

Opinion

By Assoc. Prof. Danka Yordanova Tsvetkova, PhD

under the procedure for awarding the academic position of Associate Professor in the Professional Field 8.3 'Music and Dance Art', Major 'Musicology-Ethnomusicology', for the needs of the Department of Theory of Arts, Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography at AMDFA Plovdiv.

Competition candidate: Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD was born in the town of Kotel. She graduated from *Philip Kutev* National School for Folk Arts in 2005 in the major of tamboura and a second major in folk singing. In 2009 she was awarded a bachelor's degree in Pedagogy of Music Education, and in 2010 - a master's degree in Art Management and a master's degree in Ethnomusicology under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Vasilka Yoncheva, PhD at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv. Since 2011 she has been a full-time PhD student at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy* of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. In 2016 she was awarded the academic degree of PhD after successfully defending her dissertation thesis. Her teaching activity began in 2013 at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy* of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. She has been a lecturer in the majors of 'Musical Folklore', 'Bulgarian Folk Music' and 'Collection and Deciphering of Musical Folklore'. Since 2016 she has been Assistant Professor and since 2019 - Senior Assistant Professor at the same Academy. In 2020, her book *Structure and Form of the Choral Folk Songs of Northern Bulgaria*, based on Ruseva's dissertation thesis, will be published, and in 2023, the monographic study *A Look at the Humorous Folk Song of Kotel* will be published.

In the competition, Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD applied with habilitation materials, presenting information from field research and theoretical developments in the field of folk art: publications, reports, monograph.

Ruseva combines her teaching activity with a number of scientific developments directly related to the subjects she teaches – ‘Musical Folklore’, ‘Bulgarian Folk Music’, ‘Collecting and Deciphering Musical Folklore’. Her scientific activities include a defended dissertation thesis on subject ‘Structure and Form of the Choral Folk Songs of Northern Bulgaria’ (also published as a book), where the author reveals the main verse forms and types of rhythm formation in the choral songs of Middle North, Northeast and Northwest Bulgaria, examines the influence of the poetic text on the rhythm formation of the tunes, discovers a new type of combined structure among the tunes, unclassified by Todor Dzhidzhev, and brings out the general tendencies and differences in the form formation and structural development of the dance song models from Northern Bulgaria.

The highlight of the scientific activity is the presented monographic study ‘*A Look at the Humorous Folk Song of Kotel*’. Based on the information on ethnographic and dialectal features, lifestyle, traditional practices, the research is focused specifically on the humorous songs of Kotel region and their specifics. The contributory significance of the work lies in the fact that for the first time an analysis and systematization of these samples, grouped according to various indicators – ‘*versification, metrical rhythmic organization, functional orientation, structure, form, and modal melodic organization*’. The overall information gathered and systematized by Sofiya Ruseva is substantiated by her personal observations, knowledge and the included diagrams and appendices having evidential value. The comprehensive study of the problem makes sense and contributes both regionally and to musical folklore science.

The submitted reference of habilitation materials shows the activity of the candidate. All of them are in the required volume according to the national requirements for a successful candidature in the current competition. I believe that the activity and citations presented meet the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and its Rules on the Implementation. Therefore, I give my positive evaluation to Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva to acquire the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 8.3 ‘Music and Dance Art’, Major ‘Musicology-Ethnomusicology’ for the needs of the Department of Theory of Arts at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv*.

Plovdiv

November 20, 2023

Opinion drafted by:

Assoc. Prof. Danka Tsvetkova, PhD