

PEER REVIEW

by **Prof. Zhelka Koleva Tabakova, PhD**

Professor at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music, Sofia
regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for occupation of the academic position of “**Associate Professor**”

at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University

under: Higher education field 8 “Art”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”,
Scientific specialty “History of Music”

In State Gazette, Issue 92 of 18.11.2022 and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, a competition has been announced for an “Associate Professor” at the Music Department with the Faculty of Education. **Only one candidate** submitted documents for participation in the announced competition – **Chief Assistant Antoniya Peneva Baleva, PhD** from Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, from the same Department.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order No ПД-21-74 of 18.01.2023 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” in the Plovdiv University in Higher education field 8 “Art”, Professional field 8.3 “*Music and Dance Arts*”, Scientific specialty “*History of Music*”, announced for the needs of the Music Department at the Faculty of Education.

The documents and materials presented on paper and electronic media from **Chief Assistant Antoniya Peneva Baleva, PhD** meets all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. In terms of volume and issues, the publications correspond to the profile of the competition and the requirements for the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

The candidate in the competition has submitted: *Administrative documents* related to the procedure for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” and a significant number of scientific works published after the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “PhD” in the section “*Documents for scientific research work*”. Regarding the reference for the Minimum number of points for the indicator groups for the academic position “Associate Professor” of the normative 360 points, the candidate collects a total number of **1,122.5 points** – more than three times the required number.

The candidate, **Chief Assistant Antoniya Peneva Baleva, PhD** has submitted a total of **43** scientific papers, of which: **3** monographs; **37** research articles, of which **33** in Bulgarian, **2** in English, **2** in Russian; **3** chrestomathies (university study aids). The cited scientific publications do not repeat publications from a previous procedure. All presented scientific works have been published in authoritative scientific publications (including in Pedagogika Magazine). They reveal the author’s interests in: *the history and theory of music and music education*. They also relate to issues that fall within the candidate’s competences.

2. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Chief Assistant Antoniya Peneva Baleva PhD obtained a Master's degree in "Pedagogy of Music Education" at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv in 1986. After a competition in 1988, she was appointed as an Assistant in *Musical Literature and Musical Analysis* at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University in the Faculty of Pedagogy, Aesthetic Education Department, and later in the newly formed Music Department. She gradually passed through the next stages of academic growth – Senior Assistant, and since 1995, she has been Chief Assistant at the same University. Since 2002, Dr. Baleva has been a Doctor in "Pedagogy of Music Education" at the Music Department of Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. Dr. Baleva has over 36 years of teaching experience and experience in the specialty.

3. General characteristics of the activity of the candidate

The *pedagogical activity* of Chief Assistant Antoniya Baleva PhD is remarkably active, both in terms of workload and variety of courses. She leads lecture courses on various musical theoretical disciplines in the educational and scientific degree "*Bachelor*" – 15 courses, and in the educational and scientific degree "*Master*" – 5 courses. The courses are specified in detail in Document No 12 "Teaching Work" – in Tables 3 and 4.

The study programs developed by Chief Assistant Antoniya Baleva PhD are present in the curricula of **8** majors in the educational and scientific degree "*Bachelor*" in the Faculty of Pedagogy – full-time and part-time studies: "Pedagogy of Music Education", "Music", "Jazz and Pop Performance Arts", "Elementary School Pedagogy", "Primary School Pedagogy and Foreign Language", "Fine Art Pedagogy", "Graphic Design with Advertising" and "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy" and **2** the educational and scientific degree "*Master*" – "Pedagogy of Music Education" (non-specialists) and "Pedagogical Interaction and Creativity in Kindergarten".

She is the supervisor of successfully defended graduates from the "Pedagogy of Music Education" specialty, as well as scientific consultant of developments for participation in annual student scientific forums. In the direction of artistic and creative activity – she works with the Academic Choir at the Faculty of Pedagogy with Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, performs concerts and participates in various forums of choral art (2002 – 2006), as well as concerts-lectures with the joint participation of students and others lecturers from the Music Department.

In the last academic year, to the additional requirements for the Educational activity from the mandatory minimum number of 30 points in the higher education institution, the candidate Chief Assistant Antoniya Baleva PhD collects 131 points. In her norm, she has a double workload, which proves not only her great commitment to the educational process, but also her broad-spectrum experience as a specialist. She was also involved in the scientific specialties "*Musicology and Musical Art*" and "*History of Music*": Auditory activity –

96 points (975 hours upon a norm of 360 hours); Extracurricular activity – 30 points (0.5 for every 10 hours), for preparation of Study programs – 5 points.

A. Baleva has participated in research projects: National scientific and educational projects – **5**; International and national scientific forums – **11**; International artistic and creative project – **1** (She also participated as a member of a team in an international project at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, under the cross-border cooperation program of the European Union under the patronage of Invitation to Life Foundation, Ministry of Youth and Sports and The Youth of Europe (2004).

The activities presented by the candidate show great activity and prove accumulated great professional, teaching, and scientific experience. Chief Assistant Baleva PhD possesses the necessary competencies of a lecturer and researcher of the art of music. She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and the Union of Music and Dance Performers. Her profile meets the criteria of the announced competition.

Scientific and scientific and applied activity of the candidate

The professional areas of music in which Chief Assistant Baleva PhD cover areas of theory, history, philosophy, and pedagogy: “History of Music”, “Musical Aesthetics and Philosophy”, “Methodology of Teaching Music History”, “Theory of Music”, “Culturology”, “Pedagogy of Music Teaching”. Her publications are directly related to her practical work as a university lecturer.

In the announced competition, Dr. Baleva present the monograph: *“Music and Time. Philosophical, Aesthetic and Historical Fragments”*, Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, 2019, 197 pages. It explores music in the light of philosophical, historical, and temporal relationships. A new perspective is combined with already documented facts and analyzes on the problematic of the morphology of music-time-space. This work complements art studies in Bulgaria and provides a basis for expanding the musical-theoretical and philosophical-aesthetic aspects. A number of concepts in the musical work from the point of view of time-space are highlighted, aimed at the educational process with the purpose of application in practice. Quote: *“The study of the various cultural-historical representations and attitudes to time, reflected in music; the study of the specificity and essence of musical time as an artistic phenomenon; the study of the peculiarities of musical perception in relation to the temporal characteristics of music”*. The author cites a vast number of sources and research that allowed her to reach deductive conclusions and draw her own conclusions. This proves a thorough knowledge of previous studies on the relevant issue and brings new emphasis and a new perspective with the present study. In the monograph Chief Assistant Dr. Baleva deals with complex matter that goes beyond the generally accepted standards and creates prerequisites for the development of scientific activity in this direction.

Two more monographs are presented: *“Aspects of Musical Culture XVII-XVIII Century”*, 152 p., Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, Plovdiv, 2012, and *“Musical Perception. Historical and Theoretical Aspects”*, 127 p., Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, Plovdiv, 2010.

The topic of the second monograph *“Aspects of Musical Culture XVII-XVIII Century”* is motivated by the problems related to the perceptions and preferences of the modern consumer society and, in particular, of future specialists. Fundamental processes that form the basis for the development of musical art such as form, types, and genres are considered. The focus falls on works related to: *“historical, cultural, aesthetic and art studies, established monographic and other musically historical works”*.

The third monograph *“Musical Perception. Historical and Theoretical Aspects”* is structured in the direction of the third factor of the composer-interpreter-consumer triumvirate, discussing contemporary musical culture and: *“musical perception in the context of musical aesthetics, sociology, and psychology”*. It is dedicated to the infinitely complex and essentially subjective point of view regarding the procedural nature of musical perception. It looks at: *“various aspects of interpretation – philosophical, historical, aesthetic, sociological”*, thus expanding and complementing the available literature in music historiography.

The candidate in the competition presents **37** scientific research articles on similar or new issues. In a large part of the *scientific articles and reports* from 2004 to the present, Chief Assistant Dr. Baleva covers a wide range of current topics related to the practice and theory of education, history of music, and art. The issues analyzed in them, outside the main habilitation work, are: innovation, integration, electronic media, computer technologies, development of genres, national and European guidelines in education and a number of other topics derived from them. They deserve a high evaluation.

PhD A. Baleva has published 3 university study aids – the **chrestomathies**: *“Musical Culture 1600-1750. Baroque Music”*; *“Musical Culture in the Second Half of the 18th and the Beginning of the 19th Century. Ideas. Styles. Creators”*; and *“Musical Culture in the Second Half of the 18th and the Beginning of the 19th Century. The Revolution in Music”*, intended mainly for students of music majors in universities and music academies, as well as for a wider audience – students and lecturers of other majors in the field of arts, for specialists from secondary general education schools, as well as art schools. The overall concept of the university aids includes: *“philosophical-aesthetic views, periodization, styles and genres, artists and works”*.

Of the works submitted for the procedure, there are **10 citations** in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and **2 citations** in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

Assessment of the candidate’s personal contribution

The issues explored and elaborated by Chief Assistant Baleva go beyond the accepted standard concepts. She applies her own approach and stylistic expression, expanding the parameters and territory of musicology in the direction of modernizing theory and practice, by stepping on the foundation of the classical science of music, which is an indisputable author’s contribution.

The candidate’s personal contribution to her overall activity is also evident in the submitted materials for the competition – beautifully organized documentation and an

impeccably structured large volume of information by sections. This speaks of a disciplined mind and outstanding analytical abilities.

4. Critical remarks and recommendations

Given the large number of reports and publications – 37 in number, scattered in various editions and collections, I recommend to Chief Assistant Baleva PhD to issue them in a single collection for the purpose of more accessible use and the possibility of application by the collegium.

5. Personal impressions

I have had the opportunity to work with Chief Assistant Baleva, PhD for several years in the specialty “Acting Mastery for Drama Theater” and I can responsibly state that she is an exceptional professional, complementing and supporting the specifics of the current work, as well as an ethical and collegial collaborator.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assistant Antoniya Baleva PhD meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. The results achieved by Chief Assistant Antoniya Baleva PhD in the educational and research activities fully correspond to the minimum national requirements.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”. The candidate’s works contain original scientific and applied contributions. The theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Chief Assistant Antonia Baleva PhD are indisputable.

After getting acquainted with the materials and the scientific works presented in the competition and after analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained therein, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of **Chief Assistant Antoniya Peneva Baleva PhD** for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University in Higher education field 8 “Art”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, Scientific specialty “History of Music”.

11.03.2023

Prepared by:

(signature)

Prof. Zhelka Tabakova, PhD