

STATEMENT

by **Prof. Dimitar Iliev Balkansky, PhD**

“Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen

About: Materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Professor" by: Higher Education Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in... (Methods of Music Teaching).

Contest details

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD, who is the only candidate, applied for the competition for the academic degree of "professor" published in the State Gazette, issue. 79/08. 10. 2019 for the needs of “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen, Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performance. The applicant has submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, a sufficient number of scientific papers, published after the materials used in the defense of his “PhD” degree and the academic position of 'Associate Professor', and in accordance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria is entitled to participate in it.

Applicant details

In 1984, Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD graduated from the Music and Pedagogy Higher Education Institute in Plovdiv, majoring in Music Pedagogy - Music Teacher, Accordion Teacher. From 1984 to 1989 he worked as a music teacher in the “N. J. Vaptsarov” Foreign Language High School, Shumen, in the Bulgarian Lyceum “Vasil Levski”, in Chisinau, Moldova (2006). He was a lecturer in accordion at the “Nancho Popovich” High School of Mathematics, Shumen (1985-1989), and in "Exarch Joseph" Foreign Language High School, Razgrad (1990-1995); lecturer in accordion and electronic instruments at “Dobri Voinikov” Private School, Shumen (1993-2001), and “Sava Dobroplodni” High School, Shumen (1995-1998). Since 1989 he is a lecturer at the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performing at “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen. Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov defended his dissertation in the field of “Methods of Music Teaching” in 2013 and received his Ph.D.

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov's professional interest is in the field of theory and methodology of music education in schools and higher education institutions. He has excellent competencies in creating, processing and recording music on Sonar, Sound forge, Sibelius, etc., as well as working with music and sound equipment. He holds certificates for a teacher in electronic instruments (Mannheim, Germany, 1993) and for practicing at a training seminar "Music Therapy" (Plovdiv, 2019). He has participated in university and national projects. He is a member of the organizing committee and team for conducting the "Dancing Keys" National Competition for Accordionists in Novi Pazar and the creative team of the National Center for the Arts "Zornitsa", Sofia. The applicant's artistic activity is related to the music released and others in: music textbooks from grades 1 through 10 of the “Anubis” publishing company - over 200 arrangements and sound recordings of songs; author's songs in the music textbooks from grades 1 to 10 of the “Anubis” PC – 13 in number; author's music

for the film "Panayot Volov - The Spirit of the Revolution", "Madara Rider" movie club, Shumen, 2016.

Description of scientific works

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD participates in the competition for "Professor" with 49 publications, of which: 2 monographs ("Creating a digital arrangement with a smartphone and a tablet". Shumen: UP "K. Preslavsky", 2018, 193 p.). , ISBN 978-619-201-248-9; "Creating and Evaluating Digital Arrangement". Shumen: UP "K. Preslavsky", 2019, 168 p., ISBN 978-619-201-330-1); 20 textbooks and 12 study aids (co-authored); 15 articles.

All the works on the list, presented by Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, have been published and are directly related to the subject of the announced competition for "Professor" in the academic specialty - Methods of Music Teaching. They were created in the period 2015 - 2019 and show a strong publication activity of the applicant.

I believe that both monographs deserve special attention. "Creating a Digital Arrangement with a Smartphone and a Tablet" addresses the new mobile learning model (w-learning), which is an innovative manifestation of educational services whose specificity lies in the rapid transfer of as much information as possible, anytime, anywhere in the world. In this way, everyone studying music (undergraduates or students) can gain access and information. The monograph also highlights the important role of mobile applications in creating music and the acquisition of necessary knowledge and skills to work in a mobile virtual-learning environment displayed on every smartphone and tablet. The need to create pedagogical technology for the implementation of digital arrangement with the help of mobile applications is supported and justified. A methodology related to the evaluation of the students' Caustic project has been developed and tested.

The monograph "Creating and Evaluating a Digital Arrangement" is exceptionally useful for the training of future music teachers. In it the author thoroughly examines the problem, determined by the improvement of the quality of music teaching in higher education institutions, and stimulating the creativity in future teachers. The paper presents the specificity of the practical work and the increase in efficiency of the educational process in the discipline "Audio and MIDI technologies in music", which is related to the constructive work of students, namely, creating a digital arrangement with the help of original pedagogical technology and the means for its evaluation. The methodology for objectifying the evaluation of the MIDI project is analyzed and tested.

