

PEER REVIEW
by Prof. Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov
Music Department, New Bulgarian University – Sofia, Professional field 8.3. “Music and
Dance Arts”
for the scientific contributions of works and citations
of
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts

Regarding the proposed contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska for her participation in a competition announced in State Gazette, Issue 35/18.04.2023, for occupation of the academic position of “Professor”, specialty “Folk Choir Singing” and “Conducting a Folk Choir from the Piano”, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department, under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv.

I. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

Pursuant to Art.29a, para.1 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, by Decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography (Protocol No 10 dated 14.06.2023), and by Order No ПД 27-068 dated 16.06.2023 of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury under a competitive procedure for occupation of the academic position of “Professor”, Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Folk Choir Singing” and “Conducting a Folk Choir from the Piano”.

The only candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska. She has submitted a set of documents (on paper and on magnetic media) related to the application procedure for the academic position of “Professor” in “Folk Choir Singing” and “Conducting a Folk Choir from the Piano”. The following documents are submitted:

- a sample application to the Rector for participation in a competition for the academic position of “Professor” in “Folk Choir Singing” and “Conducting a Folk Choir from the Piano” and a creative resume with emphasis on the most important publications and projects;
- a diploma for a completed educational and qualification degree “Master” and a diploma for scientific and educational degree “Doctor”;

- the necessary under the procedure – medical certificate, criminal record certificate, certificate of work experience in the specialty, and a report on her academic workload during the past academic year;
- completed scientometric table and documents for the contributing moments in the applied theoretical publications and artistic and creative achievements;
- evidentiary material on the scientometric table;
- reference to specific creative achievements in the country and abroad outside the proposed habilitation materials.

I have no objections to the presented documents and materials.

II. Brief biographical, pedagogical, and creative data about the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska was born on 18.07.1964 in the City of Gabrovo. The life and professional path of the candidate has been closely connected with Plovdiv and the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for 41 years now. After graduating from the Specialized Music School in Plovdiv, she continued her education and graduated from the Higher Music Pedagogical Institute (now Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) in 1986, where she studied 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.

In 2012, she obtained the scientific and educational degree “Doctor” in “Musicology and Musical Arts”. In 2016, through a competition, Dr. Slavinska was appointed as the Chief Assistant in Conducting at the Musical Folklore Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. In this period, the candidate also prepared scientific guides for students and doctoral students. In 2020, through a competition, she was appointed as an Associate Professor of “Folk Choir Singing with Choral Studies”.

Rada Slavinska is the founder of the Evmolpeya Girls’ Choir Formation in 2006. As a conductor of the Philippopolis Ensemble and the Evmolpeya Choir she has participated in over 700 concerts and concert appearances in the country and abroad, 32 foreign tours, as well as 29 international festivals.

The creative biography of Rada Slavinska is extremely rich and saturated intellectually not only in the field of scientific research, pedagogical, conducting, and composing activities, but also in terms of her author’s artistic works. All the materials provided in the procedure reflect her long-term aspiration to complete the existing information, to even more in-depth research of topics already considered or to initially create

a scientific basis, on which further researchers to step. They also illustrate her diverse creative interests and achievements.

After thoroughly familiarizing myself with all the activities carried out by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska, reflected in the Report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements presented by her and comparing them with the recognized scoring table, I consider that her application for the announced competition is in full compliance with them. Adequacy is present with the necessary conditions for application, and for most indicators the points exceed the minimum requirements many times over:

For Indicator A – 50 points

For Indicator C – 305 points

For Indicator D – 510 points

For Indicator E – 440 points

For Indicator F – 240 points

III. Research (creative) activity and results

The research and creative activities presented by Assoc. Prof. Slavinska as habilitation materials include impressive activity and are documented according to all requirements for publicity and credibility. The works with which she applied convincingly reveal her personal growth over the years, as the intensity of the activities performed and presented by her is impressive. In the competition for occupation of the position of “Associate Professor”, Slavinska applied with two monographs, comprehensively covering all aspects of the processing genre. And in the competition for occupation of the position of “Professor”, not one, but two monographs with a marked contribution to the habilitation procedure are presented to the attention of the scientific jury. These are:

