

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Lyuben Dosev from

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, regarding the documents submitted by **Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska** for participation in the competition for the occupation of the position of **“Associate Professor”** in **“Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science”** under field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, announced in State Gazette, Issue 12 of 11.02.2020

1. Data of the competition:

Dear colleagues, I present my opinion as a member of the scientific jury on the above-cited competition, prepared 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, the Internal rules, policies and procedures of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, including the Habilitation Procedure and the announcement for a competition on the website of the Academy. So far, the procedure fully complies with the requirements of state and university regulations regarding the occupation of academic positions. Documents for it have been submitted only by one candidate – Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska. After a thorough review of these documents, I found that they are in order and fully comply with the Higher Education and Human Resources Development Act. According to the content of the scientometric table submitted by the candidate, it is evident that it lists many different activities, which significantly exceed the required number of points – instead of the required minimum of 360 points, it presents a reference with 570, and the European format of her CV shows that this is only part of her overall activity. As required by the Regulations for application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in Art.53, para.1, she has successfully defended the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, has held the academic positions of “Assistant” and “Chief Assistant” for more than two years, was a longtime lecturer at the Academy, has practiced art as a conductor of the Evmolpeya Choir with proven achievements in its field, and has presented monographs and various publications in specialized scientific journals and forums.

2. Data of the candidate:

The career of Slavinska as a conductor began in 1986, when she was the second conductor of the Angel Bukureshtliev Singing Society – Plovdiv. At the same time she was accepted as a full-time accompanist in the Department of Conducting at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv. Since 2012 she has been an Assistant, and since 2016, after a successful defense competition, she has been Chief Assistant in “Folk Choir Conducting on Piano, Folk Orchestra on Piano and Folk Choir Singing”.

3. Description of the scientific works:

My high assessment of the publications, professional, pedagogical, and artistic activities of Dr. Rada Slavinska is based on my personal long-term observations as her

colleague, as well as on a documentation that is detailed, backed with rich evidence, submitted for review and evaluation by the jury, namely:

- **The monograph** “*Prerequisites for the Emergence of the Songs for Folk Choir Genre*” – the habilitation work of the candidate – represents a valuable contribution to the scientific literature, studying the musical processes related to the processed folklore. In this theoretical study for the first time the historical facts about the musical processes in Bulgaria are considered through the prism of a change in the attitude to folklore and the prerequisites for the emergence of the future “folk choir song” genre.
- The **second monograph** of Slavinska “*Chronology and Characteristics of the Songs for Folk Choir Genre*” is no less valuable, because for the first time in the scientific literature the parameters of the genre, its specific features, classifications, historical conditionality, and main goals of the composers are defined.
- The **scientific report** “Plovdiv Waldhorn School” based on Slavinska’s participation in the prestigious international conference organized by the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine proves the diverse interests of the author and her ability to scientifically and competently approach various thematic issues. The 5 scientific articles presented in the additional materials in the specialized press – “Christmas Concert or Seminar with the Masters of Our Time”, “The Day of the People’s Awakeners – a Day of Applause for the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts”, “Folklore Megaconcert in the Ancient Theater of Plovdiv”, “Folklore Visions in Reality” and “Strokes from the Portrait of Milcho Vasilev” – complement her image of an in-depth researcher, unburdened by narrow frames, as well as a person who has the ability to analyze, notice, and draw the right conclusions in understandable language and beautiful expression.
- An **author’s product**, such as the illustrated children’s book “Obarkvatsiya”, is rarely seen in habilitation materials, but the works included in it have a really high artistic value proven over time. Songs from the book, such as “Obarkvatsiya”, “I Know What to Eat”, “Cricket’s Wedding”, etc., have actually been regularly included in various national competitions for children’s songs for almost two decades
- The **authorship of the fairy tale** “Dareno Na Bash Maystora”, on which the State Puppet Theater Plovdiv creates its production “Darena”, presents a different side of the artistic achievements of Slavinska. This writer’s invention is very useful in her direct work with students and colleagues, in the creation of various scripts for productions and anniversary concerts, which over the years we have witnessed many times.

It is obligatory and very important to note that the citations mentioned in the reference cover various aspects of her activity – as a composer in the article “The Songs of Rada Slavinska”, as a conductor of the Representative Male Choir for Orthodox Chants in “Philippopolis in the Netherlands”, and as a perennial conductor of the Evmolpeya Choir, with which she is a guest at the “Bulgarian Festival in Vojvodina – Novi Sad”. The report of Dr. Boris Mirchev “Messa Liliun by Rada Slavinska. An Attempt at Ideological and Aesthetic Presentation” also makes a strong impression. On the one hand – because it is a rare

scientific development on a work by a living composer, which is usually an indicator of the exceptional quality of the work, and on the other – because on scientometric indicators a scientific report evaluating an author does not belong to the peer reviews, but is essentially much higher assessment than a review.

Another important direction in her career is her active concert activity as a conductor of the Evmolpeya Choir. It is impressive. The concerts, diplomas, and thank you letters mentioned in the report reflect the level of the Ensemble and the capabilities of its conductor. All this is complemented by the many realized student productions from Slavinska's classes in the discipline "Folk Choir Singing" and from the feedback of the previous lecturer in this discipline – Assoc. Prof. Ivan Deliradev.

4. Scientific contributions

After all that I have said so far, I would like to state most responsibly that I see in the face of the candidate a huge resource for her development in the near and distant future, as well as a hidden potential for discovering new and increasingly diverse and multifaceted creative activities related to the announced position. Her publications are indicative of the fact that she is very strong in her positions as a theorist and practitioner on the subject and is rightly a participant in the announced competition for "Associate Professor" in "Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science". The attitude of Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska towards art as a generalized philosophical category and as a permanent phenomenon in the lives of people around the world is undoubted and visible. And most of all, she is able with her professional and organizational qualities to make this art created by the authors reach in its most perfect form the general audience, which is always thirsty for encounters with art in all its forms and amazing emotional experiences.

5. Conclusion:

After the many things that I shared with the esteemed scientific jury on the occasion of the provided documentation, with a deep degree of certainty and conviction I want to say that Chief Assistant Dr. Rada Borislavova Slavinska has the necessary qualities to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science" at Musical Folklore Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under field 8 "Arts", Professional field 8.1 "Theory of Arts", 8.2 "Fine Arts", and 8.3 "Music and Dance Arts", specialty "Folk Choir Singing with Choir Science". I emphasize that I personally will confidently vote "FOR" and allow myself to recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to do the same!

Thank you for your attention!

25.06.2020

Гр. Пловдив

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Prof. Dr. L. Dosev

By signing here, I
responsibly declare that I

am not a related party within the meaning of § 1, item 5 of the Additional Provisions of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and that I have no private interest that could affect the impartial and objective performance of my work as a member of the jury.