

REVIEW

By Prof. Ventsislav Dimov Dimov, PhD

Regarding the application of Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD

In competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 8.3.
Music and Dance Art ('Musicology-Ethnomusicology')

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

I. Information on the applicant and the documentation

Applicant for the announced competition is Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD. She was born in Kotel and had her first lessons at the music school of today's National School of Folk Arts, then graduated from *Filip Kutev* Secondary Music School in Kotel with a major in tamboura and folk singing (2005); a Bachelor's degree in Pedagogy of Music Education (2009) and a Master's degree in Art Management and Ethnomusicology (2010) at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Since 2011 she has been a full-time PhD student in Musicology and Musical Art, after successfully defending her dissertation thesis she was awarded the educational and scientific degree of 'PhD' (2016). She teaches 'Musical Folklore', 'Bulgarian Folk Music' and 'Collection and Deciphering of Musical Folklore' at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (since 2013 as a part-time lecturer); assistant (since 2016) and assistant professor (since 2019) at the Department of Theory of Arts of the Academy. Since 2009 to date she has been singing in 'Gaudeamus' Academic Mixed Chamber Choir at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD applied with the documents and materials required by the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations (curriculum vitae, diplomas of higher education and Ph.D. degree, medical and criminal records, certificates of experience in the major and for teaching activity, reference for teaching workload, table-reference, author's reference for scientific contributions). The materials for the competition include the attached evidence according to the scientific-metric table (group indicators A, B, Γ, Д, E), according to the data in which the candidate meets the national minimum requirements for the academic position of 'Associate Professor': indicator A (dissertation thesis for the award of the academic degree of PhD - 50 pts.; indicator B (habilitation thesis, published monograph) - 100 points; indicator Γ (publications and creative performances) - 340 points; indicator Д (citations) - 40 points; indicator E (teaching and expert activity, awards) - 90 points.

The review is structured in accordance with Chapter Three, Section III of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRB).

II. Research activities

The texts submitted for review can be divided into two groups: 1). Scientific publications; and 2). Quotations

1. Scientific publications

Assistant Professor Sofiya Ruseva, PhD offers serious scientific works in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor: a habilitation thesis (monograph), a published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the PhD degree and five articles.

The habilitation thesis - the monograph 'A Look at the Humorous Folk Song of Kotel' (Plovdiv, 2023) is in the relevant scientific field. In terms of volume (160 pages), problems, content and reviewing by two habilitated persons the monograph meets the requirements. Among the contributions of the work are: the first comprehensive study of the Kotel humorous folk song; analytical - the specificity of the Kotel humorous tunes is outlined with analyses of the functional affiliation, metrical organization, versification, structure, form and modal melodic structure of the song samples; 16 fieldwork recordings of Kotel songs are deciphered and analyzed in 5 tables (section 'Appendix'). The monograph is a study of a unique local tradition, which is based both on a good knowledge of previous sources and works (such as the song collections of Tanya Gaytandzhieva and Nikolay Kaufman, the historical and local studies of Danail Konstantinov, Velko Tonev, etc.) and on the author's own fieldwork and interpretation (recorded, transcribed and analyzed repertoire of 12 informants from Kotel born between the 1920s and 1960s). Last but not least, this research is valuable because of the author's personal relationship to her native Kotel, not only because of her affection for the place where she was born and where she received her first lessons and guidance towards her future career, but also because of the chance to choose a little-studied subject - humorous Kotel songs.

The candidate also offers a published book on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree 'PhD': 'Structure and Form of the Choral Folk Songs of Northern Bulgaria' (Plovdiv, 2020). It is part of a previous procedure and will not be reviewed here.

Ruseva's research activity is also reflected in the five articles published between 2019 and 2023 in specialized publications in the field of art - collections of national and international scientific conferences. 'Structural Features of the Choral Folk Songs from the Eastern Balkan Mountains',

published in a Collection of the International Scientific Conference ‘Science, Education and Innovation in the Arts’ (*Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA - Plovdiv, 2019*), reveals the main trends in the formation and structure of choral song samples from the settlements in the eastern part of the Balkan Mountains. The article ‘Interrelation between poetic text and rhythmic structure in the choral songs from Middle North Bulgaria’, published in the Collection of the scientific conference ‘Intangible cultural heritage: identity, continuity, defilement’ (Sofia, 2020), offers a music-theoretical and comparative analysis of the relationship between poetic text and the metrical construction of song samples published in capital collections. The article ‘The Kotel Wedding Song’, printed in the Collection of the International Scientific Conference ‘Science, Education and Innovations in the Field of Art’, Vol. 2 (*Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, 2021*), for the first time publishes and interprets materials kept in the Ethnographic Museum of Kotel of Georgi Zahariev: a description of the wedding custom in Kotel and recorded between 1914 and 1930. It systematizes the songs performed during the wedding ritual in Kotel and reveals their functional, melodic, metrical, structural and poetic features. The following two articles are related to the topic of the habilitation thesis. ‘Functional Characteristics of Kotel Humorous Folk Songs’ (Collection with Reports of the Jubilee International Scientific Conference ‘50 Years of Traditions and Development of Bulgarian Folklore’, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, 2022*) offers a typology of the Kotel humorous folk songs in the process of their functional transformations. The article ‘Metro-rhythmic features of the Kotel humorous folk songs’ (Collection of the National Scientific Conference ‘Spring Scientific Readings’ 2023, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA- Plovdiv, under print*) makes a connection between the seven-time metrum typical for Kotel with a three-time group in the third part (‘wise horo’ or ‘wise rachenitsa’ (Bulgarian folk dances), the most common dance in Kotel) and the Kotel humorous song.

