

REVIEW

by Prof. TANYA VIKTOROVA BOURDEVA, PhD

PU „Paisii Hilendarski“, Faculty of Pedagogy
of the materials submitted for participation in a
competition for taking the academic position
“Associate Professor”
in Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

in: area of higher education 8. Arts

professional trend 8.3 the Art of music and dance

(history of music)

General overview of the received materials

With an order № RD-21-74 dated 18.01.2023 of the Rector of “Paisii Hilendarski” Plovdiv University I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury of a competition for taking the academic position of ”Associate Professor” in PU in the area 8.3 The Art of Music and Dance (history of music), announced for the needs of the Department of Music in the Faculty of Pedagogy (State Gazette, issue 92 dated 18.11.2022 and on the internet page of the “Paisii Hilendarski” Plovdiv Univeristy).”

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Marinova Hvarkata, PhD from “Paisii Hilendarski” submitted documents for taking part in the competition.

The set of materials, on paper and electronically, submitted by Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Marinova Hvarkata complies with the Regulations for developing the academic staff of PU “Paisii Hilendarski” and includes:

- Application to the Rector for admission to the competition
- CV – European format
- Higher-education diploma – Master
- List of research works
- List of citations
- Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements
- Annotations of the research works in Bulgarian
- Annotations of the research works in English
- Self-assessment of scientific contributions
- Declaration for originality and credibility
- Certificate of work experience

- Documents on teaching activity
- Documents on research activity
- Documents on artistic-and-creative activity
- Copies of research works

The candidate Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Marinova Hvarkata, PhD has enclosed 37 research works altogether: 2 monographs, a book on the ground of a defended dissertation paper, 4 treatises, 28 scientific articles out of which 23 in Bulgarian, 4 in English, 1 in Russian and 2 academic manuals for students.

Brief data from CV

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Marinova Hvarkata, PhD graduated “Pancho Vladigerov” NAM in 1988, majoring in Musicology and Choir conducting and specialization in “History of music”. From 1987 to 1988 she worked as a conductor of a children’s choir and a men’s vocal group in the town of Etropole. In 1988 she started work in PU “Paisii Hikendarski” as an assistant in a musical instrument (piano). In 2010 she acquired the educational-and-scientific degree “doctor”. Currently she teaches various musical disciplines in the musical specialties in the Faculty of Pedagogy.

General characteristics of the candidate

Assessment of the teaching-and-pedagogical activity

Chief Assist. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD has rich pedagogical experience and long years of lecturing in the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv. She teaches in the bachelor programs “Music”, “Pedagogy of performing art, “Jazz and pop performing art” and in the master programs “Leading vocal and instrumental groups” and “Musical performing art”. Doctor Hvarkata gives lectures, seminars and practical exercises in “History of Bulgarian music”, “Harmony”, “Harmony with arrangement”, “Piano”, “Musical accompaniment”, “Conducting”, “Musical analysis”, “Musical genres and forms”, “Stylistic trends in music” and others. Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD is the author of academic programs in disciplines from the curricula of separate specialties. She has put in a lot of work and professional competence as a pedagogue in her academic-and-teaching activity – a fact I evaluate immensely.

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata has taken part in **nine scientific and educational projects**.

The academic pedagogical experience, the carried out **academic-and-pedagogical activity and the project work** done by Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD meet completely the criteria for taking the academic position of *Assistant Professor*.

Assessment of the research and research-and-applied activity of the candidate

The research and research-and-applied activity of Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD meets the respective administrative requirements for taking part in the competition for “Associate

Professor” – she has written plenty of research publication: monographs, treatises, articles, reports and manuals.

The main monograph work and the remaining ones, submitted for review, have high quality and are directly oriented to the research and teaching work. The scientific output outlines interesting areas for theoretic-and-applied researches in the field of aspects that are significant for the professional trend.

Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata’s scholarly-and-research activity comprises 2 monographs, a book on the ground of defended dissertation paper, 4 treatises, 28 research articles and two manuals for students. All of them are made and published after acquiring the scientific-and-educational degree “PhD” and are actually part of the set of issues of PT 8.

3. The science-and-measuring indicators of Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD exceed the minimum national requirements.

