

OPINION

by Metodii Ivanov Angelov, PhD, an Associate Professor in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'

regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for occupation of the academic position 'Associate Professor'
in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'

in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts

Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Art (*Musicology and Music Art: technological models of teaching musical instrument - accordion*)

In the competition for 'Associate Professor', announced in State Gazette No 31/12.04.2019 and on the web page of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for the needs of the Department of *Music* within the Faculty of Pedagogy, Chief Assistant **Diana Ivanova Stancheva, PhD** from Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', participates as an only candidate.

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

1.1. Subject

By order No P33-3696/10.07.2019 of the Chancellor of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury of the above-mentioned competition.

Documents for participation in the announced competition were submitted by the only candidate - Chief Assistant Diana Ivanova Stancheva, PhD from Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

1.2. Procedure and Documents Submitted for the Competition

The set of materials presented by Diana Ivanova Stancheva in paper and electronic format **complies with** the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'. In addition, additional documents are presented, which are evidence of the applicant's artistic and creative activities, as well as of her achievements. The applicant **has followed** the procedure of the competition.

1.3. Scientific Works

Diana Stancheva has enclosed lists and photocopies of 25 scientific works related to Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Art and the scientific specialty of the competition, with 10 of them pertaining to the dissertation, which are not accepted for opinion. The scientific papers to be considered for opinion and taken into account in the final evaluation are 15, of which 1 monograph, 2 studies, 1 textbook and 11 research works.

1.4. Artistic and Creative Activity

The candidate has submitted 3 lists of original musical works (sheet music and arrangements) as well, one of which is related to the dissertation and it is not subject to opinion. The other two lists submitted for review and opinion are also original: 1. Sheet music in paper format containing a collection of arrangements; 2. Arrangements performed and recorded electronically (2 CDs).

1.5. Documents Related to Evidence of Artistic and Creative Achievement

The candidate has submitted three folders with evidence of artistic and creative achievement, as well, enclosed in addition to the documents required for the competition: 1) Diana Stancheva's

awards received in Bulgaria (10 in total); 2) Awards received abroad (17); 3) Reviews from Bulgaria and abroad (9).

1.6. Compliance with the Minimum National Requirements for the Occupation of the Academic Position of 'Associate Professor' and with the Additional Requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy

From the Reference for compliance of the scientific, artistic and creative work with the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of 'Associate Professor' attached to the documents for the competition, as well as from the evidence, it can be seen that Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD **meets the necessary requirements**, and significantly exceeds them in some of the indicators. Documents **comply** with the additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy.

1.7. Personal Impressions

I have personal impressions of Diana Stancheva as a colleague from the Faculty of Pedagogy. She is purposeful, hardworking, and responsive, as a musician she participates in celebrations and musical performances of the faculty. She is careful and a tactful person in communication with colleagues.

2. Brief Biographical Data on the Candidate

Diana Stancheva was born in 1964. In 1987 she graduated from Higher Institute of Music, (currently Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) in the town of Plovdiv, obtaining a Master's Degree in Music Pedagogy. In 2010 she defended her dissertation work and obtained the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor of Philosophy' in the specialty 'Methodology of Teaching Music'. The candidate's work experience is in the field of music pedagogy and teaching accordion - from 1988 until now she teaches in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', passing through the degrees Assistant, Senior Assistant and Chief Assistant. She is a solo musician, music pedagogue, scientist, conductor and author of arrangements. She is the founder of the Balkan Accordion Ensemble and has published three albums with arrangements. She has received numerous honorary diplomas, diplomas and certificates for participation in music competitions and festivals.

3. General Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity

3.1. Educational and Pedagogical Activity, Preparation of the Candidate

The reference for the academic workload of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD, shows a significant lecture workload exceeding the required minimum of 45 hours in the professional field and totally 120 hours of lectures. The candidate takes a total of 10 lecture courses in various theoretical and practical disciplines of Bachelor's Degree.

She is the author of a textbook with two editions. It outlines the stages and technologies for achieving a quality tone with accordion. D. Stancheva is an excellent music pedagogue and academic teacher. Her students have participated in various national and international competitions and festivals and have received numerous awards.

3.2. Assessment of the Applicant's Scientific and Applied Research Activity

The scientific issues of Diana Stancheva are mainly focused on the methodology of teaching the musical instrument accordion, which is directly related to the professional field and specialty of the announced competition.

The monographic work ‘Artistic-Interpretative and Technical Parameters of the Accordionist’s Work over Musical Works’ is 192 pages. 48 sources are cited, 5 of which are in foreign language. At the very beginning of the text the reader is grabbed by an easy and readable style. In the first paragraph, the author poses the important issue of the performer’s principal role in the interpretation, presenting the contrasting ideological and aesthetic subjectivist and objectivist theories in an intriguing way. Stancheva analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of both theories, exploring the aesthetic foundations of the work and creativity of the music artist. The author reasonably expresses her own position, which becomes the starting point for further work in the study. In the style of writing and argumentation, in the other parts of the monograph, the applicant’s rich practical experience, her theoretical erudition, and the reflexively experienced and comprehended multilayered problems that she experiences as a researcher can be felt. This provides a right basis for Stancheva’s research in the field of artistic and interpretive issues in the work of the accordionist over the musical work.

