photographic material and notes. It has a number of scientific contributions; some of them are highlighted below:

- historiographical study of aural musical skills development (ear training) in Bulgaria has been carried out, as well as a review and classification of Bulgarian solfeggio coursebook editions.
- described is the overall importance of all the coursebooks for teaching music which contain example pieces composed by Prof. Manolov; a detailed analysis of their educational function is made and methodological guidelines for work and expected results are added.
- a course for the study of musical dictation with didactic sample pieces by Zdravko Manolov is presented.
- outlined is the presence of Bulgarian folklore in aural musical skills development (ear training) and the role of Prof. Manolov in the inclusion of folklore samples in the solfeggio teaching manuals.
- the appendices contain valuable information about the published works of the composer and those available in manuscript; the theoretical and research, alongside educational works and manuals created by him; as well as an addition to the archive – original manuscripts of Zdravko Manolov – contribution of the author of the monographic research.

The content in the monograph is correct and presented in a scholarly manner, and the language of the work is notable for its clarity and scientific precision.

The scientific publications submitted for review under this competition procedure show the applicant's deep and systematic interest in a number of problems related to aural skills development (ear training) and its methodological principles, the evolution and development of musical skills in the context of the contemporary educational environment and reforms.

Assist. Prof. Milena Bogdanova, PhD, leads many scientific and educational projects in her position of secretary-coordinator of the Academic Club *Young Scientist* at AMDFA, participates in prestigious national and international music-and-theoretical forums and conferences, lectures and conducts practical seminars, where she demonstrates her theoretical developments. She is the author of curricula for five courses in the Bachelor's

and Master's programmes at AMDFA, and her students have won prizes at the Music theory competition *Music and Knowledge* at NBU, Sofia.

My personal encounters with Milena Bogdanova support my opinion that she is a colleague respected in the academic circles who actively participates in the research activities of AMDFA and successfully motivates students to gain the necessary knowledge in disciplines cardinal for the training of musicians, such as *Solfeggio* and *Theory of musical elements*.

The materials submitted by the applicant clearly demonstrate that her pedagogical, artistic and scientific activity exceeds the minimum national legal requirements. In conclusion, I support the candidature of Assistant Professor Milena Ivanova Bogdanova and propose to the distinguished scientific jury to grant the applicant the academic rank of *Associate Professor*.

29.07.2019

Plovdiv

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva