

PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yasenov
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

of the materials presented for participation in a competition
for occupation of the academic position **“Professor”**
at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv,
under Higher Education field: 8. Arts,
Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”,
specialty: “Classical Guitar”

The competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor” was announced in State Gazette, Issue 40 of 17.05.2019 and on the website of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under Higher Education field: 8. Arts, Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty: “Classical Guitar” for the needs of the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition, namely: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Blagoeva Miteva-Dinkova from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

The documents and materials presented by the candidate meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The competition takes into account the artistic, pedagogical and scientific activity of the candidate realized after acquisition of the academic position of “Assistant Professor”.

I have known Assoc. Prof. Dinkova for a long time as a colleague and partner in concert activities. In our long professional cooperation, I was impressed by her professionalism, honesty, respect for the creative process and continuous searching of performance materials. Working with her is a calm, thorough, meticulous and professional experience. She puts her instrument on a pedestal, which logically leads to high artistic, pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific achievements, which substantiate a huge contribution to the guitar art.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova graduated from the Dobri Hristov Secondary Music School in the City of Varna in 1992 and the Academy of Music and Dance Art – Plovdiv (Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) in 1996 with an educational degree “Bachelor”. In 2012 she obtained a Master’s degree in Performing Arts, and in 2016 she was awarded educational and scientific degree “Doctor” by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic: “Theoretical and Performing Aspects of Guitar and Orchestra Concerts by Joaquin Rodrigo”. She perfected her performing skills in the master classes of Abel Carlevaro, Martin Rennert, Nikita Arnoldovich Koshkin and Georgi Vasilev and others..

The work experience of the candidate is from teaching as follows: in 1996 she was appointed Assistant Professor of Classical Guitar at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv; in 1999 she was appointed Senior Assistant and in 2003 – Chief Assistant. In 2009, she acquired the academic position of Assistant Professor.

Stela Miteva-Dinkova has been active in creative arts. She has performed successfully as a Soloist and participant in chamber ensembles at festivals in the US, UK, Greece, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Tunisia, Poland, Germany, Serbia, Macedonia, Turkey, Spain, France and more. She is also a Soloist of symphony orchestras in Bulgaria (Plovdiv, Pleven,

Pazardzhik, Blagoevgrad). Dinkova has made recordings for the Bulgarian National Television and the Bulgarian National Radio. A review in the Classical Guitar magazine defined her as an extremely talented and charismatic performer. Emphasis in the repertoire of the candidate are new works by Bulgarian authors and their popularization in Bulgaria and abroad.

Her research activities include scientific publications, reports at national and international conferences, lectures and presentations.

The scientific and applied activity of the candidate is the compilation and publishing of: “Guitar Pieces by Bulgarian Composers” – school with CD (2002), “Guitar Pieces” by V. Belezhkov and Vl. Vlaev (2007), “Selected Sonatas for Violin and Guitar” – N. Paganini, as well as the compilation and editing of “From the repertoire of the Academica Guitar Ensemble – Plamen Arabov – Lele Mome” and of “Folklore and Guitar” of Pl. Arabov (2014).

The candidate also participates as a member and chairman of juries in national and international competitions.

An indicator of the successful teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova are the numerous prestigious awards won by her students at national and international competitions. She is the leader of the Academica Guitar Ensemble, which has won more than 10 prizes from competitions in Bulgaria and abroad. In 2015, she was awarded the Rector’s Award by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Art for “high activity in the educational process and creative achievements of students”.

The extensive activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova include: founder and artistic director of the Crossroad Youth Guitar Festival – held in 2010 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv; member of the management team of the Orpheus Fire Foundation; organizer of national and international art events; President of the Guitar-Plovdiv Association since 2017.

The biographical report presented, supported by evidence, shows that the candidate in the competition for “Professor” has outstanding achievements in both pedagogical and artistic and research activities, proving her huge contribution to the development of guitar art.