In one of the presented studies, with her characteristic fascinating style of writing, Diana Stancheva presents historically the origin and development of the accordion as a musical instrument. The advantages and disadvantages, the peculiarities of the technical construction and sound production, as well as the proliferation of instruments preceding the accordion, are highlighted. The development of the accordion itself after its origin is discussed in detail as well. The other study raises the important question about the approach in mastering the musical performance. It substantiates the benefits of cognitive mastering of the music work when playing on accordion over the traditional approach. In the scientific articles and reports presented, the issues are focused on the methodology of teaching accordion and on the aesthetic, creative and technical issues related to this instrument. The professional reflection and experience of the author can be felt.

In summary, Diana Stancheva manages to achieve the artistic, pedagogical and scientific goals she sets. The applicant’s scientific and artistic work is of an interest and would be of benefit to both accordion teachers and students. The combination, on the one hand, of a solo musician, author of arrangements and artistic director of an accordion ensemble, and of a music pedagogue and academic teacher, on the other hand, plus being a researcher who seeks out the scientific basis of problems in her professional field, presents Diana Stancheva as a person with a high level of musical and pedagogical competence, who is self-critical, able to work over herself and with her students, improving her and their professional knowledge and skills.

3.3. Assessment of the Artistic and Creative Activity of the Applicant

Taking into account the nature of the competition, the documents related to the artistic and creative activities and achievements have particular weight in the overall complex evaluation. The evidence presented shows that the applicant is an active musician and successful music pedagogue in the field of instrumental art with numerous national and international appearances. In her concert activity, Diana Stancheva has appeared as a solo concert performer, conductor, accordion ensemble founder and artistic director. In her musical and creative activity she is the author of sheet music and musical arrangements for accordion ensembles (21), published in paper and electronic form (2 CDs). Stancheva has received a considerable number of personal awards, diplomas and certificates for participation in various national and international music competitions and festivals. In Bulgaria she

has been awarded with 6 diplomas for participation, 3 honorary diplomas and 1 certificate of appreciation, and abroad - 11 diplomas for participation, 4 certificates of appreciation, 1 contribution plaque and 1 honorary diploma (from international competitions and festivals held in 4 countries). The positive reviews of the artistic and creative activity of the applicant from Bulgaria and abroad, received in the current press, are 9 articles, 3 of which are in Bulgarian and 6 in foreign press. This data shows serious musical activity and significant public response to the candidate's performance.

3.4. Contributions and Citations

Citations of the candidate's scientific papers meet the minimum requirements. Diana Stancheva's contributions are mainly in the field of theory and practice of music pedagogy, in teaching a musical instrument and in the arrangement of works. Participating in international competitions as a solo musician, conductor and head of musical formation, Stancheva makes a real contribution to the prestige of Bulgarian culture.

Getting acquainted with the documents presenting the scientific production and artistic activity of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD I declare that ***there is no plagiarism and that they are original work of the author.*** I think that the contributions in the scientific works, in musical performances and in her music work are real. They ***are the work of the applicant and her personal merit.***

4. Critical Notes and Recommendations

As a recommendation for future work, taking into account the rich pedagogical and musical experience of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD I believe that she could successfully draw up and issue a methodological guide, presenting the most common mistakes, difficulties and challenges in teaching accordion and methods for overcoming them. It would be useful for students and in general for learners in this difficult and interesting tool.

CONCLUSION

The papers and materials submitted by Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD **meet all the requirements** of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Rules for its implementation, and the relevant Rules of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

The candidate in the competition **has submitted** a sufficient number of scientific works, published after the materials used in the defense of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor of Philosophy', which show the thoroughness and scientific approach she uses in her teaching activity. The evidence related to the artistic and creative activity, both quantitatively and qualitatively, presents us a true professional and a music pedagogue. The candidate's works have original scientific and applied contributions that have been recognized in professional circles. Many of the theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented towards teaching. For this reason my final comprehensive assessment of the overall scientific, artistic, educational and administrative activities is **positive**.

The results achieved by Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD in artistic, creative, educational and research activities completely **comply with and meet** the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Rules of the University for Implementation of the DASRBA (Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act).

After studying the materials presented for the competition, and after analyzing their significance and scientific, applied research, artistic and creative contributions, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and **recommend** to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of **Ch. Asst. Diana Ivanova Stancheva, PhD** for the academic position '**Associate Professor**' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Art (Musicology and Music Art: technological models of teaching musical instrument - accordion).

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This opinion is prepared by:

/Assoc. Prof. Metodii Angelov, PhD/