

STATEMENT

By **PROF. NADEZHDA YORDANOVA - STOYANOVA**, Doctor of Pedagogy

member of the scientific jury in the competition for the occupation of the scientific position of "professor", scientific field 1. Pedagogy, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in ..., "Music teaching methodology", "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen, Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performance, declared in the State Gazette, issue 79/08.10.2019

Contest details

The competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" has been announced for the needs of the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performing. The only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD - a lecturer at the University of Shumen since 1989. The documents presented give me the grounds for believing that, according to the ADASRB and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen, Assoc. Prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD has the right to participate in the competition for the academic position of "Professor".

Applicant details

Assoc. prof. Stefan Ruskov, PhD was born on May 3rd, 1960. He graduated in 1984 from the Music and Pedagogy Higher Education Institute, Plovdiv (now the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts), majoring in Music Teaching, specialty - Accordion Teacher. Until 1989, he worked as a music teacher at the "N. J. Vaptsarov" High school with foreign language teaching, Shumen; he was also a teacher at "D. Voinikov" private high school, in the Bulgarian Lyceum, Chisinau, Moldova; throughout his career as a creative teacher he conducts various musical ensembles. Since 1989 he has been working at the "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen, having successfully passed the positions of Assistant, Senior Assistant (1992), Chief Assistant (1996) and Assistant Professor (2015). In 2013 he defended his doctoral thesis. In his professional career to this day it is remarkable that he conducts music education activity and artistic activity in parallel at various institutions, including abroad. The professional development of the candidate for the occupation of the academic position of "professor" has naturally moved upward in the field of music pedagogy and the related artistic creative work in its various forms.

Description of scientific works

S. Ruskov, PhD participated in the contest with a total of 49 works: 2 monographs (193 and 168 pages respectively), 15 articles, 20 textbooks, 12 study aids. Their quantitative dimension, the fact that they have found a place in the scientific production of S. Ruskov, as well as their professional and creative interests related to the trend of the competition, allow me to accept that the candidate has very good references for occupying the academic position of "professor". All of them exceed the minimum national requirements under Art. 2 b, para. 2 and 3 of ADASRB (758 points)

A major issue reflected in the monographs and articles is the use of information and digital technology in the context of audio and MIDI technology and the technology for the implementation of digital arrangement in a mobile environment as an important part of the development and growth of the future music teacher.

Particularly noteworthy are the **two monographs** "Creating a digital arrangement with a smartphone and a tablet" and "Creating and evaluating a digital arrangement" (based on a dissertation thesis).

The monograph "Creating and Evaluating a Digital Arrangement" discusses the problems associated with implementation of a digital arrangement in the context of "home studio" music software. The concept of digital arrangement is analyzed and defined thoroughly and in depth. A technology for digital arrangement implementation in Cakewalk SONAR environment has been created with the help of MIDI technologies.

The monograph "Creating a Digital Arrangement with a Smartphone and a Tablet" is an impressive development of the idea of realizing a digital arrangement - in current conditions and by current means - based on a theoretically developed concept of mobile learning, which includes:

- specific features, in terms of the elements related to mobile devices (smartphones and tablets);
- mobile software applications (online and offline) for processing incoming music information;
- mobile computer networks (4G and 5G technologies), allowing quick access to digital resources for mobile learning;
- use of digital resources - sites with music and multimedia content to support mobile learning.

Digital Arrangement Technology is taking on a new dimension here because it is created in the context of the mobile application Caustic 3, whose features enable the implementation of digital arrangement in terms of mobility, which means accessing digital content on the Internet virtually anywhere on the planet, at any time.

The proof for the effectiveness of this technology is a criterion-oriented test system, based on the theory of fuzzy logic, with 11 criteria and 11 indicators for evaluating the implemented digital arrangement in terms of mobility. The approbation of the test system in practice also approves the technology for the implementation of digital arrangement, with the help of the mobile application Caustic3, which emphatically confirms its effectiveness.

The articles with which the candidate participates in the competition do not include those presented by him in the competition for associate professor, as well as those used in the defense of his dissertation work. They are published in specialized peer-reviewed scientific journals and yearbooks, and collections of scientific conferences. Both the articles and the monographs reflect the main direction in Assoc. Prof. Ruskov's scientific and teaching work - computer technology in music and music teaching.