MONOGRAPHS

The monograph “**Dobri Hristov’s secular music. Genres, topics, issues**” is presented as the basic habilitation paper. By large, as a contribution one could define the thorough analysis of D. Hristov’s works which contributes for outlining the place of D. Hristov’s secular music in the flow of the general musical-and-historical process of Bulgarian musical culture. This for sure is important because among the first Bulgarian composers indisputably Dobri Hristov’s name stands out mostly. In the modern global world where cultural boundaries and differences lose their outlines even more, the opposite tendency starts having an essential importance. This tendency refers to the strive to preserve one’s national identity. That is why the realization of the role and significance of one of the first Bulgarian composers who lay the foundations of Bulgarian professional music after the Liberation in 1878, has a particularly relevant importance. Chief Assist. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD has used her own analyses, thoughts and evaluations, before doing it she got acquainted in detail with the works tracing the D. Hristov’s life and creative activity. They have been used as the starting point for new scholarly conclusions and summaries. Thus, Hvarkata’s work acquires the sense of contribution and significance in elaborating the specifics and details which add and explain more what is not revealed and said.

The basic criterion on the ground of which the immediate analysis of D. Hristov’s works is made is reviewing them according to genre. There the author provides a comment also on some issues specific for the respective genres.

The start of the monograph deals with the two small pieces for singing “Lilyana pretty maid” and “These maids from Zheravna”. The subject of the analysis is the relation between the compilation and the synthesis in this particular genre which is typical for our music after the

Liberation in 1878. In it the two pieces present a focal point. The analysis of the set of expressions is oriented to clarifying to what degree the composer manages to reach above the compilation character of the genre in his strive for artistic synthesis.

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata emphasizes on the composer's strive to unite the contrastingly compared songs in a single artistic entity by bringing out the following particularities: common topic of the songs, intonational similarity, availability of transitions, use of imitational technique and a coda with summarizing functions. The essential conclusion at the end of the analysis is that the compilation beginning is present in these works together with the achievements for connecting and integrating the parts in an artistic unity; however, "Lilyana pretty maid" and "These maids from Zheravna" are an inseparable part of the repertoire of modern choirs, thus of the Bulgarian cultural memory.

Most attention in the monograph is drawn to choral songs defined as "the essence" of D. Hristov's secular music.

The author's very good decision is to pay attention to the issue of systematization. Before approaching the particular song analyses, Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD has reviewed the possible criteria on the ground of which D. Hristov's songs can be categorized into separate groups: type of rhythms and intonation, function, character and content, closeness to a folk source and folklore area they are associated with. The comment on the various principles of systematization casts a kind of preliminary general glance at D. Hristov's pieces for singing and outlines the framework of the detailed analyses that follow.

The selection of the songs analysed complies with the popularity of the songs and their artistic value, as for the sequence in which songs are reviewed, the systematic approach is chosen. The particular systematically separated groups of songs are: **1/** those meant for concert practice (lifestyle, lifestyle-and-humour, lifestyle-and-lyrical, lifestyle-and-ritualistic, epic, slogan-songs); **2/** with particular social purpose (military, patriotic hymns, children and school songs).

All analyses are exceptionally detailed: lyrics, musical means, structure, form-making principles, mode-and-intonation and metre-and-rhythm particularities and others. In them one can easily see the thorough professionalism they are made with. These analyses could benefit both musicologist-theoreticians and performers, conductors and others. If Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata's analyses are read carefully, this could contribute for enriching the interpretation and the performing image of D. Hristov's songs.

The last songs reviewed in the monograph are the ballad "Dobrinka and the sun" and the fugue "Tenka Dafino" – two major works of D. Hristov which are the fruit of his mature creative years. Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD traces the way an established composer's experience in

the sphere of secular choral music is applied in these two new genres both for the author and for Bulgarian music.

Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Hvarkata's skill to summarize, speculate, emphasize on what is important and characteristic is revealed also at the end of the monograph. Conclusions are made, explained is the most significant about genres, the scope of themes, the specific characteristics of the topics, the forms, the language of harmony and the used polyphonic means in Dobri Hristov's secular choral music. Thus, the book acquires the image of a rich, original, thorough and specialized research work.

