

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Kostadin Mihailov Buradzhiev

Regarding the application of **Assistant Professor Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD**, participant in the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in professional field 8.3 *Music and Dance Arts*, specialty *Solfeggio* announced in State Gazette No. 40 of 17.05.2019, on the request of the Department of *Music Pedagogy and Conducting* at AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv

The candidate for the competition is Assistant Professor Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD, who according to the documents and evidences submitted by her, fully meets the requirements stipulated in the Act for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Statute of AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv.

Assist. Prof. Milena Ivanova Bogdanova, PhD, graduated from the High School of Music *Lubomir Pipkov* in Sofia and then the Higher Institute of Musical Pedagogy (now AMDFA) majoring in *Musical pedagogy* with recognized professional qualifications *Teacher of piano and solfeggio* and *Teacher of music in kindergarten, elementary, secondary and high school*. In 1998, she completed a two-year postgraduate qualification in *Methodology of solfeggio teaching*.

In 2015, Bogdanova successfully defended her dissertation on the topic: "*Solfegging with piano accompaniment*" and received her educational and scientific degree PhD in Musicology and Music Arts.

Since 1998, Assist. Prof. Milena Bogdanova has been 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 music skills development (ear training)*.

The habilitation materials submitted by the applicant are impressive both in volume and in terms of scientific, pedagogical and artistic value.

The research activity of Assist. Prof. Milena Ivanova Bogdanova is related to her interest in the theory of music, especially music pedagogy, development of musical hearing and aural skills and intonation training. The applicant's publishing activity is impressive with the 24 submitted scientific publications and reports (all in the field of the announced competition and published in scientific peer-reviewed editions), as well as citations, evidencing the interest in her research and her contribution to the development of music theory and practice.

The dissertation on *"Solfegging with piano accompaniment - a tool for optimizing aural musical skills training"* is of great importance for music theory and practice, and I strongly recommend that it be published because of its practical application due to the multifunctional system for ear training it proposes.

The monograph *"Music pedagogical and theoretical concepts of Prof. Zdravko Manolov in the field of aural musical skills training"* is significant not only because it traces down the life and artistic path of Prof. Zdravko Manolov (for the first time an archive of Prof. Manolov is published - manuscripts, published works of music, teaching-methodical works and manuals, and his unpublished manuscript of an unknown theoretical and research work *"Basic principles embedded in the re-orchestration for a brass band of three classical Bulgarian symphonic works"*), but mostly because it casts light upon his musical pedagogical and theoretical views on ear training, upon the published Bulgarian literature on teaching music and his great contribution in the field of ear-training theory and practice. The detailed comments on the music pieces composed by Prof. Manolov and the analysis of a number of solfeggio coursebooks are to be considered contribution of the candidate.

The research activity of Milena Bogdanova, PhD, is directly related to her pedagogical and educational-methodological activity. In the course of her long career at AMDFA she has actively participated in the educational process, has developed author's course curricula for the Bachelor's and Master's Degree programmes, delivered lecture cycles and practical workshops in Bulgaria and abroad. Bogdanova is in a constant search for and implementation of new, topical methods and efficient pedagogical practices. Her

pedagogical success is explicitly validated by her students' competition awards in the field of the subjects she teaches.

Assist. Prof. Milena Bogdanova is the secretary-coordinator of the Academic Club *Young Scientist* at AMDFA and has made a significant contribution to the development and implementation of a number of national scientific and artistic projects.

Alongside her scientific and pedagogical activity, Milena Bogdanova is a successfully performing pianist. Here I would like to mention the concerts in memory of Prof. Zdravko Manolov and the performance of *Ten pieces for clarinet and piano* and the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Academician Marin Goleminov and the performance of three transcriptions for clarinet and piano.

I believe that the multifaceted activity of the candidate presented above has considerably contributed to the development of music theory and practice, and music pedagogy in particular. I vote *for* the candidacy of Assistant Professor Milena Ivanova Bogdanova and propose to the members of the honourable scientific jury to support her appointment for the position of *Associate Professor in Solfeggio*.

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Author of the opinion:

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