2. Quotations

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD indicates in her scientific-metric table and in the self-report for the contributions 4 quotations found in publications (collections of materials from scientific conferences) of her colleagues from *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv*. Three of the above-mentioned articles by the candidate have been cited.

III. Teaching (pedagogical and teaching-methodical) activity

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD includes in the materials submitted for review individual evidence of the relationship of research work and artistic activity with her own educational activities in practice. The CV and the teaching workload report indicate her involvement in the educational

process of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA – Plovdiv, which she started in 2013 as a lecturer in the majors ‘Musical Folklore’, ‘Bulgarian Folk Music’ and ‘Collecting and Deciphering Musical Folklore’; and as a full-time lecturer after 2016 (at the time of competition, she has certified work experience in the specialty for 2 years and 7 months) she has taught both the above-mentioned, as well as the majors: ‘Verbal Folklore’, ‘Solfeggio’, ‘Theory of Musical Elements’, ‘Art Management’.

The competition materials contain data and evidence of the candidate’s other teaching and academic activities: development of new curricula (in the major ‘Bulgarian Identity and Modernity’ to the curriculum of the major ‘Marketing and Communications in Arts’, Bachelor’s degree, 2021); participation as a mentor in training projects (in the program of summer field practice on collecting and deciphering musical folklore on the territory of the municipality of Malko Tarnovo, 2023); participation in national scientific and educational projects (member of the organizing committee of the Project ‘Conducting International Scientific and Practical Conference ‘Management and Marketing Problems in Art – 2022’, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA – Plovdiv; expert /subjects under activity 2/ under the Project ‘Modernization in the Educational Process at *Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music and *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA – Plovdiv under the Operational Programme ‘Science and Education for Smart Growth’). In the last five years, Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD has been the head of two national scientific and educational projects: the project ‘Participation of AMDFA students in the ‘Borovets Art Week 2018’ (2018, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA – Plovdiv) and the project ‘Conducting an International Scientific and Practical Conference ‘Management and Marketing Problems in Art – 2021’ (2021, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA – Plovdiv). Indicative of the pedagogical and scientific-applied qualities of the candidate are a number of activities that accompany her direct teaching work: jurying at Bulgarian and international competitions and festivals (jury member in the International Competition for Music, Dance and Fine Arts ‘Orpheus Talents’ - 2022 and 2023), training courses (participation in the training ‘Science and Journalism’ under the project ‘Science and Journalism: Together Against Infodemia’, 2022), participation in workshops (workshop ‘Science Communication and Innovative Learning’ within the project ‘Universities for Science, Informatics and Technology in the e-Society (UNITE)’, 2022), etc.

IV. Artistic Creative Activity

The attached scientometric table of the candidate and the evidence thereto (Indicators Γ for creative performance in the field of arts) highlight the contributions of Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD as an artist - chorister in the composition of *Gaudeamus* Academic Chamber Choir. As an artist with a supporting artistic performance or participation in a collective product in the arts (Γ 14), the

candidate provides evidence of performances in 19 concerts in Bulgaria and Turkey between 2019 and 2023, including a concert broadcast in the special program of Euroradio - Holy Week Music Special Day (2019); a concert as part of the Trimontiada International Music Festival as part of Plovdiv - European Capital of Culture (2019, Plovdiv Ancient Theatre); a concert at St Stephen's Iron Church in Istanbul, Turkey (2023); joint concerts with American and English choirs, etc. Ruseva's applied activities also include journalistic work - the competition materials include three articles in the Artspectrum magazine: '15 Years of the International Folklore Seminar at AMDFA' (issue 50, 2019); 'Made at the Academy - the Magic of Art' (issue 55, 2021); 'Made at the Academy - a Celebration of Arts' (issue 58, 2022).

V. Summary and conclusion

The academic activity of the candidate, her scientific, scientific-applied, teaching and artistic achievements show that Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD is a researcher with serious publications, established teaching experience and highly appreciated artistic and creative performances. Her candidature meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and its Rules on the Implementation. This gives me grounds to give a positive assessment to Sofiya Ruseva, PhD as a candidate in the competition and to propose to the College of the Scientific Jury to vote for her to hold the academic position of Associate Professor in 8.3. Music and Dance Art ('Musicology – Ethnomusicology') at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA – Plovdiv.

Sofia, November 15, 2023

Prof. Ventsislav Dimov