The second monograph **“Aspects of the form and genre in the works of Simeon Pironkov”** is dedicated to the works of a Bulgarian composer with serious achievements in Bulgarian music. True to her scholarly instinct, Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD is again attracted by the unknown and unstudied. Most of the reviewed works do even have scores – their note text exists only on manuscript. Due to her strong desire to study the works of this unique composer, Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD has managed to receive the trust of the composer who has provided her with the original scores so that she can make the musicological analysis of this colourful music. This in itself is already a significant contribution – an analysis is made of seven large works, which suggests a lot of effort, thorough knowledge in the field of music-and-theory sciences and significant practice-and-applied skills. Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Hvarkata defines the perception of some of S. Pironkov's works as “magic” and “an exciting adventure”. This speaks about her special interest in this type of music and thus about the skill for “insight” and “immersion” in the artistic world of the works – the aesthetic perception is not only a passive act of penetration in the work itself, it is also an interaction with it; the subject who perceives is a part of a multi-stage creative process. “For the sympathetic listener, who is “immersed” in experiencing the work the detailed tracing of a constantly changing night picture is exceptionally exciting – it reminds one of a theatre of shades in which even the smallest movement provokes new and even newer imagery associations”. The last is a quotation from the pages on “Night music”. The description of the subjective experience is followed and “underlined” by a rational analysis of the logics in making the form which Hvarkata defines as unconventional and worth remembering.

The interpretations and analyses of all seven works – typical for various genre spheres, are made with significant sense for detail and nuances. They make the text both a scholarly and interesting modern reading.

The third book **“Youth's album” opus 68 by Robert Schumann. Stylistic-and-interpretative and pedagogical issues**” is published on the ground of a defended dissertation paper. The study outlines Schumann's typical stylistic marks that are also present in “Youth's

album”. The author traces how the function of the work of being meant for children influences the appearance of general regularities. There are viewed the interpretation issues and the incurred pedagogical ones.

TREATISES

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD is the author of four treatises and each of them meets to full extent the definition of this genre – a research work in which for the basic subject for study a significant issue is chosen and it is studied by the author to a considerable degree.

Three of the treatises are dedicated to one of the most significant pieces in the works of Dobri Hristov with essential musical-and-historical importance. They contribute to the place of the “musical bouquet” (a musical genre comprising a series of contrastive in character and multi-voiced harmonized folk songs), the ballad and the fugue in the composer’s secular choral music.

The treatise **“Dobri Hristov’s choral ballad “Dobrinka and the sun”. Artistic value and historical significance”** answers the questions about the compositional particularities and the artistic value of the piece. The latter has never been published. Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD points out that the work with the score was possible only by scanning the copy, available in D. Hristov’s archives in BAC since the original in the music library of “Gousla” choir is lost. Overcoming the objective difficulties, she has made a detailed analysis and has found significant regularities in the construction of the form: main themes and a sequence of their development, main imagery spheres, alternating epic and lyrical themes, introduction of a new theme with dance character in part eight, turning back to the sequence “epic - tragic” in the last six parts, compositional decision for reaching the culmination and so on. The conclusion is that the structure of “Dobrinka and the sun” stands out with a good inner balance that helps to perceive it as a single artistic unity despite the numerous comprising parts; one can also conclude that apart from historical, the ballad has essential artistic merits as well.

The treatise **“Dobri Hristov’s “Tenka Dafino” – the first fugue in Bulgarian professional music”** is dedicated to the strive for adopting genres that are well-established in European music, together with using the folk-type set of themes in the respective forms and genres.

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD has presented first a number of analyses of this work, made by other musicologists, then she has created her own viewpoint on the worth of the piece. She has analysed the fugue theme, the connection between lyrics and musical structure, the polyphonic techniques used in the work, the processional development of the form with thorough insight into every single detail. On this ground she has made the well-based conclusion that the work is a masterfully built fugue with the typical for the format continuity of the musical thought, saturated with various polyphonic techniques for multi-voiced rationalization of the Bulgarian folk song. The general conclusion is that besides historical value, the work also has significant

artistic qualities.

The last published treatise is titled **“Realizing oratorical genre in Simeon Pironkov’s “The life of sinful Sofroniya”. Specifics of the synthesis word – music. Particularities of form”**. It is the longest and is dedicated to one of the composer’s greatest works. In it the author studies Pironkov’s interpretation of the oratorical genre, in which traditional and modern elements are elaborated through the prism of his unique author’s concept. Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD has emphasized on Pironkov’s original interpretation of the artistic form. She reviews the whole complex of factors that build the dramaturgical development: the leading role of text in the synthesis word-music, the libretto, the roles, the performers, the importance of the mini-episode as a basic structural entity of the form and others.

