

## OPINION

**by Prof. Vessela Ivanova Geleva, PhD** - Professor of Choral Conducting at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv

**for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Viktorova Burdeva** - candidate for the announced competition on the basis of Art. 3, Paragraph 1 of the Law For The Development of Academic Staff In The Republic of Bulgaria for the occupation of the academic position PROFESSOR in the Area of Higher Education **1. Pedagogical sciences**, Professional Area **1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching ...** (Music Teaching Methodology) at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Burdeva graduated from the Music School in the City of Plovdiv / now National School of Music and Dance art "Dobrin Petkov" / with specialty violin. She received her Masters degree at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, where she also completed a part-time doctorate at the Department of Music Pedagogy with a dissertation on "Understanding music by preschool children."

She worked as a violin teacher at the School of Arts, Kardzhali, a music teacher at the English Language School in Plovdiv, and since 1987 she has been an assistant professor at the University of Plovdiv "P. Hilendarski". Since 2001 she is an associate professor of Methodology of Music Education, since 2007 - Head of the Department of Music at the Faculty of Pedagogy. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burdeva is an established pedagogical specialist-supervisor of successfully defended doctoral students. She participated in a number of research projects and was invited to be a member of expert groups at the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency. Her research activities include a number of scientific publications in specialized scientific journals; monographs; textbooks and teaching aids for students and preschool children; participation in international and national scientific forums; participation in educational and research projects; management of bachelor's and master's degree graduates; management of doctoral students; reviews.

The materials presented by T. Burdeva are impressive in terms of volume and content and comprehensively present her long-standing teaching, scientific and organizational activities in its diversity and completeness. Her research interests include various methodological problems of music education in preschool and school age, ways to optimize music activities - perception, performance and composition of music, the use of innovative technologies in music education of children and innovations in student education. She is teaching Music Teaching Methodology.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burdeva is the author of 3 monographs: "Methodology of music education in preschool age", "The Drama Game in Music Education in Preschool Age" and "Philosophical and Psychological Aspects of Music Art". In the materials presented for participation in the competition she mentions the first of them as a habilitation thesis. The book is dedicated to the methodology of conducting musical activities in preschool age and pedagogical technologies for activating musical abilities. In the current conditions of media invasion with products of poor quality and zero artistic value, preschool music lessons aim to

reveal those aspects of music that outside the learning process would remain unknown or underestimated. Music education at school should create an alternative, helping to form the taste and aesthetic criteria inherent in true art, and this is impossible without the competent and professional intervention of the music teacher. In this sense, the work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burdeva is an extremely valuable guide for the teacher-musician, because it touches in detail the specifics and methodology of the main components of music school education: performance and perception of music, emotional empathy, logical understanding of the musical process, development of the imagination, improvisation, co-creation, etc.

The second monograph "The Drama Game in Music Education in Preschool Age" examines the syncretic music education - music, literature, dance and theater. The inclusion of the game components (figurative speech, expressive movements combined in action etc.) in music lessons, makes it an effective means of activating the musical perception and creates an emotional depth in the contact with music art.

The concepts of artistic and musical meaning, artistic logic and musical logic, interpretation, coding and decoding of musical information, artistic empathy etc. are considered in "Philosophical and Psychological Aspects of Music Art". The author holds a view that a thorough understanding and interpretation of the art of music is the result of interconnections and parallels with other arts, psychology and philosophy.

In the section with scientific publications, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burdeva presents 21 articles and reports published in refereed and non-refereed scientific journals on various topics: musical perception and empathy, formation of musical and aesthetic taste of students, therapeutic power of music in the lives of older adults, integration of music with other arts in order to activate the musical perception, pedagogical technology for listening to music in primary school, vocal work in preschool age, etc. Each of the problems considered in the articles is analyzed in detail, with deep knowledge and is supported by evidence and personal experience. The number of citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review is also impressive - 20 in number.

In addition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burdeva is a participant and leader of 8 scientific and educational projects on various topics: "Influence of the modern intonation environment on the musical interests of pupils in primary and lower secondary school", "Chalga-culture and its impact on the formation of the moral values of the pupils", "Improvement of the quality of the general education", "Development of the artistic culture of the pupils and students", "Inclusive education", etc.

Impressive in terms of volume and content is the list of published textbooks and methodological manuals for teachers, children knowledge books and teaching aids. The educational content in them is presented attractively and fascinatingly, with a sense of psychology and a sensitivity to the needs of the child. The musical material is diverse and well-balanced, provoking interest and creative initiative, which ensures its optimal assimilation by children. The methodical instructions for the teacher are detailed, but without limiting him in his individual pedagogical approach. The emphasis on game technologies and

variants of different situations gives the textbooks attractiveness and pedagogical efficiency. Impressive is the emphasis on children's creative activity and its stimulation through connections with other arts - literature, dance, fine arts, theater and more. Such an approach creates a qualitatively different musical education, marked by high emotional empathy, intellectual and creative activity and self-expression of children.

Summarizing the scientific contributions of the candidate, the following should be highlighted:

- Essential characteristics of the musical perception and the connection with the concepts are presented: artistic meaning, musical meaning, artistic logic, musical logic, interpretation, coding and decoding of musical information, artistic empathy, etc. Pedagogical technology has been developed for the formation of the ability to listen with understanding.

- A pedagogical technology for listening to music has been developed, 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. The author describes the available analytical actions through which the differentiated perception of the elements of the musical language is realized.

- The tasks of vocal training in children, the importance of the song repertoire, the methods for forming singing habits, the reasons for inaccurate intonation and the methods for their elimination, the methodology of learning a song, etc. are clarified.

- The thesis about the musical-creative and improvisational activities as an integral part of the musical education of the children is defended. Forms of work are proposed, which stimulate the creative abilities of the children in their participation both in the performing activities and in perceiving music.

- The pedagogical technologies for activating the musical abilities - mode and metrorhythmic sense are studied. Specific pedagogical technologies have been developed for the development of the musical abilities of preschool children. Available didactic technologies, creating a visual image of the melody and activating the musical-auditory notions, are also considered.

- Didactic technology has been developed for application of the game components of the drama game in the musical education of preschool children in order to activate the musical perception. Practical-applied pedagogical technologies with elements of drama game have been developed, in order to have a deeper understanding of the works of musical art and to form an empathic ability to immerse oneself in the artistic image.

-A study of the musical interests of students from first to eighth grade has been carried out. The study sheds light on the role of music education and optimization of the educational process and others.

My personal impressions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Burdeva are related to joint academic work on scientific procedures and direct communication. She is an extremely tolerant and ethical person with a high degree of professional motivation and personal responsibility - qualities that make her a valuable colleague and teacher.

In conclusion, I would like to note, that the materials provided under the procedure, prove indisputable achievements in the field of pedagogical and scientific activity.

I strongly support the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tanya Burdeva and propose to the distinguished Scientific Jury to confer on her the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education. **1. Pedagogical sciences**, Professional Area **1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching ...** (Music Teaching Methodology) at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

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