

OPINION

**of Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova – PU
“Paisii Hilendarski”**

about the materials submitted for
participation in the competition
for taking the academic position

„Associate Professor”

of the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv

in: area of higher education 8. Art

professional trend 8.3. Art of music and dance (History of music)

In the scientific competition for “Associate Professor” declared in State Gazette, issue 92 from 18.11. 2022 and on the Internet page of the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the Department of Music as part of the Pedagogical Faculty, as a candidate there takes part **Assist. Prof. Zdravka Marinova Hvarkata**. She works in the same department in the Pedagogical Faculty of PU “Paisii Hilendarski”

1. General presentation of the candidate and the procedure

With an order of the Rector of the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv (PU) - P –21 – 74 from 18.01.2023, I was appointed an in-house member of the scientific jury for a competition for taking the academic position of “Associate Professor” in PU, in area of higher education 8. Art, professional trend 8.3. Art of music and dance (History of music). The competition was declared to meet the needs of the Department of Music as part of the Pedagogical Faculty.

The set of materials complies with the Regulations for developing the academic staff of PU and the Law for developing academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The list includes administrative documentation, CV in the European format, diplomas for EQD “Master” and for ESD “PhD”, documents for teaching activity, certificate of work experience, documents showing the candidate’s research and creative-and-artistic activity; list of citations, annotation of materials, self-assessment of contribution, reference on compliance with the minimum national requirements, declaration on originality and credibility of the enclosed scientific work. There are available copies of scientific papers – articles and reports, treatises and manuals. The monographs are submitted in paper and are available in the department.

2. General characteristics of the candidate’s activity

The CV follows the European format and shows the candidate’s extensive education.

In the course of her high education in “Dobri Hristov” HSM-Varna, Zdravka Hvarkata studied the specialty “Piano”. Later, in “Pancho Vladigerov” NAM she graduated from two master-degree programs: “The science of music” with specialty in “History of music” and “Choir conducting”. After that she graduated Law in “Kliment Ohridsky” SU, too.

In PU and its Department of Music Hvarkata started work as an Assistant Professor in 1988. She was promoted to Senior Assistant Professor and then Chief Assistant Professor in 1997.

The reference on her academic work shows that Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD delivers and makes lecture courses, as well as academic programs in various disciplines in the specialties “Pedagogy of teaching music” and “Music”- “History of Bulgarian music”; “Harmony” and “Harmony with arrangement”. Hvarkata also teaches seminars as part of these disciplines, as well as the discipline “Compulsory piano”. The overview of her teaching activity confirms the reference with the topic of the relevant academic competition.

The quantitative dimensions of the research papers for the time period since acquiring the academic title PhD till this candidacy, meet the respective administrative requirements for taking part in a competition for “Associate Professor”. From the table submitted one can easily see that according to some of the indicators the points achieved exceed several times the indicators themselves. For ex., in group D (indicators 6 - 15), there are 120 points, whereas the applicant strikes 750; in group F, with 50 points, the actual ones of the candidate are 175.

In the academic competition Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata takes part with a considerable number of research papers, published after the materials that were used when defending her EAD Doctor. The research production is accompanied by information on a dissertation doctoral paper – “Dobri Hristov’s secular choral music. Genres, topics and issues”, 2015, a monograph; a monograph which is not presented as the main dissertation paper – “Aspects of form and genre in Simeon Pironkov’s works”, 2020; a published book on the ground of the defended dissertation paper for awarding the EAD Doctor – “Robert Schumann’s Youth album, opus 68. Stylistic-

and-interpretative issues”, 2021, a monograph.

Hvarkata’s publications include a paper published in a scientific journal which is referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, from an international scientific conference held in 2022. The list of publications has 27 articles and reports published in specialized journals, all in the field of art; there are four treatises published in independent issues. Hvarkata has also published two university manuals – “Bulgarian music culture. A collection of reading texts” and “Theory of music. Tests.”, 2019.

The range of topics of the publications is various. Some articles discuss the music-and-theoretical preparation of students; theoretical issues about creating the musical image and the analysis of a music piece are covered as well. Another part of papers and articles study, analyse and compare the works of Schumann, Debussy, Richard Wagner, Chaykovsky, Dobri Hristov, Marin Goleminov, Philip Kutev, Pancho Vladigerov, Vesselin Stoyanov and Simeon Pironkov. Stylistic characteristics are studied and parallels are made between the styles of various composers. In other papers Hvarkata analyses Prof. Anna Belcheva’s conducting, as well as Petko Staynov’s pedagogical manner when analysing works of music. Hvarkata’s research interests comply with the area of the scientific competition which is a prerequisite for the successful development of the respective trend of PU Faculty of Pedagogy.

The candidate’s research papers are cited in 10 works altogether – monographs and collections with scientific referencing – 4 and 6 in non-referenced journals.

Zdravka Hvarkata has taken part in projects: 2 projects of FSR in PU, a project of the Ministry of labour and social policies and “Orpheus’ flame” Foundation; she has participated in academic spring readings as part of a national meeting of the teachers of music and in yearly scientific conference of FP.

The reference about the artistic-and-creative activity of Zdravka Hvarkata lists 5 performances – she played the piano accompanying solo-students in various events between 2015 and 2022 in the “Trakart” hall, “Apolon” hall and the Theatre hall of PU. Enclosed are posters of two of these concerts. The artistic-and-creative activity is a proof of Hvarkata’s commitment to the department and the students’ desire to perform with the support of their lecturers. Zdravka Hvarkata’s participation in

concerts together with her students confirms her academic commitment and professional attitude to her own work.

The theoretical and practical research works in the basic monograph and the remaining papers submitted review have indisputable value and are directly oriented to the academic and scholarly work. The scientific production outlines a relevant area of theoretic-and-applicable researches in the field of theory, history and methodology of teaching music. In the candidate's work there are original scientific and applicable contributions. They elaborate works and relevant issues which would be of interest for listeners and performers, and, as the candidate says in the foreword to one of the treatises, "we have to create our own opinion and have a direct impression of the works' worth". I think that it is exactly this personal attitude and expressed personal opinion and position that are the real worth of the Hvarkata's research papers. Of course, they are the result of her thorough knowledge and previous studies.

The dissertation paper is her first own study of the specific characteristics of Dobri Hristov's choral music which outlines its own place in the Bulgarian music culture. Through her research works the candidate successfully defends her pedagogical contribution to the professional trend and this is an indisputable ground for her application in the competition.

To my assessment of the scientific, artistic-and-creative and academic work of Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata I could add my own impressions from my professional contacts with her. I think that my colleague is a personality of various interests and erudition. Without any doubt, her students could tap on a lot of experience and knowledge based on her professionalism.

CONCLUSION

The professional qualification of Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata is indisputably confirmed by the materials for her artistic-and creative, research and teaching activity. All materials submitted for opinion **meet** the requirements of the Law for developing the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (LDACRB), the Regulations for applying LDACRB and the respective Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". There is submitted enough number of research papers published after

the materials used in defending the ESD “doctor”. There are original scientific and applicable contributions in the candidate’s works. The achieved results completely comply with the minimum national requirements.

After getting acquainted with the materials and research work submitted in the competition, analysis of their significance and their contributions, I find it well-grounded **to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to make a report-proposal to the Faculty council of the Pedagogical faculty for electing Chief Assist. Zdravka Marinova Hvarkata to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in PU “Paisii Hilendarski” in professional trend 8.3. Art of music and dance (History of music).**

10.03.2023

Opinion made by:

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PhD