

## **PEER REVIEW**

**under the competition for occupation of the academic position “PROFESSOR”  
under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” (“Conducting a Folk  
Orchestra from the Piano” and “Folk Choir Singing”),  
Higher education field 8. “Arts”,  
announced in State Gazette, Issue 35/18.04.2023**

**CANDIDATE: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. RADA BORISLAVOVA SLAVINSKA**

**PREPARED BY: Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska,  
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv**

### **1. Information about the competition**

The competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under Higher education field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” (“Conducting a Folk Orchestra from the Piano” and “Folk Choir Singing”) for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, was announced in State Gazette, Issue 35/18.04.2023.

I was assigned as a member of the Scientific Jury, according to Order ПД-27-068 dated 16.06.2023 by the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

During the inspection of the materials provided for the competition, no violations were established under the procedure.

### **2. Information about the candidate in the competition**

Only one candidate participates in the current competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska. She has presented the necessary set of documents and materials, which are sufficiently comprehensive to cover the minimum national requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions in Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The competition is provided with the required number of academic hours.

Rada Slavinska is a graduate of the Specialized Music School /Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Arts/ in Plovdiv, with specialty “Piano”. This is followed by 41-year creative path related to Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv – higher education in the period 1982-1986 in the piano classes of Prof. Georgi Kanev, in the choir conducting classes of Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan, and in the orchestral conducting classes of Prof. Ivan Spasov; acquisition of the scientific and educational degree “Doctor” in Musicology and Musical Art in 2012; Chief Assistant in Conducting at the Musical Folklore Department in 2016 after passing a competition; as well as Associate Professor of “Folk Choir Singing with Choral Studies” since 2020 after passing a competition.

The candidate's rich professional experience also includes: assistant conductor in the Angel Bukoreshtliev Singing Society (1986-88); accompanist and second conductor in the Detska Kitka Representative Choir (1986-2003); conductor of the Philippopolis Ensemble (2001-2006); as well as founder of the Evmolpeya Girls' Choir Formation (2006). In parallel, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Slavinska has developed educational, scientific, and artistic activity – numerous participations in competitions as member of juries at singing festivals, scientific juries in habilitation procedures, scientific supervision of graduates and doctoral students, as well as a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers – Musicologists Section (since 2022).

The academic development of Associate Professor Dr. Rada Slavinska – the respectable number of performances and recognition as a conductor (over 700 concerts and concert appearances in the country and abroad, 32 foreign tours and 29 international festivals), as well as an educator and scientific researcher, is a reason for trust and respect for her authority as a candidate in the announced competition.

### **3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupation of the academic position**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska participates in the competition with a significant number of materials – monographic work, scientific publications, realized author's products, leading creative performances, short author's products in the field of arts, leadership and participation in artistic projects, scientific guidance of graduates and work with doctoral students, book reviews, reviews and opinions on academic growth procedures, etc., which shows the candidate's active research activity both before and after the dissertation and doctorate.

The materials submitted for review are in the direction of the competition and are actively used in the scientific community, as evidenced by the provided reference for citations. All of them reflect the rich and meaningful activity of an established educator in the academic circles, who has proven her scientific, professional, and personal qualities in her professional path.

Based on research and assessment of the set of materials provided and their compliance with the scientometric indicators and the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for acquisition of the academic position "Professor", I can state that the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska meets the national requirements of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv for participation in the competition for occupation of the academic position "Professor".

### **4. Assessment of the creative achievements specific to the respective field**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska has differentiated her field-specific creative achievements for review in three areas, each of which is presented with evidentiary material:

#### **A. Concert activity**

1. As conductor of the Evmolpeya Girls' Choir Formation – photos of posters from 73 concerts of the Evmolpeya Choir; copies of 3 letters of thanks, diplomas and certificates from the participation of the Evmolpeya Choir under the direction of Rada Slavinska in various festivals in the country and abroad;

2. As a lecturer of “Folk Choir Singing” – copies of 10 posters;

B. Participation in scientific juries – a total of 10 reviews and opinions to date for awarding the scientific and educational degree “Doctor” for occupation of the academic positions “Doctor” and “Professor”.

C. Articles:

1. in the Musical Horizons Magazine – 8 publications;

2. in the Art-Specter cultural and information publication – 6 publications;

3. other publications – 5 issues, and here I would like to pay special attention to the work “Instrumental-Theoretical Journalism – About Stoyan Karaivanov”, Volume 2, Plovdiv, 2021, ISBN 978-954-2963-81-3. Rada Slavinska is the author of a volume of 304 pages dedicated to the great musician and pedagogue Prof. Karaivanov, and in this case the quantity and quality of the text are indicative of R. Slavinska's dedicated research activity, dedicated to Stoyan Karaivanov, who deserves worthy respect.

##### **5. Assessment of the scientific contributions of the works and citations of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska in the competition**

The monograph “Ivan Deliradev and His Chrestomathies for the Folk Choir”, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2023, ISBN 987-619-7682-20-5, reviewers: Prof. Zlatina Deliradeva, Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov, in a volume of 216 pages, is an independent work, a major highlight among the production submitted for review. The monograph has a scientific-theoretical nature with a clear structure – an introductory part (“Instead of an Introduction”), two well-defined main parts, a conclusion, as well as a list of the literature used. The idea and approach to the development of the work is an original author's concept of artistic musical education in the field of conducting choral art, singled out for the first time as a separate scientific problem on such a scale. The focus of special research interest is Ivan Deliradev's four hymns for folk choir as an expression of his professionalism and love for Bulgarian musical folklore and teaching work. The work is multifaceted. The author is looking for connections with musicology and with the elements of the entire educational system, which, considered in unity, are the starting point for the new interpretive searches of Assoc. Prof. Slavinska.