- **The monograph “Ivan Deliradev and His Chrestomathies for the Folk Choir”**, with author Rada Slavinska, which represents the first study of the life of the conductor and pedagogue Prof. Ivan Deliradev, as well as the work and the value of the basic literature created by him for folklore conducting specialties and disciplines. The monograph systematizes and analyzes the teaching aids for conducting a folk choir, created over the years by various authors, and based on the overall view of the specific repertoire, conclusions are made about the high value of Ivan Deliradev’s chrestomathies. I believe that this work is particularly important, because until now there has been no published record about Ivan Deliradev and his work in the music-research literature;
- **The monograph “Let’s Be Silent”**, with author Rada Slavinska, is the first comprehensive biographical study of the great Bulgarian composer Krasimir

Kyurkchyski. On the basis of extensive research, biographical inaccuracies about his life mentioned in various publications are largely filled in and cleared up, detailed catalogs of his work are created for the first time, a chronograph of his life is published, and musicologists' assessment of his place in Bulgarian musical history is synthesized. The monograph was presented by Prof. Dr. Yulian Kuyumdzhiev on 30.05.2022 at the National Palace of Culture at the prestigious Sofia Music Weeks Festival.

- The monograph **"Let's Be Silent"** is a natural continuation of the in-depth comprehensive study of Krasimir Kyurkchyski's work in Slavinska's published dissertation **"The Songs of Krasimir Kyurkchyski for Folk Choir – Specificity and Significance"**, in which the candidate examines the work for folk choirs by Krasimir Kyurkchyski for the first time in Bulgaria. All discovered – 143 in number – works of the author for folk vocal formations are covered. Based on the maximally comprehensive scope of the research, catalogs are created according to the author's criteria, allowing in-depth conclusions about the creativity and compositional handwriting of Kyurkchyski, as well as a comparison with other composers in the genre. The overall study proves the significance of Krasimir Kyurkchyski's work for a folk choir and the delineation of the new stage in the processing of folklore. The high and extremely flattering review of the dissertation work by one of the greatest connoisseurs of authentic and processed folklore academic Dr. Nikolay Kaufman is among the serious proofs of the depth of Slavinska's scientific research. What makes an impression is the wide range of specialists who gave high marks to Assoc. Prof. Slavinska's scientific developments. In the publication of each monograph, textbook, study guide, closely specialized opinions on the value of the publication are sought from various researchers, conductors, and educators according to the specifics of the publication.

IV. Contributions of the other habilitation materials

Assoc. Prof. Slavinska is the author of the first Bulgarian conducting textbook **"Choral Conducting Technique"**, which still remains the main educational literature in the training process in this difficult and complex activity. Reviewers of the textbook are the famous conductor of Detska Kitka Choir, Prof. Zlatina Deliradeva, and the then Head of the Conducting Department at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music – Prof. Krum Maksimov.

Rada Slavinska is also the author of several teaching aids:

- > **"Nikolai Kaufman. Bulgarian Folk Songs for Chamber Ensembles", Vol. I, Northern Bulgaria**;
- > **"Nikolai Kaufman. Bulgarian Folk Songs for Chamber Ensembles", Vol. II,**

Southern Bulgaria”;

- > **“30 songs for Mixed Folk Choir to Help the Learning Process”;**
- > **“20 songs for Male Folk Choir to Help the Learning Process”, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.**

These collections successfully complement the educational literature in several disciplines: “Folk Choir Singing”, “Chamber Vocal Ensembles”, “Folk Singing”, “Scores Playing”, “Folk Choir Conducting”, and “Conducting a Folk Orchestra from the Piano”. They are suitable for use not only in the system of higher education, but also in music schools and in schools with training in folklore specialties, since the works selected and arranged by the composer for a folk choir are of high value and verified in performing practice. Their creation reveals the purposeful long-term activity of the candidate to enrich the usable educational literature, based on quality prototypes.

