

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. **Zornitsa Dimitrova Petrova, PhD**  
Piano and Piano Accompaniment lecturer in Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts  
'Prof. Asen Diamandiev' - Plovdiv

regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for occupation of 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,

**Ch. Asst. Diana Ivanova Stancheva, PhD,**  
from the town of Plovdiv, 32 Dobrich Str.,  
lecturer in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', participates as a candidate

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 competition for occupation of 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, announced for the needs of the Department of Music within the Faculty of Pedagogy).

For the participation in the announced competition Ch. Asst. Diana Ivanova Stancheva, PhD from Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' submitted documents. She is the only candidate.

The set of materials presented by Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD in paper format complies with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' and includes the following documents:

- Application form to the Chancellor for admission to the competition;
- CV in European format;

- A copy of diploma for Master's Degree;
- A copy of diploma for educational and scientific degree 'Doctor of Philosophy', as well as all the documents required under the internal rules and regulations of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

A complete set of materials related to the candidate's research, artistic, creative and pedagogical activities was also submitted.

Diana Stancheva submitted a number of publications besides her dissertation work: 1 (one) monograph, 2 (two) studies, 1 (one) textbook, 8 (eight) articles and reports in Bulgarian and 3 (three) in foreign journals and collections. Moreover, she is also the author of arrangements for two accordions, published in a compilation of 5 pieces. Moreover, Diana Stancheva is the artistic director in the publishing of 2 CDs with original arrangements.

Reference for compliance of the candidate with the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor' is also attached.

I know Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva from our common high school years in National School of Music and Dance Arts 'Dobrin Petkov' (then called Secondary School of Music - Plovdiv). Stubborn and purposeful, she developed and profiled her distinct musical talent there. During her studies in Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 'Prof. Asen Diamandiev', in the accordion class of Assoc. Prof. Petar Marinov this process deepened even more. In 1987 Diana Stancheva was a lecturer in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'. Since then, she has a longstanding interest in the scientific foundations of teaching accordion, as well as an affinity for accordion arrangement. Contacts with professors Nikolai Kravtsov (Russia) and Jacques Morneau (France) strongly influenced her rich appearance of a concert musician and a musician seeking new methodological horizons.

In addition to her work in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', Diana's biographical reference clearly highlights her pedagogical work in National School of Music 'Lyubomir Pipkov', Sofia. Her participation in the creation of the first Bulgarian periodical for accordion culture and art 'Accordion Magic' (1988), as well as the Establishment of the Organization of Bulgarian Accordionists in 1999, should be highly appreciated. The Balkan Accordion Ensemble, founded by her - an endeavor that has earned her prestigious national and international awards, including an Honorary Diploma for Contribution to the Development of Bulgarian Culture, given by the Minister of Culture, deserves admiration.

I accept with respect the Reference of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD. She is a true reflection of a rich, diverse and ever-present scientific and artistic productivity. I am impressed by the monograph 'Artistic-Interpretative and Technical Parameters of the

Accordionist's Work over Musical Works'. The book successfully updates fundamental issues related to methodology of teaching accordion 'through the eyes of a modern pedagogue'. It successfully discovers different perspectives on basic technological problems and looks for new horizons that optimize the final artistic product. Of particular interest to me are the elaborate interpretative requirements for performance of polyphonic works related to the specificity of the accordion means of expression. The concepts of the particular possibilities of articulation, dynamics, registers and bellows operation in this instrument are truthfully presented.

As an indisputable creative contribution, I define the enclosed original transcription for accordion of the 'Prelude and Fugue in C major from 'Eight Short Preludes and Fugues' by JS Bach. Based on a detailed articulatory analysis of the original text of the work, Diana Stancheva presents her various variants and gives extremely useful guidance to the young accordion players for building true stylistic models of interpretation.

In the same set of indicators – 'C', the music for the theatrical production 'The Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents', whose author of the arrangements is Diana Stancheva, is convincingly established as an original product. In fact, the presence of such an original expression logically elevates the prestige of the attached Reference.

In the group of indicators 'D' the two main lines of activity dominate again - numerous methodological developments and in parallel with them many arrangements for accordion. 21 (twenty-one) arrangements for accordion ensembles enter the competition and concert podium, and they are issued in 2 (two) CDs. Some of them are printed in the collection 'Five Beautiful Pieces for Two Accordions'. Along with this, Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva performs as a solo and ensemble performer, conducts the Balkan Accordion Ensemble, and makes master classes in arrangement and accordion.

After examining the set of materials of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, I am fully convinced of their high scientific and applied contribution:

1. The candidate has significantly enriched the limited artistic repertoire for accordion with her original transcriptions.

2. The original transcriptions of Diana Stancheva extend the stylistic horizon of young accordion players in different eras and genres - from the Baroque to the modern Aleatory music for accordion.

3. Theoretical works of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva enrich and deepen the methodological foundations of teaching accordion. Less frequently covered topics are systematically presented, namely:

- articulation in polyphonic works;
- finger, bellows and bellows-finger expressive capabilities of the accordion.

4. The activity of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva has great applicability in

all areas of accordion practice: instrumental training, art education, concert activity.

In conclusion, I express my full conviction in the importance of the scientific and applied contributions contained in the overall activity of Ch. Asst. Diana Stancheva, PhD. The habilitation materials undoubtedly prove a high level of music and pedagogical qualification, great energy, activity and consistency in the intended professional goals.

The educational and research results of the candidate are fully in line with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' 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). That is why, I find it reasonable, fully convinced, to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Ch. Asst. Diana 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).

5 August 2019  
Plovdiv

This opinion is prepared by:  
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