

PEER REVIEW

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Ivanova Geleva** – Lecturer in Choir Conducting at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

for **Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska** – candidate under the competition announced in State Gazette, Issue 12 of 11.02.2020 for occupation of the academic position “**Associate Professor**” in **Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science** at the Department of Musical Folklore 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”

Rada Slavinska graduated from the Specialized Music School /now D. Petkov National School of Music and Dance – Plovdiv). She received her higher education at the Higher Music Pedagogical Institute (now Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) in 1986 in the piano classes of Prof. Georgi Kanev, in choral conducting with Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan, and in orchestral conducting with Prof. Ivan Spasov. Dr. Slavinska works as an assistant conductor in the Angel Bukoreshtliev Singing Society, accompanist and second conductor in the Children’s Representative Choir, and conductor of the Philippopolis Ensemble. In 2012, she acquired the scientific and educational degree “Doctor in Musicology and Music Art” on the basis of a dissertation on the topic: “*The Songs of Krasimir Kyurkchiyski for Folk Choir - Specificity and Significance*”, and since 2016, after winning a competition she was appointed Chief Assistant in Conducting at the Department of Musical Folklore at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Rada Slavinska is the founder and conductor of the Evmolpeya Girls’ Choir Formation in 2006. She has over 600 concerts and concert performances in the country and abroad, 32 foreign tours, and 29 international festival participations. Dr. Slavinska is the author of scientific and fiction literature: monographs, textbook on conducting “Choral Conducting Techniques”, textbook on choreography, articles, reviews, and more. As a composer Rada Slavinska created the first Bulgarian messa – “Missa Lilium”, Rumelia Concerto for piano and symphony orchestra, a series of songs for children with original music and lyrics, and more.

In the reference of the contributions and citations attached for review, Slavinska presents a habilitation paper, published in 2019 – the monograph “*Prerequisites for the Emergence of the Songs for Folk Choir Genre*”. The study has a volume of 197 pages and is structured in 5 sections with introduction, conclusion, and bibliography from 187 literature sources. It is a logical continuation of another monograph – “*Chronology and Characteristics of the Songs for Folk Choir Genre*” /published in 2009/, where the terms “genre”, “choir song” and “folk choir song” are defined in order to formulate the characteristics of this specific genre variety. The study systematizes the main characteristics of the genre, traces its historical path of development – origin, evolution, and stages, and presents the creative approaches of a number of prominent composers, including Filip Kutev, Petar Krumov, Asen

Diamandiev, Mihail Bukureshtliev, Krasimir Kyurkchiyski, Nikolau Kaufman, Hristo Urumov, Atanas Kapitanov, Anastas Naumov, Kiril Stefanov, Ivan Valev, Petar Londev, Ivan Spasov, Nikolay Stoykov, Stefan Mutafchiev, and Stefan Dragostinov.

The habilitation work *“Prerequisites for the Emergence of the Songs for Folk Choir Genre”* aims to prove the leading role of composer interactivity in determining the creative approach to authentic models. The first section, “A Brief Historical Review of the Processing of Folk Songs in Europe and the Variety of the Term Processing”, specifies the terminology by proposing the name “folk choir song”, defended in the above-cited work from 2009.

The next three sections “The place of the folk song in the spiritual life of Bulgarians until the Liberation from the Ottoman yoke”, “The folk song in the works of Bulgarian composers in the period from the Liberation to the First World War” and “The folk song in the works of Bulgarian composers in the period between the two World Wars” trace the meaning of the folk song and its place in the life of the Bulgarians. The connection between folklore and author’s music is studied, the main preconditions for the emergence of the genre “folk choir song” are outlined, and the influence of European musical achievements and culture on the national folklore is analyzed. The different ways of using the authentic primary sources are outlined – quotation, only melodic, metrorhythmic, ideological, stylized, etc.

The last section is entitled “First steps towards the full public declaration of musical folklore” and summarizes the first attempts to present and preserve the folk song in its fullness and content after processing, which became a priority of the movement “Folk choirs and ensembles”, which emerged in the 50s of the XX century.

Each main part of the presentation ends with conclusions about the prerequisites for the emergence of the genre in accordance with the periods of Bulgarian musical history and the factors that will influence various aspects of the future development of the genre. This is part of the contribution of the monograph.

Both scientific works of Slavinska complement and summarize the historical development of a relatively new genre for Bulgarian musical culture. In them, for the first time, the main prerequisites for the origin, evolution, and future of the genre, as well as its historical and essential issues – concepts, terms, periodization, composers, are fully considered. The other scientific publications, reports, articles, teaching aids, and author’s works of art submitted for review under this procedure also show a deep and systematic interest of the candidate in a number of issues related to folklore and its research. Their value is confirmed by the citations of her scientific works. Slavinska’s compositional vocal and choir work is used in the repertoire of children’s choirs at home and abroad. A theatrical production based on her literary texts was realized at the Puppet Theater in Plovdiv. She is active as a conductor, choirmaster, and accompanist of a number of choirs, with which she performs on the concert podiums at home and abroad.

My personal and professional contacts with Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska support my impression of a colleague who enjoys respect in academia, actively participates in the research activities of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts,

and manages to motivate students to get the necessary knowledge in the disciplines she teaches.

From the submitted materials of the candidate it is clear that her pedagogical, creative and scientific activity exceeds the minimum national legal requirements. In conclusion of all the above, I support the candidacy of Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award her the academic position of “Associate Professor” in **Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science** at the Department of Musical Folklore 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.

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