

## **REVIEW**

**for holding the academic position PROFESSOR  
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,  
professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ...  
(Music Teaching Methodology)**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Viktorova Burdeva is applying for the position of PROFESSOR of Music Teaching Methodology at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski",. She applies a set of documents that serve to confirm her readiness and competence for the announced position.

After graduating at the Plovdiv Music School with a degree in violin, she studied at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts where she graduated with a degree in Music Pedagogy, and later became a part-time doctoral student at the Academy. Since 1987 she teaches at Plovdiv University, where she passed all levels of the academic hierarchy and since 2001 she is an associate professor. In 1997 she acquired the scientific degree "Doctor". Logically, since 2007 she is the head of the Department of Music at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Plovdiv University.

Impressive are the administrative positions, research and team projects led by Assoc. Prof. Burdeva, which she has been carrying out since the time when she was assistant profesor.

The candidate fully meets the minimum national requirements. The topics of the attached publications are impressive - especially the topic of the defended doctoral thesis - "Understanding music by preschool children".

I think that not only this topic, but also the habilitation work "Methodology of music education in preschool age" developed by Assoc. Prof. Burdeva are extremely relevant today. We should not forget that a number of

our culturologists from the recent past as Academician Andrey Stoyanov, in addition to his active work as a piano teacher, emphasizes the exceptional importance of music in the future development of the spiritual world of adolescents. A continuation of this idealistic philosophy, updated with modern world conditions, is the candidate's book, published in 2000 "Philosophical and psychological aspects of the art of music."

Important in the scientific biography of the candidate is the published habilitation thesis "Methodology of music education in preschool age" and the publications presented in the context of this topic, which are of significant scientific interest: "The Drama Game in Preschool Music Education", "Musical perception in preschool and empathy" (published in peer-reviewed edition), as well as articles presented in unreferred but peer-reviewed journals or published in collective volumes - "Children, Music, Fairy Tales", in the collection of scientific articles "20 years Pedagogical Faculty - PU" Paisii Hilendarski ", "The competence of music teachers at the elementary schools ", as well as many other publications mentioned in the reference (the reference for meeting the national requirements).

I would like to summarize all topics of the publications with the conclusion that they are extremely useful for the musical development of adolescents. A very hot topic is the role of music in the lives of young people and the right way to achieve greater involvement of children in secondary schools. I think that this topic offers an opportunity for research by a specialist who is directly involved in this type of activity, but at the academic level.

In this regard, the "Self-assessment of the scientific contributions" presented in the documentation is especially useful, which specifies and systematizes the personal vision of Assoc. Prof. Burdeva for her contribution as a specialist in methodology. She sets out several main areas of her scientific interest. I would focus on "Optimizing music activities - perception, performance and composition of music" and "Innovative technologies in music

education". It is a fact that the word "innovative" has been overused lately, but in this particular case, I think it is formulated absolutely accurately and on the spot. The candidate further develops in the Self-Assessment the main points of her contribution to the methodology of music education.

I would like to lay stress on a few more important ones - consideration of basic concepts such as "*artistic meaning, musical meaning, artistic logic, musical logic, interpretation, encoding and decoding of musical information, artistic empathy, etc.*", "*pedagogical technology for listening to music based on didactic tasks aimed at differentiated perception of musical-expressive means, which aims to understand the logic in the construction of the **musical-artistic image***".

I use italics to emphasize the most important of the set didactic tasks, namely the musical-artistic image. The differentiated perception of the means of expression puts at the center the dramaturgy of the musical work, or as Assoc. Prof. Burdeva summarizes the "**logic in construction**". An important contribution is the established system for vocal training. The modern Bulgarian school and the presence of music as a subject of study, suffers the most serious criticism that it does not teach children to sing, which is the most important moment of the musical language. When words are not enough, one sings. But in order to be able to intone properly, the professional approach contributes to the formation of the most basic musical qualities. In this regard, Assoc. Prof. Burdeva systematizes "*the importance of the song repertoire, the methods for forming singing habits, the reasons for inaccurate intonation and the methods for their elimination. The specifics of preschool singing have been clarified.*" And hence the innovative techniques to quickly achieve this difficult goal - "*game motivation and the application of game techniques with a visual-active and emotional nature.*" Again, a contribution-based approach is applied, which creates the much needed connection between child and music psychology based on the natural needs of the age groups.

In addition to everything studied so far, the candidate emphasizes *"musical-creative and improvisational activities as an integral part of children's musical education" with "prerequisites for activating interest in the art of music and stimulating the development of musical hearing."* I would like to emphasize the role of these important *"forms of work that stimulate children's creative abilities in their participation in both performing activities and in the perception of music."* They turn music into a living spiritual activity.

In order to go deeper into the intonation nature of music, *"The pedagogical technologies for activating the musical abilities - fricative and metrorhythmic sense have been studied."* And the aim is to *"create auditory-visual-motor representations of the basic forms of division and grouping of tonal durability and the two main metric forms (two-time and three-time)".* Assoc. Prof. Burdeva's research also emphasizes other important for the young generation "steps" that connect *"musical art and inclusive education"*, this often neglected but very important link between the cognitive value of the modern educational system (where the role of technical awareness is predominant) and the emotional world (in which music plays a leading role) and *"inclusive pedagogical technologies that have an emotionally positive effect and create emotional satisfaction"*.

