

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

under a competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”
under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”,
in the specialty “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

The only candidate in the announced competition for “Professor” in the specialty “Conducting a Folk Orchestra from the Piano” and “Folk Choir Singing” is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska, a lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Musical Folklore Department. She has submitted all the necessary documents and materials, according to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the terms and procedures for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The scientific jury was appointed by Order No. ПД-27-068/16.06.2023 by the Rector of the Academy.

Rada Slavinska’s biographical information is extremely rich and varied. It presents her as an undisputed and established professional with over 700 concert appearances, 19 author’s products, 6 collections, as well as 72 articles in the specialized press. The experience gained with the Philippopolis Ensemble, Evmolpeya Girls’ Choir Formation, Detska Kitka Choir, and Angel Bukoreshtliev Singing Society is a solid foundation for Slavinska’s self-confidence as a recognizable and respected choir conductor. It should be noted that the candidate has connected a significant period of her life with the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – as a student, associate, assistant, and associate professor. This is a consistently and purposefully pursued professional path that gives her the confidence that she is well received in the team of this educational institution. Slavinska is a corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Arts and a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers – Musicologists Section. Her active creative activity is recognized by a number of prestigious honors and awards. She has declared more than 150 works and arrangements for mixed and uniform choir, but her creative invention goes beyond the boundaries of musical art – she also writes poems and fairy tales.

The materials presented by Rada Slavinska for the competition repeatedly exceed the required minimum points for the scientometric indicators in most of the sections.

- **Group A:** 50 points;
- **Group C:** 305 points at a minimum of 100;
- **Group D:** 510 points upon necessary 150;
- **Group E:** 440 points upon necessary 80;
- **Group F:** 240 points upon necessary 120.

Rada Slavinska presents one monograph, two author's products, and three concerts as habilitation works.

Rada Slavinska's monograph "Ivan Deliradev and His Chrestomathies for the Folk Choir" is, on the one hand, an in-depth study of the life and activities of the conductor and pedagogue Prof. Ivan Deliradev, and on the other hand, professionally and objectively researched and stated importance of the basic literature created by him for folklore conducting specialties. The work covers and systematizes the teaching aids for folk choir conducting, created over the years by various authors, and based on a competent analysis, justified conclusions are made about the indisputable value of Ivan Deliradev's chrestomathies. I am convinced that the monograph is of a contributing nature and would help any conductor to delve deeper into the content and multidisciplinary design of the chrestomathies.

"Messa Liliun" (1997) is the first mass created by a Bulgarian composer. It was premiered in 1999, but over the years it continues to arouse interest, with parts of it being included in the repertoire of vocal formations in the country and abroad. A creative conception of the work and its contemporary value were also the focus of a scientific report in 2019.

Among the presented leading creative performances in the field of art, I would like to mention "Gloria in Excelsis" – a compact disc of the Evmolpeya Girls' Choir Formation with concert and studio recordings from 2009. It presents Rada Slavinska's artistic and conducting interpretation of 21 sacred works by various authors and eras.

Prof. Slavinska's scientific interests and research find expression in the monograph "**Let's Be Silent**" /2022/ and in the book based on a defended dissertation work "The Songs of Krasimir Kyurkchiyski for Folk Choir – Specificity and Significance" /2022/. These two titles position Slavinska as one of the most in-depth researchers of the life and work of Krasimir Kyurkchiyski in our time. Thanks to them, the personality of the great artist becomes more recognizable and the interest in his bright work increases.

Among Rada Slavinska's scientific contribution, I cannot fail to note the nine scientific reports and articles presented. They are the result of in-depth research. They also concern current, but hitherto unexamined processes in music-scientific literature, and they are distinguished by objectivity and precision. One of the most important pieces of evidence for Prof. Slavinska's scientific achievements, in my opinion, are the citations of her publications – fifty-two in total. It is also worth mentioning the competent work of Slavinska as the author of the book "Instrumental-Theoretical Journalism – About Stoyan Karaivanov".

I will allow myself the following note: although Rada Slavinska has not led a doctoral student in the period after the passed competition for "Associate Professor" in 2020, in the last three years she has provided invaluable professional support to all doctoral students in our Department. Without her competent advice, the quality of our scientific output would not be the same.

Along with her remarkable scientific activity, Rada Slavinska also has an impressive creative activity as a choir conductor. Together with the Evmolpeya Choir, they have 630 performances in 18 countries and 29 participations in international festivals. Some of them have been verified in the presented materials with posters and certificates. I have personally witnessed their concerts on the Plovdiv stage and I can confidently state that as a conductor Slavinska stands out with precise gestures, meaningful agogic deviations, fine nuance, and a sense of

form building in her artistic interpretations of the performed works.

I have personally known Rada Slavinska since the mid-90s of the last century, from when my immediate impressions of her work and personality also date. There are dozens of students who, thanks to her responsiveness and experience, have received valuable guidance and knowledge outside of the formal educational process. In our Department, Assoc. Prof. Slavinska leads mostly elective subjects, which are usually chosen by ninety percent of the students, which is indicative of the positive attitude of the students towards her as a lecturer and a person. My personal impressions of her are that of a highly erudite, but at the same time, modest person, as well as a dedicated professional, who is uncompromising towards mediocrity and sensitive to problems in the Academy, always ready to respond with competent help.

Based on everything presented up to this point, I confidently give my high assessment to the candidate in the current competition – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska. I would like to propose to the respected Scientific Jury to support her election as “Professor” in the specialty “Conducting a Folk Orchestra from the Piano” and “Folk Choir Singing” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” and to propose to the Faculty Council to approve it.

15.08.2023

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