

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak,

Professor at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing,
at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva,

candidate for occupying the academic position “Professor of Choir Conducting” at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting, according to the competition announced in State Gazette (Issue 12) on 11.02.2020 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

A detailed creative CV, reference for artistic, scientific, and teaching activities for the period from “Associate Professor” to the present, reference for implementation of the minimum scientometric national requirements, according to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the implementation of the Act, amended and supplemented in State Gazette, Issue 56 of 06.07.2018, reference with additional materials, realized in the period after acquiring the habilitation degree “Associate Professor”, author’s reference with contributions, evidence according to the table of the National Center for Information and Documentation, and other necessary documents according to the requirements for the competition have been submitted.

Vesela Ivanova Geleva graduated from Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Arts in Plovdiv with honors, with the specialties “Piano” and “Music Theory”, and received her higher education at P. Vladigerov National Music Academy – Sofia, in the choir conducting class of Prof. Vasil Arnaudov and Prof. Dr. Virdzhiniya Atanasova with the award for excellent grades in the name of Prof. Georgi Dimitrov. She defended a dissertation on the topic: “Specifics and Education of the Singing Voice in Children and Adolescents and Problems of its Application in the Choirs”, and with a Diploma No 30218 dated 23.11.2005 acquired the educational and scientific degree of Doctor. In 2006, she founded the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Choir as a formation at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Vesela Geleva is the author of the monograph: “*Petar Dinev and his Church Choir Legacy*”, published in 2008, and since 2010 she has been an Associate Professor of choir conducting at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva offers her creative and artistic activity as a habilitation work under the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor of Choir Conducting”. It is of particular importance that the **candidate meets the minimum scientometric indicators set by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the academic position of “Professor”**, as follows:

By group indicators **A** – required **50 points**.

By group indicators **C**, from the necessary 100 points, **350 points** are realized.

By group indicators **D**, from the necessary 150 points for indicator 12, **30 points** are realized, and for indicator 14 – **220 points**. The total number of points from group indicators D is **250 points**.

By group indicators **E**, 80 points are needed, for indicator 11, reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts, 11 reviews are presented. **10 x 11 = 110 points**. The total number of points from group indicator E is **110 points**.

By group indicators **F**, 120 points are needed. Assoc. Prof. Geleva realized **200**:
from indicator **24**, management of national research projects: **3 x 30 = 90 points**.
from indicator **30**, awards from competitions for creativity and performance, given by national professional forums and organizations: **9 x 10 = 90 points**.
from indicator **31**, awards from competitions for creativity and performance, given by professional forums and organizations abroad: **1 x 20 = 20 points**.

Behind this seemingly dry statistic lies the impressive artistic, research, and pedagogical path of an artist who is respected for her merits for the development of our national choir art, who has contributed to the establishment of its international prestige.

For me, the concert activity of Assoc. Prof. Vesela Geleva is especially impressive, including the choir parts of the many operas from her repertoire. I have the most direct impressions of her work. It includes her work as a conductor of choirs at the Plovdiv Opera, as well as the joint production of the Academic Opera Theater at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv. In collaboration with the Academic Opera Theater, Assoc. Prof. Geleva and her choir Gaudeamus realized the premieres of the operas "Didona and Aeneas" by Purcell (2010), the stage realization of "Semele" by Handel (2012), and the **premiere for Bulgaria** of the opera "The Fairy-Queen" by H. Purcell (2014).

In 2010, the Gaudeamus Choir also participated in the realization of the production of the opera "The Castle" by Carol Beffa after Kafka, which was the **world premiere** of the title. Recordings have also been made for MEZZO TV, and in addition to France, two performances have been presented in Bulgaria – Plovdiv (premiere for Bulgaria) and Sofia. The concert "Masterpieces of the German and French Baroque" in 2017 included the premiere for Bulgaria performances of the Cantata No 140 by J.S. Bach and the opera "Richard the Lionheart" by André Grétry.

Bulgarian and Russian Church Slavonic music occupies a huge share in Geleva's creative biography. Her conducting work with this repertoire is related to the church choir to the St. Trinity Church in Plovdiv and with the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Choir (participation in the 35th International Choir Festival for Church Slavonic Music "Hajnowka", Poland, and the subsequent 4 concerts – Hajnowka, Białystok, Kraków, Supraśl.) With this ensemble she realized both solo concerts and participations in many national (Yambol, Pomorie, Blagoevgrad, Gabrovo, Sofia, etc.) and international festivals (Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic).

Assoc. Prof. Geleva is the leader of educational and artistic projects, including the project “Church Choir Music of All Genres of Eastern Orthodox Liturgical Practice, the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2010, the art project: Concert participation of Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Choir at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts at the 7th International Festival “Meetings of the Student Choirs”, the creative and artistic project: “Participation of Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Choir at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts with conductor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva at the 15th International Orthodox Music Festival “Saint Mary – Axion Estin”, Pomorie, the author’s program on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the birth of Petar Dinev, recorded in the Bulgarian National Radio and broadcast on 03.07.2019 in “Cantate, jubilate”, the program “Hristo Botev”, and others. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva is a member of scientific juries, author of numerous opinions and reviews, co-author of the status of the competition “Young Teacher”, author of curricula, and academic mentor. Her graduates are established choirmasters and conductors.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Geleva must be highlighted. She is one of the academic professors who deservedly enjoy the love of students and colleagues, because of her dedicated, ethical, tolerant, but also demanding nature. Dedicated to the profession, to the choirs, and the students led by her, Vesela Geleva is a valuable member of the academic staff of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Based on all the above, I confidently give my positive assessment and propose to the esteemed members of the scientific jury in the competition for “Professor” to choose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva for the academic position “Professor of Choir Conducting” at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting, Faculty of Music Pedagogy at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Date: 25.07.2020

Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak