

## OPINION

in an announced competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art (Musicology - Ethnomusicology), announced by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv under Art. 3, Para 1 of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, for the needs of the Department of Theory of Arts

**Candidate: Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva**

Opinion: Prof. Kostadin Mihaylov Buradzhiev, PhD

### **Presentation of the applicant and documentation**

Sofiya Ruseva was born in Kotel. She graduated from secondary education at *Filip Kutev* National School for Folk Arts - Kotel with a major in ‘Tamboura’ and ‘Folk singing’ in 2005. She graduated higher education (bachelor’s degree), major ‘Pedagogy of Music Education’ in 2009 at *Prof. As. Diamandiev* AMDFA, and in 2010 – she was awarded a master’s degree in ‘Art Management’ and a master’s degree in ‘Ethnomusicology’ with scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Vasilka Yoncheva, PhD. Since 2011 she has been a full-time PhD student in the professional field of ‘Musicology and Music Art’, and in 2016 she successfully defended her dissertation thesis and was awarded the educational and scientific degree of ‘PhD’. Since 2013 she has been a lecturer in the major of ‘Musical Folklore’, ‘Bulgarian Folk Music’ and ‘Collecting and Deciphering Musical Folklore’. Since 2016 she has been Assistant Professor and since 2019 - Senior Assistant Professor at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

In 2020, her book ‘*Structure and Form of the Choral Folk Songs of Northern Bulgaria*’, which is based on her dissertation, will be published. Her interest in the study of Bulgarian folk songs in different regions of Bulgaria is confirmed by a number of her publications, and in 2023 Sofiya Ruseva published her monographic study ‘*A Look at the Humorous Folk Song of Kotel*’.

I have known Sofiya Ruseva since her student years at *F. Kutev* National School for Folk Arts - Kotel, where she differed from her classmates with a different view of the surrounding reality. And the following years showed that her determination bore fruit (already described above).

Throughout her studies until now Sofiya Ruseva has been a permanent member of *Gaudeamus* Academic Mixed Choir with conductor Prof. Vesela Geleva, PhD, with which she has performed dozens of concerts in the country and abroad. With the choir Sofiya Ruseva has also won a number of prestigious awards.

I am presenting these data because they correspond to the activities of the candidate Ruseva, PhD and the presented scientific, artistic and pedagogical achievements for the award of the academic position of 'Associate Professor' at the Department of 'Theory of Arts' at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv.

Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD has submitted all the documents and materials required by the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (performer's CV, diplomas for higher education and for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree of 'PhD', certificates - medical and criminal record, certificates for work experience in the major and for teaching activity, reference for teaching workload, scientometric table, author's reference for scientific contributions - papers and citations). The competition dossier includes attached evidence according to the table of minimum requirements: group indicators A, Б, Д, E and Г. According to the submitted statement of scientific metrics, the candidate meets the national minimum requirements for the academic position of 'Associate Professor', with her numerical indicators exceeding significantly the required number of points.

## **I. Scientific and research activity.**

I highly appreciate the contributory character of the scientific research activity of Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD. The presented monographs (2) and scientific articles and reports (5) are beneficial not only to students and folklorists of regional, but also national and international scale. This is also evident from the citation of her papers.

We see a development of the theme of her diploma thesis in the book '*Structure and Form of the Choral Folk Songs of Northern Bulgaria*', where Ruseva, PhD, based on a huge number of publications of our and foreign scholars, discusses the form-building role of rhythm as an element of musical language and the interrelation between verse and melody in choral song models.

The presented habilitation thesis '*A Look at the Humorous Folk Song*' examines the specificity of Kotlen folk tunes, which are a poorly studied area of our folk song. 58 songs from various sources are studied, deciphered and appended to the book, as well as a list of

informants. A contribution to the study is the highlighting of the essential relationship of the humorous folk songs of Kotel region to the system of family customs and rituals. It can be summarized that this work has wide applicability in the teaching of folklore in higher and secondary vocational schools.

## **II. Artistic and creative activity and awards**

Since the beginning of her studies at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD is a permanent member of *Gaudeamus* Academic Mixed Choir and has participated in dozens of concerts in the country and abroad. The high professional level of the choir has also brought dozens of prestigious awards and diplomas, and, it can be said that Ruseva, PhD has made a significant contribution to them.

## **III. Pedagogical and educational-methodical activity.**

The accumulated professional experience and research activity are the basis of the successful pedagogical activity of Senior Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD. Since 2013 she has been a lecturer at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv, where she teaches the courses of 'Musical Folklore', 'Bulgarian Folk Music' and 'Collection and Deciphering of Musical Folklore'.

Senior Asst. Prof. Ruseva, PhD is the author of the curriculum 'Bulgarian Identity and Modernity' to the curriculum of the major of 'Marketing and Communications in Art', Bachelor's degree.

Ruseva, PhD actively participates as a head and member of national and international educational, scientific and artistic projects. She is an Expert / academic majors in the Project of 'Modernization of the Educational Process at *P. Vladigerov* National Academy of Music - Sofia.

To Ruseva's pedagogical work I would add her dedicated work with young folk performers and their theoretical training and last but not least, her responsiveness to colleagues and her collegial ethics. It is undoubtedly a reward for a teacher to build the personality of each student and to trace their future as a professional.

Dear members of the Scientific Jury,

The overall activity, scientific and applied, teaching and artistic-creative achievements and contributions, presented in the documentation of the competition, show that Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva, PhD is a serious researcher with her own contribution to the study of

Bulgarian traditional music and related educational practices. The supporting materials meet the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and its Implementing Rules. Taking into account the above-mentioned indisputable contributions and merits of Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva, PhD for her indisputable and scientific contribution to Bulgarian musicology and science, for her contribution to the development of Bulgarian choral art and for the popularization in the country and abroad of Bulgarian music, **I recommend with great conviction** to the esteemed specialized scientific jury to award to Asst. Prof. Sofiya Ruseva Ruseva the academic position of ‘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 Theory of Arts at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv.

Reviewer: Prof. Kostadin Mihaylov Buradzhiev, PhD

*Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv

Plovdiv, November 21, 2023