I would like to pay special attention to some of Rada Slavinska’s **compositional work**, who has written more than 150 works and arrangements for mixed and homogeneous choirs. **“Messa Liliium”** (1997), which is the first mass created by a Bulgarian composer, has a very vivid impression with an international resonance. The compact disc “Messa Liliium” became a provocation for the creation of the film of the same name by the Bulgarian National Television, built entirely on music. For the creation of the disc, Pope John Paul 2 sent the Little Boys Choir a letter of thanks! In addition to “Messa Liliium” and **“Rumelia Concerto for Piano and Orchestra”**, several other original musical works by Rada Slavinska are presented, which have been in the repertoire of various choral formations from the country and abroad for years, proving their high artistic value.

Regarding the **conducting activity** of the candidate, a huge amount of educational and artistic-creative activity can be observed, as evidenced by Rada Slavinska’s 630 appearances on various concert stages in 18 countries with the Evmolpeya Choir, the participation in 29 international choral festivals, as well as the selection of choirs in various representative events and cultural-diplomatic missions of the Republic of Bulgaria. The selected concerts in the scientometric table, as well as the certificates, reflect a small part of the significant performances of the choir, and the nearly 80 posters and programs offered in the additional materials confirm the truth of Slavinska’s active conducting activity.

The large number of **scientific reports and articles** authored by Rada Slavinska, her participation in various conferences, and the variety of topics she examines show a high sensitivity to unexamined or insufficiently researched issues.

The **multitude of citations** in scientific works, monographs, dissertations, and scientific reports by various authors are from various publications and are substantial proof

of Slavinska's ability to fill a number of theoretical gaps in the music and research literature.

V. Administrative and public activity

According to the presented Certificate of study load according to the plan and requirements of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska exceeds it almost twice. Her invitations to participate in both scientific and creative juries are indicative of the college's confidence in her professional competence, thoroughness, and impartiality. In April 2017, she was accepted as a corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and since January 2020, she has been acting as the Secretary of the Musical Folklore Department. In September 2022 Rada Slavinska became a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers – Musicologists Section.

VI. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have known Rada Slavinska since the 1980s, when we were fellow students at the Higher Music Pedagogical Institute in Plovdiv. I have known her since then as a responsive colleague and friend, who can be counted on! We graduated together in 1986. After that, our life and creative paths diverged. We met only a few years ago on various professional occasions: concerts, conferences, and scientific juries. I use the opportunity given to me, in the capacity of a reviewer for this procedure, to express my admiration and most sincere amazement at the large-scale scientific research, artistic creation, and teaching activity of Rada Slavinska! I studied the provided materials with great interest and professional satisfaction! I am convinced that it is very useful to Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in the education of the students, as well as with her administrative activity as the Secretary of the Musical Folklore Department. That is my personal assessment of her personality. I would like to express my personal position about the too late in years attention to the career development of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska by the colleagues from the Musical Folklore Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Of course, it would be good if the priorities of the Academy included the habilitation processes in a timelier manner, because in this way both the scientific environment and the educational activity with the students can benefit.

In conclusion, I believe that the scientific research, artistic-creative and teaching activity, presented as a habilitation thesis by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska, has all the required valuable qualities and proves achievements of national and international significance. The contributions of her activity reflect diverse competences and have a concrete meaning as applicability in pedagogy and for the development of folk-performance culture of young musical staff in the field of higher education. My rating is entirely positive.

Based on what has been said so far, I give my entirely positive assessment and confidently suggest to the respected members of the Scientific Jury that the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska be approved and that she be elected to the academic position of “Professor” in the competition for the specialty **“Folk Choir Singing” and “Conducting a Folk Choir from the Piano”**, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department, under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, according to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and to propose it for approval to the Academic Council of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Sofia, 17.07.2023

Prepared by: */Signature: illegible/*
Prof. Dr. Georgi Petkov