The presented textbooks and teaching aids for music include the complete set for the Bulgarian secondary school (grades 1 through 10), created in accordance with the new state educational standards and curricula: textbook, teacher's book, electronic textbook, set of speakers, boards for frontal work.

The articles cover topics that reveal the problems of music teaching and highlight new aspects of the education in schools and higher institutions in this field. Many of them touch upon topics that shape the contemporary image of a music teacher in terms of his or her digital competencies.

The monographs, textbooks, teaching aids and articles of the author are directed, and indeed help, to involve the students in the educational process of music in high school, teach

them to apply innovative ideas, technologies and methods consistent with the abilities and interests of students.

Scientific contributions

The presented scientific works have a highly theoretical and practical character and the following contributions can be highlighted in it:

1. In accordance with the specifics of music teaching, the pedagogical theory and practice is enriched by clearing up theoretical and methodological problems related to the education of undergraduates and students in the field of performing arts;
2. The didactic stimuli of the influence of the educational environment on the motivation of the students in music teaching are theoretically researched and analyzed. Based on years of experience and teaching students major in "Pedagogy of music teaching", an original author's technology was created and tested to establish a digital arrangement in a mobile environment with the help of mobile devices - a smartphone and a tablet;
3. In the context of the author's concept for e-mobile learning, a technology has been synthesized for creating a digital arrangement in a mobile environment, based on the mobile application Caustic 3. The implementation of the technology is based on specific requirements (criteria) that have been synthesized on account of Audio and MIDI technology for creating a digital arrangement using the Cakewalk SONAR toolkit;
4. The advantages have been clarified and it is proven that the new technology for digital arrangement based on the Caustic 3 toolkit increases the efficiency of the educational process in the academic discipline "Audio and MIDI technologies in music". Students acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills to independently carry out a digital arrangement in a mobile environment. The introduction of the new technology in pedagogical practice is conditioned by the created pedagogical model, as the formulated and tested criteria and indicators provide the opportunity to multiply the technology to another digital mobile environment for the creation of a digital arrangement;
5. An in-depth study has been carried out, aimed at shaping the contemporary image of the music pedagogue in terms of incorporating digital technologies into music teaching in general and higher education. The need for the music teacher to acquire digital and audiovisual competences, as well as competences for the use of electronic musical instruments has been explained;
6. Music textbooks and teaching aids of practical and applicable nature have been created for the secondary school, through which students can acquire knowledge of the present day, skills and competences which are in line with the current directions of musicology, music pedagogy, musical performance, sound design, etc.

Teaching work

The report on the academic workload of Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD shows that he carries out teaching activities (lectures, exercises) with undergraduates major in *Music Education Teaching, Pre-school and Elementary School Pedagogy, Primary School Pedagogy with a Foreign Language, Pre-school Pedagogy, Elementary School Pedagogy with Information Technologies*.

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD participates in the development and updating of curricula and plans in the specialty "Pedagogy of Music Education". He participates in exam committees for semester and state exams. After being awarded his academic position of "associate professor", he has been the academic advisor of two PhD students. Under his scientific guidance, 3 graduates of the specialty "Pedagogy of Music Education" have successfully defended their thesis work.

As a confirmation of his active pedagogical work in the specialized press, numerous citations of the candidate have been noted in monographs (2 pieces) and in non-refereed journals with scientific review (23 pieces).

Conclusion

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for the application of the ADASRB and the corresponding Regulations of the "K. Preslavsky" University of Shumen. The applicant fulfills the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position of "professor" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in... (Methods of Music Teaching). The quantitative indicators of the submitted materials satisfy and exceed the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After getting acquainted with the scientific works presented in the competition and analyzing their importance, I have no reason to suspect of plagiarism in the submitted materials for review. Undoubtedly, the scientific works provided are the personal work of the author, and the works in co-authorship have clearly distinguishable contributions.

Given the undeniable qualities of scientific production, which includes different topics and identifies new aspects of music education in secondary and high school, I strongly recommend that the distinguished scientific jury give a **positive evaluation** of the application and recommend the Scientific Jury to submit a report proposal to the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Education, proposing that Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD be awarded the academic position of "Professor" in: higher education area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in... (Methods of Music Teaching) at the "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen.

8.01.2020.

Shumen

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/Prof. Dimitar Balkansky, PhD/