For her habilitation, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova presents a portion of her artistic activity, distinguished by style, genre and ensemble and instrumental diversity. Solo recitals – Lausanne Conservatory, Sion (Switzerland, 2010); Recital and lecture on the topic: “Literature for Guitar by Bulgarian Composers” at the Karol Lipinski Academy of Music, Wroclaw (Poland, 2011); Molyvos (Greece, 2014) at the IIIrd Arion Summer Guitar Academy; a concert at the Los Angeles Valley College, California (USA, 2016) from the American Guitar Association Concert Series; Komotini (Greece, 2017) – IVth Thracian Guitar Festival, Cormatin (France, 2017) – “Guitares en Cormatinois” Festival.

The contributions in the first two recitals are expressed in the popularization of works by Bulgarian composers for classical guitar (some dedicated to the performer), some characterized by an author’s interpretation of our folklore, and others showing the polyphonic capabilities of the instrument.

The other concert programs include works in different styles and genres by Bulgarian and European composers, bearing strong emotional suggestions and demonstrating the high level of creativity of the Bulgarian composers. The works are presented in the framework of international guitar events that attract a diverse audience and enjoy a wide public response.

Stela Miteva-Dinkova participates in the spectacle “Triptych of Arts” – Girl with a Guitar Cycle presented at the Trakart Cultural Center, Plovdiv (2018), combining three arts – music, poetry and painting, a trend in the contemporary art world.

Chamber concerts in various ensembles: in a duet with flute – “Petko Staynov Music Festival” (Kazanlak, 2012), “Autumn Music Celebrations Festival”, Skopje (Macedonia,

2013), “Latin American Nuances for Flute and Guitar” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (2018); in a trio with clarinet and violin – Acad. Marin Goleminov Eighteenth International Classical Guitar Competition (Kyustendil, 2014). Successfully implemented project of the Prof. P. Vladigerov National Music Academy and Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, with a premiere performance in Bulgaria of two cyclical works: J. Kreuzer – Trio Op. 16 and F. Gragnani – Quartet Op.8 (plus one more guitar), with the famous musicians Rosen Idealov, Yosif Radionov and Rosen Balkanski .

Concert for guitar and orchestra “Fantasía Para un Gentilhombre” by Joaquin Rodrigo presented at the XXV Festival “Classical Guitar Days” (Varna, 2012).

Concert of the Blagoevgrad Chamber Orchestra with conductor Krasimir Topalov and soloists Stela Dinkova – Guitar and Darko Bageski – Guitar, with performance of “Four Seasons” by A. Vivaldi, orchestrated for two guitars and orchestra by Petar Radevski – XIX Classical Guitar International Competition (2015).

Concert for three guitars and orchestra: “The Magic of the Guitar” performed by Georgi Vasilev, Stela Dinkova and Boyan Doychev and the Pleven Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor Slavey Tinchev, within the Second International Guitar Festival (Pleven, 2016).

Impressive is the repertoire variety that represents the performance quest of the candidate. They consistently demonstrate her high instrumental culture. The high professional level of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova is reflected in a number of articles and pier reviews.

Based on the above, the following contributions can be summarized:

- Creative and artistic, related to the promotion of works by contemporary Bulgarian composers; premiere in Bulgaria of works by composers with worldwide recognition; implementation of concert activity in Bulgaria and abroad with a wide style and genre range; promotion of classical guitar as a solo and chamber instrument; realization of innovative projects for the combination of different arts and performers.

- Scientific and applied, expressed in the editions described above, of which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinkova is a compiler, editor and publisher.

The reference for meeting the mandatory national minimum requirements for the Arts area shows that they have been fully covered.

From the above it is evident that the candidate has a significant contribution to the artistic, pedagogical, scientific and applied activities.

After familiarizing myself with the materials presented in the competition and the analysis of their importance and contributions, I find it justifiable to give to the distinguished Scientific Jury my positive assessment in support of the application of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Blagoeva Miteva-Dinkova for the academic position “Professor” at AMTI Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under Higher Education field 8. Arts, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty: “Classical Guitar”.

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Prepared by:.....
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov)