

PEER REVIEW

**for the scientific work and the teaching activities
of Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Iliycheva Mikova,
submitted for competition for the occupation of the academic position
“Associate Professor”
under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”,
Specialty “Ethnomusicology”,
announced in State Gazette, Issue 59 of 26.07.2019 for the needs of
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv**

**Prepared by: Prof. Dr. Daniela Kirilova Dzheneva, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine
Arts**

This peer review is prepared on the basis of the documents submitted for the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv /State Gazette, Issue 59 of 26.07.2019/ and on the website of the higher institution for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department at the Musical Folklore and Choreography Faculty. The documents submitted under the competition are in compliance with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its implementation and the Regulation on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

The candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Mikova has presented a list of 10 titles for participation in the competition, including one monograph, one article and eight scientific papers, published in specialized editions in the field of arts. The successful management of two consecutive projects with a common title and single purpose – “The Unknown” Cultural Seminar, is also taken into account. They are structured in four modules – concert, exhibition, creative meeting – discussion and scientific conference. The first issue of 2016 introduces, discusses and analyzes the communities of Armenians, Jews, Turks and Roma in our country. The results, as well as nine reports on the topic, are published in a compilation, and a DVD featuring artistic manifestations is also enclosed. The second edition of “THE UNKNOWN” from 2018 focuses on the communities of Karakachans, Armenians and the ethnographic group of Torlatsi in Bulgaria, and the collection of reports and articles already contains 14 titles.

Zoya Mikova was born in Pleven in 1977. From a very early age, she began to take a serious interest in music /solfeggio and piano/. This desire for music education necessitated the family’s relocation to the City of Pazardzhik, where she joined the Children and Youth Folklore Ensemble with tambourine and singing. In 1996 she graduated from the Shiroka Laka Specialized Music School, and in 2000 graduated from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts with a degree in “Pedagogy of Music Training” and “Management of Folk Compositions”.

After that she acquired Master's degree in Ethnomusicology. This accumulation of knowledge, as well as her teaching activities at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, provides a good basis for the successful defense of her doctorate degree with a dissertation on the topic *"Traditional Practices and Music of the Ethnic Communities in the City of Plovdiv"*. At present Zoya Mikova teaches the following subjects: "Musical Folklore", "History of Folk Performing Arts", "Bulgarian Folk Music", "Bulgarian Ethnography", "Collection and Decoding of Musical Folklore", "Music Theory". She also trains foreign students under the Erasmus and Fulbright programs in the disciplines "Musical Folklore" and "Bulgarian Folk Music". Dr. Mikova is very active in the field research with her students. A valuable characteristic of this activity are the materials published for the villages of Iskra, Parvomaysko and Yavrovo, Asenovgrad District. The deciphered material from the expeditions in the villages of Ravnogor and Rozovo, Pazardzhik District, will be published soon.

The current habilitation of Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Mikova is another step towards the individual growth of a well-established teacher and is also a contribution to the activities of the Musical Folklore Department and the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. The accumulated pedagogical experience and the consistent and thorough scientific research of the candidate predetermine the achievement of definite contributions in theoretical and practical aspects. The main focus of the materials presented under the habilitation is the monograph *"Milkovitsa – History, Ethnography and Culture"*, published in 2019 in Plovdiv. The volume is 287 pages and in addition to the main exhibition, includes: 28 songs, some of which in variants; 10 round dances and games from the village; photo material of traditional clothing; archive photographs; 80 titles of literature used; 10 Internet sources. For this monograph, it is definitely inappropriate to write critically through dry statistics, because Zoya Mikova approached the field studies very emotionally. This is evident in the exposition where the scientific methodology goes hand in hand with an exciting and fascinating account of the spiritual culture of the village of Milkovitsa. She shares: *"Creating this material is not only about my personal reinvention and self-discovery, but also an obligation to my closest people, to those who laid the foundations of my education, to the "silent" voices and instruments of the musicians of Milkovitsa... as a researcher, it was very difficult for me to distance myself from the object of my research and to remain as impartial as possible"*. On the other hand, it is evident that the field data is collected and deciphered in a completely professional manner over a relatively long period – from 1992 until 2019. This first empirical study on the traditional music culture and ritual practices of the village of Milkovitsa, Pleven District, is a significant contribution. In addition to the examples, texts, blessings and other specific activities described above, the comparative analysis with neighboring settlements and cultures is also very important. Zoya Mikova proves the existence of *"a complex amalgam of connections of diverse ethnic and cultural groups"*. Last but not least, this study, together with the author's analyzes and conclusions, give a broad picture of the processes of change and development in relation to the traditional musical culture of the settlement in question.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the scientific contributions made in the monograph "*Milkovitsa – History, Ethnography and Culture*", together with the attached scientific reports on the topic, as well as the indisputable educational achievements of Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Mikova, give me a reason to propose to the distinguished Scientific jury to honor her with the academic position "Associate Professor" in Ethnomusicology under Professional field 8.3 "Music and Dance Arts".

3.11.2019

Prepared by:.....

/Prof. Dr. D. Dzheneva/