All treatises once again confirm the ascertainment that Chief. Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD strives for maximum “unravelling” of the researched issues by looking into as many details as possible, she interprets them thoroughly so that she has the ground then to make the essential conclusions.

ARTICLES

Chief. Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD is the author of 28 articles. Part of those study pedagogical issues in combination with stylistic and theoretical analyses of particular musical works. Another part concern Havrkata’s special interest in the way this synthesis is made between words and music in totally different works in respect to artistic concept – those of S. Pironkov, L. Pipkov and M. Goleminov. The third group of articles reviews and studies general aesthetic and music-and-history issues, by having in mind the works of R. Schumann, P. Tchaikovski, R. Wagner and Cl. Debussy. The guidelines mentioned are only a small part of all topics covered in the articles. By large, their significance lies in the year-long scholarly and pedagogical experience shared by the author.

ACADEMIC MANUALS

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata’s (PhD) pedagogical experience is defended successfully in the two manuals “Bulgarian music culture. A collection of texts” and “Theory of music. Tests” which benefit and help the students she teaches in the disciplines “History of Bulgarian music”, “Harmony” and “Harmony with arrangement”.

Contributions and citations

I accept the contributions formulated by the candidate. In Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata’s research works there transpire thorough knowledge in the field of music-and-theoretical sciences and significant practical-and-applied skills. Essential contribution lies in her research works which study the works of two great Bulgarian composers from different generations – Dobri Hristov and Simeon Pironkov.

The habilitation paper, three treatises and a number of articles are dedicated to D. Hristov. The monograph is the first specialized study which deals, namely with D. Hristov's secular choir music by viewing in detail and nuances the specifics of the set of themes, harmonious language, polyphonic technique, making the form and others. The three treatises enrich essentially the analyses of significant works such as the two "musical bouquets" "Lilyana pretty maid" and "These maids from Zheravna", the choral ballad "Dobrinka and the sun" and the choral fugue "Tenka Dafino". The treatise dedicated to the unpublished piece "Dobrinka and the sun" is an immense contribution. The study can contribute for stimulating the desire and attempts for performing it. If the piece starts to be performed, it will find its deserved place and will be situated in the context of the thorough musical-and-historical process in Bulgaria.

Both in the monograph and the treatise dedicated to S. Pironkov, as well as in a number of articles, some of his most significant works are analysed. The conclusions made in them in respect to significant particularities of the form and genre, are important because of their contribution.

In a large part of the articles the element of contribution lies in the search for a connection between performance, interpretation and musical pedagogy in the context of the aesthetic reasoning of the performed works and realising their place in the process of music and history.

Като доказателство са приложени всички цитиращи публикации.

The **citations** noticed are 10 altogether – 4 in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 6 in non-referenced journals with scientific review. The part of the *Reference for meeting the minimum national requirements* convincingly defends Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata's scholarly searches in the respective professional trend. As a proof all citing publications are enclosed.

Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The year-long teaching and scientific activity of Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata and the outlined contributions in her research work meet the area and professional trend of the announced competition. The formulated contributions and achieved results are her own personal merit.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata meet all requirements in the Law for developing the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for applying LDASRB and the respective Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata has submitted a significant number of research

works, published after the materials, presented in defending her ESD “doctor”.

The results achieved by Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata in the teaching and research activity meet completely the minimum national and additional requirements of the Pedagogical Faculty, adopted together with the Rules of PU for applying LDASRB. After getting acquainted with the materials and research works submitted to the competition, analysing their significance and the content of scientific, scientific-and-applied and applied contributions, I find it well-grounded to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific jury to write a report-proposal to the Faculty council for electing Chief Assist. Prof. doctor Zdravka Hvarkata for the academic position ”Associate Professor” in PU “Paissii Hilendarski” in: area of higher education 8. Arts, professional trend 8.3. The art of music and dance (history of music).

17. 03. 2023 г.

Reviewer:

Prof. Tanya Bourdeva, PhD