

## STATEMENT

**by Prof. Biser Iliev Damyanov, Doctor of Fine Arts regarding the competition for the occupation of the academic position of “Professor” at “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen**

Higher Education Area: 1. Pedagogical Sciences; professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in...; scientific specialty "Methods of Music Teaching". Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performing Arts.

### **Contest Details**

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD is **the only candidate** in the competition for the occupation of the academic position of “Professor”, announced by “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen in the State Gazette no. **79 / 08.10.2019** for the needs of the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performing Arts of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the same university. **There are no violations** during the procedures related to the realization of the competition.

The documents submitted cover the applicant's scientific and teaching activity and are in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen. Proposed materials for previous procedures are not repeated.

### **Applicant's Details**

The biography of Assoc. Prof. Ruskov, PhD demonstrates extensive preparation in the field of music and music teaching (Music and Pedagogy Higher Education Institute, Plovdiv, PhD in “Methods of Music Teaching”, Technics-orgelshule, Mannheim, Germany) and extended experience in music teaching at High Schools (“Sava Dobroplodni” High School, “Dobri Voynikov” Private School, “N.J Vaptsarov” High School of Foreign Languages, “Nancho Popovich” High School of Mathematics, “Vasil Levski” Bulgarian Lyceum, Chişinău , Moldova) and “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen.

From the very beginning of his career, Stefan Ruskov’s interest in modern computer technologies in music (electronic musical instruments, digital arrangements) is evident.

Assoc. Prof. Ruskov, PhD has many years of experience in creating digital arrangements (he is the author of hundreds of arrangements presented and used nationally, producer of author music).

Prof. Ruskov's field of interest covers a diverse spectrum: contemporary musicology, music pedagogy, musical performance, digital technologies in music, and more.

### **Description of the scientific works**

Stefan Panayotov Ruskov has applied 2 monographs (Creating a digital arrangement with a smartphone or a tablet, Creating and evaluating a digital arrangement), 15 articles, 20 textbooks, 12 teaching aids for the competition. The presented materials exceed in quantitative terms the minimum criteria and indicators for occupying the academic position, in accordance with the relevant requirements of NACID (758 points instead of the minimum 550).

The presented materials show that the main research and creative interest of Assoc. Prof. Ruskov is focused on creating and testing of technologies for the creation and evaluation of digital arrangements. This issue is developed in his two monographs and articles. The development of this problem is also based on a series of university courses majoring in Music Education Pedagogy.

Another important and up-to-date topic, developed in the works of Assoc. Prof. Ruskov, concerns the contemporary image of the music teacher. Ideas for the digital and audiovisual competences of the teacher have been developed, as well as the knowledge and skills required for working with electronic musical instruments.

Assoc. Prof. Ruskov is the author of textbooks and teaching aids in music for the secondary school from grades 1 to 10 - a result of his years of experience in the field of music teaching and upbringing.

Apart from producing the topics in the textbooks, his main merit is in presenting the music repertoire for teachers, students and electronic textbooks. This repertoire consists of over 200 specially arranged and recorded songs, 13 copyright songs and other music, including music editing and digital processing of numerous music material.

### **Scientific contributions**

The contributions in the scientific development of Assoc. Prof. Ruskov have theoretical and practical aspects. The following can be cited as key contributions:

- Theoretical formulations in the field of music teaching have been developed.
- The theory and methodology of music teaching have been enriched through theoretical developments regarding teacher competence and digital technologies in music and music teaching.
- Important for modern music education are the technologies for creating and evaluating digital arrangements, whose capabilities have been proven through their application.
- Other contributing points are the developed and precisely formulated criteria and indicators for evaluating digital arrangements.
- The didactic literature, mainly the textbooks in music for the Secondary School, developed by Assoc. Prof. Ruskov, is a unique contribution insofar as it has a real application in music teaching.

### **Assessment of the personal contributions of the applicant**

All materials submitted by the applicant under the code of the competition are copyrighted, which means that the contributions mentioned above are his own personal merit.

### **Teaching Activities**

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov is a teacher with a long pedagogical experience and extensive work at High Schools. He provides education for students in the fields of Music Education Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Primary School and Pre-school Education, Pedagogy of Primary Education and Early Foreign Language Teaching, Pre-school Pedagogy for the Bachelor's, Professional Bachelor's and Master's degrees. During his many years' experience as a lecturer, he teaches various compulsory, elective and optional subjects: Methodology of Music Teaching, Contemporary Problems of Popular Music, Using Computer Technologies in Music, Musical Instruments incl. electronic instruments. He is the author of the respective curricula.

After obtaining the position of "Associate Professor", he has been the advisor of two full-time PhD students and three graduates, one of whom is a Bachelor and two are of a Master's Degree. During the period 2015 - 2019 he participated in 5 university projects.

As an expert in his field, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ruskov, PhD is also involved in the qualification activities of active teachers, the creation of digital teaching resources,

the production and distribution of arrangements, the production of sound recordings and CDs from national competitions.

### **Personal impressions**

I know Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov as a lecturer and author of academic publications and music textbooks. My personal impressions are the result of participating in the presentation of textbooks in Secondary schools in different regions of the country. What impressed me was his ability to clearly, persuasively and accurately present the content of the teaching aids and the main learning difficulties students may experience. Ruskov demonstrates a rich artistic culture and in-depth knowledge of music education, a prerequisite for a modern and effective teaching style in the field of arts.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by the candidate Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD meet the requirements of the ADASRB and the regulations for its implementation, as well as the Rules and Criteria for awarding academic degrees and occupation of academic positions of “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen. The materials presented contain scientific and artistic results that contribute to the field of music education. Assoc. Prof. Ruskov's publications demonstrate scientific competence in the field of music and music education. The theoretical developments have practical applicability, and most of them are directly oriented to the educational work at universities.

In my opinion, the results achieved by Ruskov in the research, creative and educational activities fully correspond to the specific requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor" at “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen. All of this gives me the reason to present my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report for the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD for the academic position of "Professor" in Methodology of Music Teaching; field of education Pedagogy, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in...

11.01.2020

Plovdiv city

Signature:



(Prof. Biser Damyanov, D.F.A)