

# OPINION

By **Assoc. Prof. TODORKA MALCHEVA, PhD**  
*Episkop Konstantin Preslavski Shumen University*

**Member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. RD-27-119/21.09.2023 of the  
Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA - Plovdiv**

In a competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** in  
the field of higher education **8. Arts**, professional field **8.3. Music and Dance Art**  
(major **Musicology - Ethnomusicology**)

Announced by

***Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts***  
**Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography**  
**Department of Art Theory**

## **DATA ON THE COMPETITION PROCEDURE**

In the competition for 'Associate Professor', in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art (Musicology - Ethnomusicology) for the needs of the Department of Art Theory at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA* participated one candidate - Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD. All the necessary documents have been submitted, which confirm that the candidate undoubtedly meets the conditions under the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL INFORMATION AND OF THE CANDIDATE**

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in Pedagogy of Music Education. In 2010, she was awarded Master's degree in Art Management and Ethnomusicology, and in 2016, after successfully defending her dissertation thesis, she was awarded the educational and qualification degree of PhD.

In 2013 Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva began teaching at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, and since 2019 she has been Senior Assistant Professor at the Academy. She currently teaches classes in the following disciplines: Bulgarian Folk Music, Verbal Folklore, Collecting and Deciphering Musical Folklore, Art Management, Solfeggio, Theory of Musical Elements.

## **ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

The candidate has a continuous artistic and creative activity, which includes performing as a chorister in *Gaudeamus* mixed chamber choir at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts* from 2009 until today.

## SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

In the announced competition for 'Associate Professor' at Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA, Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD participated with two monographs and five reports in specialized publications in the field of arts.

The candidate's habilitation thesis '*A Look at the Humorous Folk Song of Kotel*' is structured in an Introduction, a Brief Literature Review, two Chapters and a Conclusion.

The Introduction justifies the motive that gave rise to the researcher's interest in the humorous folk song of Kotel region. As under-analyzed musical and folklore models, as well as their distinctive specificity, this kind of songs provoked the author's attention for scientific research. The subject and the aim of the study are clearly specified, as well as the scientific and research methods, on which the realized work is based.

The brief literature review synthesizes the developments reflecting the musical folklore of Kotel region. Research searches from the end of the 19th century to the present day are specified.

As an introduction, the first chapter reveals geographical, historical and ethnographic information about the town of Kotel. Very resourcefully the researcher uses to present the folklore traditions of Kotel, both data from research carried out over the years and information from informants. In the developed ethnographic overview, the focus on customs with a local characteristic ('The lass lets go'), which highlights the folk ritual of Kotel region, is also of interest.

Chapter Two is the actual comprehensive section, focusing on an in-depth analysis of the humorous song of Kotel region. The research includes fieldwork in the thematic direction. The analytical interpretation includes 58 songs, 12 of which - collected, recorded and deciphered by the author, as well as 45 songs from collections including authentic folk songs of Kotel region.

In her monograph, Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD offers a wide-ranging study including song functionality, metre rhythmicity, modal tune, structure, form and versification. Appropriately, the reasoning here is supported by diagrams visually representing the findings.

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva's monograph, '*Structure and Form of the Choral Folk Songs of Northern Bulgaria*' is based on a successfully defended dissertation thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree of PhD. The thesis presents the types of structures of the choral songs in the mentioned region, as well as peculiarities of the form formation in the studied genre.

With regard to the *five articles and papers* published by the candidate, a good indicator is the fact that they have been published in specialized journals in the field of arts.

## CONCLUSION

On the basis of the realized performance, I consider that the candidate for the academic position of 'Associate Professor', Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD meets the requirements of

the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. Taking this into account, my evaluation for Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD to hold the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ thus announced in the competition is **POSITIVE**.

The proposed scientific production, the achieved scientific results, contribution moments, artistic-creative and teaching activity give me grounds to recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award the candidature a **POSITIVE EVALUATION**, as well as to propose to the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Folklore and Choreography at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – city of Plovdiv to elect the candidate Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD for ‘Associate Professor’ in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art (major ‘Musicology – Ethnomusicology’).

December 2, 2023

Member of the scientific jury:.....

(Assoc. Prof. Todorka Malcheva)