

OPINION

by **Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Hristova Krastanova, PhD,**
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on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for
the academic position of **Associate Professor at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of
Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv**
in field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field
8.3. Music and Dance Art, scientific major
Musicology - Ethnomusicology

In the competition for 'Associate Professor', announced for the needs of the Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography, as a candidate participates Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD from *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv*.

1. General presentation of the received materials

By Order No. RD-27-119 of 21.09.2023 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (AMDFA) and the Decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography (Record No. 13/20.09.2023) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of '**Associate Professor**' at AMDFA in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, **announced for the needs** of the Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography.

Only **one candidate** submitted documents for participation in the announced competition, namely:

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD (*Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv* and participant of *Gaudeamus Academic Mixed Chamber Choir*).

The set of materials presented by Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD is in compliance with the requirements and includes the following documents: Application to the Rector, Performer's CV, Diploma of Higher Education – Master's Degree, Medical Certificate, Criminal Record Certificate, Certificate of Work Experience in the major/specialty, Certificate of Work Experience in AMDFA, Reference for teaching workload, Reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements accompanied by supporting material, Author's reference of scientific contributions of works and citations, Reference for citations, Participation in projects and Project management, Reference and documents certifying creative achievements in the country and abroad.

The candidate, Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD has published a total of 26 scientific works and artistic achievements, including 5 articles and reports, 2 monographs, 19 performances in concerts. 25 scientific works, which are outside the dissertation, are accepted for review and are considered in the final evaluation. 1 scientific work published on the dissertation thesis for the educational and scientific degree of PhD is not reviewed.

All references to scientific works and documents of artistic achievements are accompanied by supporting materials and show achievements in the field of Arts and, in particular, in the field of Music and Dance Folklore.

2. Brief biographical details of the applicant

Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva was born in Kotel. In 2005 she graduated from the music school with a major in tamboura and a second major in folk singing. From 2005 to 2010 she studied at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv*. In 2009 she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Pedagogy of Music Education, and in 2010 with a master's degree in Art Management and a master's degree in Ethnomusicology. Since 2011 she has been a full-time PhD student at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance*

and Fine Arts. After successfully defending her dissertation thesis in 2016 she was awarded the educational and scientific degree of PhD. Her teaching activity began at AMDFA - Plovdiv in 2013 as a lecturer, since 2016 she has been an assistant professor, and since 2019 - a senior assistant professor. Since 2009 she has been singing in *Gaudeamus* Academic Mixed Chamber Choir, with which she actively performs in Bulgaria and abroad. In 2020 her book *Structure and Form of the Choral Folk Songs of Northern Bulgaria*, based on her dissertation, was published, and in 2023 - the book *'A Look at the Humorous Folk Song of Kotel'*. The candidate teaches 6 scientific majors (392 classes).

Both the scientific and artistic activities, as well as the subjects taught, are directly related to the scientific field and the scientific direction in which the competition for 'Associate Professor' was announced.

3. General description of the applicant's activities

Sofiya Ruseva's **teaching activity** began in 2013 at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv as a lecturer in the subjects 'Musical Folklore', 'Bulgarian Folk Music' and 'Collection and Deciphering of Musical Folklore'. In 2016 she became a 'full-time assistant' and in 2019 an 'Assistant Professor' at the University. Gradually, she deepened her training and started to teach 'Verbal Folklore', 'Solfeggio', 'Theory of Musical Elements', and started to teach seminar classes in 'Art Management'. She has prepared a curriculum on 'Bulgarian Identity and Modernity', which aims to introduce students to the tangible and intangible heritage. Sofiya Ruseva herself underwent training in 'Science and Journalism' and also participated in a seminar on 'Science Communication and Innovative Learning'. She works as a mentor for students in a summer practice of collecting folklore materials and has been a jury member in the International *Orpheus Talents* Competition several times.

All of the above-mentioned activities show the accumulation of capacity, good preparation for teaching and excellent competencies for the preparation of students in the field of music and dance folklore.

The **candidate's scientific activity** is consistent and is dedicated to musical folklore. Sofia Ruseva's first steps were related to the successful defense of her dissertation, after which her interests expanded, as evidenced by her participation in scientific projects: as a member of the organizing committee for a scientific conference on 'Management and Marketing Problems in Art' and as an expert in the project 'Modernization of the Educational Process'. She is also the head of two projects: 'Participation of AMDFA students in Borovets Art Week 2018' and the International Scientific and Practical Conference 'Management and Marketing Problems in Art 2021'.

At the same time, Sofiya Ruseva continues her research on the folk songs of Kotlen region, paying attention to their metric rhythm, functions and characteristics. She is also interested in the relationship between the poetic text and the rhythmic structure of Eastern Old Mountain folk songs. The analysis and interpretation of the folklore material leads her to the intangible cultural heritage, which shows an expansion of the research problems and can be considered as a scientific contribution for the author.

Sofiya Ruseva has made an outstanding contribution to the documentation, analysis and scientific interpretation of the humorous song of Kotlen region, which has been insufficiently studied so far. To construct the regional image of the musical folklore, major works of Bulgarian folklorists and ethnomusicologists, local, historical and archaeological research, as well as personal archives and interviews have been used. I believe that the preservation of cultural memory and intangible musical heritage is an important task for every researcher. The use of multidisciplinary methods to analyze song material enhances the quality of research. Good author's style and scientific interpretation lead to an increase in interest in intangible heritage not only among specialists but also among a wider public. Sofiya Ruseva's aspiration to popularize folk song creativity is also evident in her

publications. The quality of Sofia Ruseva's habilitation thesis and research is evidenced by the citations from fellow folklorists and musicologists.

In addition to the high quality of her teaching and research activities, attention should be drawn to her **artistic achievements in the performing arts** with her participation in valuable concerts of *Gaudeamus* Academic Mixed Chamber Choir.

4. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the applicant(s)

All the presented scientific and artistic achievements are personal contributions of Sofiya Ruseva, PhD.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I would recommend that the researcher, Sofiya Ruseva, PhD, continue to work in the field of local and regional features of musical folklore, deepening the focus on intangible cultural heritage.

6. Personal impressions

I have known Sofiya Ruseva from a scientific conference at the AMDFA where she was a moderator of a panel. My impressions are that she has good organizational and personal qualities.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials, presented by Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD **meet all the requirements** of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRB), Rules on the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the relevant regulations of AMDFA for conducting competitions for scientific promotion. The candidate in the competition has submitted a **sufficient** number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of educational and qualification degree of 'PhD', in which there are original scientific and artistic contributions that have received recognition. All publications have been made after scientific peer review. Sofiya Ruseva's theoretical developments have practical applicability, some of them being directly oriented to teaching work. Her scientific and teaching qualifications as well as her artistic creative achievements are unquestionable.

The results achieved by Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD in teaching, research and artistic activities **fully comply** with the minimum national requirements and even exceed them. After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, the analysis of their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and artistic-creative contributions they have, I consider it is justified to give my **positive assessment** and **to recommend** the Scientific Jury to draft a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography for the **election of Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD to the academic position of 'Associate Professor'** at the AMDFA in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, scientific major Musicology - Ethnomusicology.

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Plovdiv

(Assoc. Prof. Krasimira Krastanova, PhD)