

PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Todorca Malcheva Ivanova

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Member of the scientific jury, appointed by Order No ПД-27-021/09.06.2020 by the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv

under the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” (“Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science”) at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv

I. Data of the competition procedure

Only one candidate – Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska, participates in the competition for “Associate Professor” in Higher Education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” (“Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science”) for the needs of the Department of Musical Folklore at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. All the necessary documents are presented, which confirm that the candidate undoubtedly meets the conditions according to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

II. Professional and biographical data about the candidate

The candidate for the academic position “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska was born in 1964 in the City of Gabrovo.

Education and academic titles:

Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska graduated in 1986 at the Higher Music Pedagogical Institute (now Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) in Plovdiv. The candidate is a long-term lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. In 2012 she obtained the scientific and educational degree “Doctor” in “Musicology and Music Art”. Since 2016 she has been appointed Chief Assistant in Conducting at the Department of Musical Folklore at the Academy.

Dr. Rada Slavinska is the founder and conductor of the Evmolpeya Choir and conductor of the Philippopolis Ensemble. She has also worked as an assistant conductor in the Angel Bukoreshtliev Singing Society, and accompanist and second conductor in the “Detska Kitka” Representative Choir. As a conductor of the formations she participates in concerts and festivals in the country and abroad. Since 2017 Dr. Slavinska has been a corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Dr. Rada Slavinska is the author of two monographs, a textbook on conducting, a textbook on choreography, as well as the mass “Missa Lilium”, Rumelia Concerto for Piano and Symphony Orchestra, many works for mixed and homogeneous choir, and compiler of a number of collections for choir and chamber ensembles.

Scientific interests:

The scientific interests of Dr. Rada Slavinska are in the fields of conducting a folk choir and a folk orchestra, as well as a multifaceted study of the genre “Song for a folk choir”.

Teaching work:

Dr. Rada Slavinska teaches the following disciplines: Folk Choir and Folk Piano Orchestra Conducting, Singing in a Folk Choir and Scores Playing.

Artistic and creative activity:

1. Conductor of executive formations with diplomas and certificates.
2. Rich concert activity in the country and abroad.
3. Overseas tours and international festivals.
4. Author of choir performances and arrangements.
5. Choir meetings, productions, and concerts of educational choirs.
6. Compiler of song collections

III. General description of the submitted materials in the competition

In the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” the candidate participates with production in the following areas:

I. Scientific production:

- I.1. Monograph works – two, one of which is on the candidate’s doctoral dissertation.
- I.2. Conducting textbook.
- I.3. A textbook on folk choir science.
- I.4. Articles and reports – 31; of them 17 are after the defense of the doctoral dissertation.

II. Artistic and creative production: composition, conducting, and concert activity.

The quantitative and professional and creative dimension of the presented production allows us to assume that the candidate has a very good attestation for the academic position “Associate Professor”.

IV. Presentation of the scientific production

The monograph with which the candidate participates in the competition for “Associate Professor” – “Prerequisites for the Emergence of the Song for Folk Choir Genre” is a theoretical development examining the attitude of Bulgarian composers to our folk melodies, which according to the author is a prerequisite for the Song for Folk Choir genre.

In the introductory part the author analyzes the main terms of the monographic content – folk song, folk choir, interactivity, and interactive processes. The specifics of the formation “Folk Choir” in the years during the first and second half of the XX century stand out.

The historical review on the topic (First Chapter) traces the processing of folk songs in Europe, as well as the diversity in the use of the term “processing” over the years.

The next moment in the historical chronology in the thematic direction is “The place of the folk song in the spiritual life of Bulgarians until the Liberation from the Ottoman yoke” (Second Chapter). Here the environment, which is a prerequisite for the emergence of the Song for Folk Choir genre, is traced in detail and scientifically, following the evolution in its creative perception. Based on this, the factors from the time before the Liberation, which contributed to the emergence and development of this type of creativity, are derived.

Relying on a thoroughly researched literary base, Rada Slavinska presents the presence of the Bulgarian folk song in the works of European and Bulgarian composers in the period from the Liberation to the First World War (Third Chapter). The interaction between the European melody and the Bulgarian urban and rural folklore is perceived with a subtle analytical sense. The aspiration of the first Bulgarian composers to our authentic music, its interweaving in original musical works, which paves the way for the creation of works on a national basis, is thoroughly analyzed.

The use of the Bulgarian folk melody in the compositional work in the years between the two World Wars is also traced (Fourth Chapter). Quite logically, the author concludes with “First steps in the official public statement of the musical folklore” (Fifth Chapter).

The separate sections of the successive analysis of musical and historical events, creating conditions for the emergence of the Song for Folk Choir genre, convincingly present the interweaving of our authentic folklore in original musical works and quite appropriately summarize the prerequisites for this. Insightful analytical considerations in the thematic area are realized. Structured in this way, the monographic work of Dr. Rada Slavinska rightly stands out for its scientific value.

V. Publications participating in the competition

The candidate in the announced competition presents 31 publications, 17 of which realized after the defense of the doctoral dissertation. The publications are presented in the Musical Horizons Magazine, the Art-Spectrum Academic Cultural and Information Publication, the Spring Scientific Readings at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, and mainly present touches on the work of prominent musicians.

VI. Artistic and creative activity

1. Participations in international festivals with the Evmolpeya Choir.
2. Concert activity with students.
3. Conductor of ensembles.
4. Compiler of collections of folk songs for folk choir and chamber ensembles.
5. Author’s music.
6. Distinctions and awards – diplomas, certificates, honorary plaques, 2 prizes

Conclusion

The proposed scientific and artistic and creative production under the announced competition for “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv outlines the following main contributions of the candidate:

1. A meaningful analytical study of the musical and historical event, predetermining the emergence of the Song for Folk Choir genre has been conducted.
2. Realization of a significant number of publications in specialized music editions.
3. Compilation of a significant number of collections of folk songs for folk choirs and chamber ensembles.
4. A rich artistic and creative production has been produced.

Based on the realized presentation, I believe that the candidate for the academic position “Associate Professor” Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska fully complies with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. In view of this, my assessment of the participation of Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska in the competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” is **POSITIVE**.

The proposed scientific work, the achieved scientific results, the contributing moments, and the artistic and creative and teaching activity give me reason to convincingly recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to award the candidate a **POSITIVE ASSESSMENT**, as well as to propose to the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv to choose the candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska for the position of “Associate Professor” under Higher Education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” (“Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science”).

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City of Shumen

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