The candidate's scientific quest is clearly outlined and can be concentrated in the following areas:

1. Theoretical and methodological problems related to the music-pedagogical professional education of future music teachers, focused on one of the key competences - digital competence, which gives a very modern appearance to the trained specialists.
2. Methodical and practical problems of music teaching.
3. Textbooks and teaching aids related to the Bulgarian secondary school.

The reference provided mentions 25 **citations** - 2 in monographs, 23 - in articles. It is noteworthy that the articles cited most often are related to the digital competence of the music teacher and the knowledge of modern digital technologies used in music, as well as the new textbooks and teaching aids in music, of which Assoc. prof. Ruskov is a co-author.

The **textbooks and study aids** in music intended for the Bulgarian secondary school (grades 1 through 10, co-authored) are in accordance with the new state educational standards and curricula. In addition to the expanded thematic pages, they include a variety of music repertoire, which is a credit to Assoc. prof. S. Ruskov - 13 original songs and other compositions, more than 200 arranged and recorded songs, music editing and digital processing of other artistic material. The contribution of Assoc. Prof. St. Ruskov, in terms of the digital arrangement of the included songs, has a direct connection with his long-standing scientific interests which have found a place in his monographs and articles.

Theoretical contributions

The concept of mobile training in the preparation of future music educators, based on the specifics and characteristics of such training, is presented in the monograph and the articles. Essential contemporary characteristics of the music teacher are presented and modeled in regards of the competence approach - digital competence, audiovisual competence, competences for the use of electronic musical instruments.

Practical contributions

The synthesized technology for the implementation of digital arrangement in a mobile environment (via tablet and smartphone) virtually increases the efficiency of the educational process in terms of preparing the students in the discipline of Audio and MIDI technologies in music. Devised in such a way, the technology also allows for itself to be multiplied on other mobile platforms that can create a digital arrangement.

On the basis of the defined characteristics of the music teacher, related to the modern digital technologies, the articles reveal forms of work, requirements and methods whose relevance is unconditional and is the groundwork for the development and shaping of the modern music teacher.

The creation of modern textbooks and teaching aids in music for secondary schools is the result of up-to-date contemporary knowledge, skills and competences with a practical nature in the extremely diverse range of modern musicology, music pedagogy, musical performance, sound design and more.

Teaching

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov provides education of students majoring in "Pedagogy of Music Education" at Shumen University in the following disciplines: Audio and

MIDI technologies in music, History and theory of popular music, Special subject (accordion and electronic instruments), Musical Diagnostics, Principles of Music Layout, Modern Audio and MIDI Technology in Music, Organization, Technology and Repertoire for Working with Music Ensembles at School.

In the specialties Pre-school and Elementary School Pedagogy, Primary School Pedagogy with a Foreign Language, Pre-school Pedagogy – Bachelor's Degree, Professional Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree, he teaches Theory and Methods of Music Teaching in Primary Education, Musical Instruments, Modern Technologies in Music Education.

He is the author of the following curricula: Audio and MIDI Technologies in Music, History and Theory of Popular Music, Music Diagnostics, Principles of Music Layout, Modern Audio and MIDI Technologies in Music, Organization, Technology and Repertoire for Working with Music Teams at School .

Assoc. Prof. Ruskov, PhD is the advisor of two full-time PhD students and three graduates, one of whom is a Bachelor of Arts and two are studying for a Master's Degree.

For the period 2015 - 2019 he participated in 5 university projects.

Assoc. Prof. Ruskov also implements **expert activity** related to the application of audio and MIDI technologies in terms of progressing the qualification of current music teachers, creating digital learning resources, as well as producing author music and arrangements, including their storage and distribution: Qualification Course for Music Teachers, Stara Zagora, April 2017, "Introduction and Use of Modern Information and Communication Technologies in Music Classes"; creation and use of digital learning resources; sound recording and CD production by the National Accordion Competition "Magic Rhythms" and the National Competition for Bagpipers and Instrumental Chamber Ensembles "Magic Rhythms" - 2002-2019.

Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD has a very good theoretical and applicable training. His works contain sufficiently substantial scientific-theoretical and applied scientific contributions to pedagogical science. He is an established university teacher and a creative arranger.

With all this in mind, as well as the thematic focus of the announced competition, I confidently give my positive opinion and I urge the members of the distinguished jury to support Assoc. Prof. Stefan Panayotov Ruskov, PhD to occupy the academic position of "Professor" in Music teaching methodology, field of education 1. Pedagogy, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ...

10.01.2020

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(Prof. Nadezhda Yordanova – Stoyanova, Doctor of Pedagogy)