In the first part of the monograph, the author presents a retrospective of Ivan Deliradev's life in an effort to reveal factors and circumstances related to his development as a person and an artist. The second part of the monograph is dedicated to the conceptual idea surrounding the new specialty “Folk Ensembles Leading”, created in 1972 at Higher Music Pedagogical Institute (now Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv), its renaming to “Folk Ensembles Conducting” later, and the presence of Ivan Deliradev. In this connection, the in-depth analysis of the methodological and theoretical heritage of Prof. Deliradev is presented. Tracing the path

of development of the specialty, among the important problems is the need to create appropriate methodological literature for training, which turns out to be a true path in the academic validation of the specialty. Special attention deserves the fact that Assoc. Prof. Rada Slavinska has several monographs and a considerable number of publications with an educational-conducting orientation, which confirms the purposefulness in the professional attitude and the interest in the overall process of the conducting art for a folk choir.

In the monograph, the object of special attention is the in-depth professional analysis of the four volumes of "Folk Choir Chrestomathies", created in the period 1989-2000. The specific problems of choral art (folk choir) are considered consistently and in detail, as the author notes, by accumulating all the wealth of knowledge, skills, experience, and energy of Prof. Ivan Deliradev.

In summary, I can state that the monograph "Ivan Deliradev and His Chrestomathies for the Folk Choir" has a marked contribution with the professionally presented, systematized, and analyzed teaching aids for conducting a folk choir, created over the years by various authors. On this basis, conclusions are drawn about the high value of Ivan Deliradev's chrestomathies.

The monograph "Let's Be Silent", Union of Bulgarian Composers, Sofia, 2022, ISBN 978-619-90891-2-5, reviewers: Prof. Dr. Momchil Georgiev and Prof. Dr. Yuliyana Kuyumdzhiev, in a volume of 202 pages, is not presented as a main habilitation thesis. The contribution of the scientific study is indisputable – the first of its kind, a complete and in-depth biographical study of the Bulgarian composer Krasimir Kyurkchiyski. The work brings correctness and clarity regarding biographical data and creative facts in the life of the composer Kyurkchiyski. The book was presented on 30.05.2022 in the National Palace of Culture at the Sofia Music Weeks Festival by the musicologist Prof. Dr. Yuliyana Kuyumdzhiev.

Among the huge production, with which Rada Slavinska participates in the competition, in my opinion, I would especially like to single out *Messa Lilium* as a vivid expression of the author's creative charge.

*Messa Lilium* was created in 1997 with a premiere performance in 1999 by the Little Boys Choir with conductor Lili Slavova, the White, Green, Red Jazz Formation, the Vay Duduley Folk Quintet with conductor Vichka Nikolova, and a string quartet. This is the first mass created by a Bulgarian composer with a film of the same name broadcasted on the Bulgarian National Television. For the CD with the *Messa Lilium* music, Pope John Paul II sent the Little Boys Choir a letter of thanks.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska participates in the competition with nine publications in specialized publications in the field of arts. All of them are dedicated to problematic issues in the field of the announced competition. Here I can note that Assoc. Prof. Slavinska has been a very active participant in all scientific forums organized by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts over the years – Science, Education and Innovations in the Field of Art International Conference in its three editions – 2017, 2019 and 2021, Spring Scientific Readings, the Yearbook of the

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, as well as the Art-Specter cultural and information publication.

The knowledge and reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in Bulgarian and foreign literature is evidenced by the significant number of citations of her works – a total of 48, of which 34 are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, and 14 – in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

The educational, research, and artistic activity carried out by the candidate fully meets, even, I would like to emphasize, exceeds the minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position “Professor” – according to Indicator A – 50 points; Indicator C – 305 points; Indicator D – 510 points; Indicator E – 440 points; Indicator F – 240 points. Total – 1,545 points.

The scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska over the years has been extremely precise and purposeful, proving that the new ideas in her developments have the meaning not only of theoretical insight, but are a reasoned look at their applied purpose. Of special note is the fact that the research and the resulting contributions reflect the results of the candidate's overall activity. They are used both in scientific circles and in the educational process in choral conducting majors with a view to improving preparation and successful implementation.

The attached reference for scientific contributions in the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska actually reflects her scientific activity. They are proof of her indisputable qualities as an educator, organizer, and researcher, with opportunities to analyze and interpret the current state of music education in the field of choral art, by creatively apply scientific methods in education.

I have no critical remarks about the candidate.

**Conclusion:** Based on the above, I can state that for the “Professor” competition, the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska presents a production related to her scientific research, artistic-creative (conductor and composer) and pedagogical activity, which in terms of content and quantity is current and relevant for education and science. Based on the materials submitted for review, I accept that they are personal, reliable, and the result of the professional experience and competence of the candidate. They have a marked contribution in theoretical and practical-applied terms, directly reflecting the theme of the competition.

The assessment presented in my peer review gives me grounds to recommend with conviction to the respected scientific jury to award ASSOC. PROF. DR. RADA SLAVINSKA the academic position of “PROFESSOR”

10.07.2023  
City of Plovdiv

Prepared by: .....  
Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska