

**OPINION**  
**of Prof. Biser Iliev Damyanov, PhD**  
concerning the materials provided for  
participating in a scientific competition  
for taking the academic position of  
**„Associate Professor“**  
in **„Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv**

in: area of higher education 8. Art

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

### **1. Data on the competition**

In the scientific competition for “associate professor”, officially opened in State Gazette, issue 92/18.11.2022 and the internet page of “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv, for the goals of the Department of Music as part of the university Faculty of Pedagogy there takes part Zdravka Marinova Hvarkata. There are no breaches made in carrying out the necessary procedures for holding the competition.

Zdravka Hvarkata has submitted all necessary documentation for taking part in the competition, **in compliance with the state regulatory requirements**, which comprise the candidate’s research and teaching activity.

### **2. Data on the applicant**

Zdravka Hvarkata graduated her higher education in 1988 in the National Academy of Music-Sofia.

From 1988 until today she has been working under a work contract in the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv (assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant professor) in the Department of music as part of the Faculty of Pedagogy.

In 2011 she acquired the education-and-academic doctoral degree in the academic specialty 05.08.02 “Musicology and the art of music” after defending a dissertation paper titled “Robert Schumann’s piano repertory for children. Stylistic-and-interpretation and pedagogical aspects”.

### **3. Description of research papers**

For the scientific competition Zdravka Hvarkata has submitted 35 research works altogether:

- monographs – 3;
- treatises – 3;

- articles, papers – 28, one of them was published in English;
- manual (collection of papers) – 1.

Most of the publications follow the code of the competition.

The monograph “Dobri Hristov’s secular choral music. Genres, topics, issues” is the first independent research of the secular music of this author, where its place in the Bulgarian music culture is outlined with significant argumentation.

The monograph “Aspects of the form and genre in the works of Simeon Pironkov”, on the ground of reviewing this author’s works, Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD, outlines the regularities in the form and genre in the works of S. Pironkov. The book “Robert Schumann’s Youth album, opus 68” was done on the ground of Hvarkata’s doctoral dissertation paper.

Zdravka Hvarkata submits 3 treatises and 28 articles and papers which took part in various scientific conferences, incl. international ones, published in scientific journals.

I am going to mention some of the articles that made an impression on me:

Part of the articles basically comment on theoretical issues of music: the analysis of the musical piece, the leading dramaturgical principals of R. Wagner’s works, the specifics of the synthesis of word and music, genre as a metaphor, the factors acting in building the musical imagery, the piano piece and its interpretation.

One should mention also the comments related to the works of composers like Simeon Pironkov, Dobri Hristov, Marin Goleminov, Philip Koutev, Pancho Vladigerov, Veselin Stoyanov, Claude Debussy and Richard Wagner.

Another part of Hvarkata’s articles focus on issues of teaching: teaching choral conducting, the analysis of music pieces in teaching music, the discipline “Compulsory piano and music preparation of students”, innovative capabilities in teaching music.

Zdravka Hvarkata’s publications are done by use of concise scientific language. The author adds correct and precise citations. Her writing is clear, understandable and interesting. Besides their contribution for the science of music, Hvarkata’s monographs have another value as well – they could play the role of teaching manuals in the field of teaching music.

#### **4. Scientific contribution**

In the reference about her own contribution Zdravka Hvarkata has presented mainly abstracts of her works rather than *clearly outlining* the contribution of these works. By large, the suggested contribution lie in the areas of history of music and teaching music.

To my mind, in compliance with the code of the competition, the more important aspects of contribution lie in her publications concerning Dobri Hristov and Simeon Pironkov’s works, especially her doctoral dissertation paper about Dobri Hristov’s music. The paper is actually the first ever independent

research of the secular music of this author.

## 5. Teaching activity

Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata, PhD, has a long teaching practice as an assistant in the Department of “Music”. Since 1988 she has been an assistant in the Faculty of “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv, since 1992 – senior assistant and since 1997 Chief Assist. Professor. In the course of this time period she organized and carried out teaching for students in various disciplines. She also took part in numerous commissions for writing and improving academic documentation, as well as in educational projects. As a result of her year-long teaching career, Zdravka Hvarkata has acquired huge pedagogical experience in the Univeristy of Plovdiv.

## 6. Conclusion

All document and materials submitted by the candidate in the competition **meet** the requirements of the Law for developing academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for applying ZRASRB and the Criteria for granting scientific degrees and taking academic positions in “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv.

The scientific papers provided for review *contain scientific outcomes that actually have a contribution* to in the field of musical history. Zdravka Hvarkata’s publications demonstrate the presence of needed pedagogical culture and erudition in the research field of the history of music. Hvarkata’s results achieved in the teaching and research activity meet the specific requirements for taking the academic position of Assistant Professor. That is why I find it well-founded to give my **positive** assessment and recommend the Scientific jury to make a report-and-proposal to the Faculty council of the Pedagogical faculty for assigning the academic position of Assistant Professor to Chief Assist. Prof. Zdravka Hvarkata in the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv as part of 8.3. Art of music and dance (scientific specialty “History of Music”).

19. 02. 2023

Plovdiv

Signature:

(Prof. Biser Damyanov, PhD)