In addition to the theoretical guidance of the research, the study focuses on the practical training of music teachers at the beginning of the new century - *"A methodological system of teaching tasks for acquiring professional pedagogical training in students (future music teachers) is created."* The connection with the real system of education, in which the music teacher must intrigue his graduates tempted by the virtual world, is one of the main challenges to modern music methodology and it requires significant interdisciplinary knowledge and practical skills that need to be well updated.

In this respect, Assoc. Prof. Burdeva deserves attention and congratulations, as a project manager for the initiative to create "*textbooks and teaching aids for preschool age, in line with the new regulatory requirements of the adopted State Educational Standard for Preschool Education (2016)*." Thus, the research in question does not remain isolated, but on the contrary - maximally related to the ongoing processes in Bulgarian education and the pursuit of a single educational standard. Supported with rich musical material are the developed "*methodological models of music situations for 1st - 4th group of kindergarten*".

In summary, the candidate highlights the most important steps of communication between the young generation and music, namely - "*pedagogical technologies in the development of educational content*", which make the world of music more accessible to young people and open to them the real world of emotional inclusion.

In the well-arranged documents with probative value of the candidate, the extensive (27 pages) annotation to her scientific works also makes an impression. Directly related to the just presented content of the methodological concept of Assoc. Prof. Burdeva, they impress with the clear specifics of the presented facts. One of the leading thoughts in the monograph "*Methodology of music education in preschool age*" is about the role of music in the formation of true aesthetic taste and style sense - "*If the life experience of a preschool child includes an understanding of how different can be music, at a later age it will be able to develop criteria for beautiful and ugly, artistic and anti-artistic, original and banal, valuable and transient.*"

The irreplaceable place of the more thorough work on music is emphasized - "*Preschool music lessons aim to reveal those aspects of music that would remain a secret for children outside the learning process.*" Words especially relevant in today's reality, which has almost forgotten the role of art and in particular - music. And hence the connection with the formation of aesthetic taste - "*a social phenomenon, which is why it is subject to education*

*and improvement. The quality of aesthetic information from an early age, as well as the contact with artistic values, plays an important role.* ” The development of an adequate methodology for preschool children, based on the clear goal formulated above, is a serious achievement of the candidate, and in the same direction she has prepared more serious scientific papers - "*The Drama Game in Music Education in Preschool Age*" and "*Philosophical and psychological aspects of the art of music*" (a broader and more in-depth study, subject of interdisciplinary analysis). In addition to these books (monographs), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burdeva presents many articles in various scientific journals concerning the role of music in our world and especially the world of the child, the readiness of the music teacher to work in secondary school with a view to "*forming the musical interests of the young generation* ”, the important task of educating adequate musical and aesthetic taste in this age group. The latter is especially important during the 30-year disintegration of the normal sound environment in Bulgaria and the complete profanation of a number of layers of the young generation, which does not even know about the existence of classical and established over the years quality pop music. The acute problem of reducing the teaching hours of music is considered, which deepens the negative trends and the influence of the art of music as an expression of spirituality is significantly reduced.

It is difficult to list all the thematic aspects of the numerous studies reflected in the candidate's articles, but I will outline another one - "*Music therapy and the mental well-being of the elderly*".

The contemporary Bulgarian reality is oriented primarily towards the PHYSICAL survival of the elderly. Engaging in music therapy to improve what is most important to older people - their mental comfort - is an activity even more important than meeting their basic needs. The increasing number of cases of dementia in recent years is directly influenced by music, as a means of calming and improving the condition of patients. This is completely logical,

because music is one of the highest spheres of influence emotionally and spiritually - *"In people with dementia, music therapy achieves the following results: patients gain a sense of control over their lives, improve their memory, observe positive mood swings, reduces their feeling of discomfort or pain, creates opportunities for communication with others, strengthens their sense of identity."* A completely up-to-date article, the fruit of a highly erudite scientist, such as Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burdeva, who strives to cover all the possibilities of music in methodological, educational and therapeutic terms.

Summarized as participation in scientific forums, the candidate's activity is significant - symposia, scientific conferences and seminars in almost all universities in the country - Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Sofia, Stara Zagora, etc., appearances abroad - Greece, Albania. Not only as a number, but also as a thematic interest, the scientific reports are impressive.

The documents she presents in the competition for a professor at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" are extremely well completed and meet all the requirements of the Law For The Development Of Academic Staff In The Republic Of Bulgaria. They fully reflect the many years of in-depth work of a truly dedicated scientist in the art of music and give her a well-deserved high academic position, which in my opinion is even overdue.

Based on everything reflected as indisputable qualities in this review, I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. TANIA VIKTOROVA BURDEVA the academic position "PROFESSOR" in the professional field 1.3. "Pedagogy of teaching ....." at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

Sofia, 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

Prof. Rostislav Jovchev, PhD