

ACADEMIC REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Yanna Pavlova Ruskova, PhD

concerning a competition for academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", scientific field 1. Pedagogy, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in ..., scientific specialty "Methodology of conducting"

Information about the competition

The competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" was announced in the State Gazette, issue 20 / 09.03.2021. The only candidate is Chief Assistant Professor Juliana Georgieva Panova, PhD - Lecturer in the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performance, Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". The necessary documents and relevant evidence for review and evaluation are presented in accordance with the Law on the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff and the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski". All materials are correctly and precisely described, clearly arranged. The requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" have been met: the candidate has a doctorate in Music Teaching Methodology, has held the position of Chief Assistant since 2007; declares, and the reference made shows that materials from production for a previous procedure are not repeated; the materials submitted for the competition, according to the respective requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, in quantitative terms exceed the minimum requirements, as there are a sufficient number of points for each individual indicator. All this gives reason to believe that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Juliana Georgieva Panova has the right to participate in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Brief information about the applicant

The career development of Chief Assistant Professor Yuliana Panova, PhD follows a continuous line of professional and creative interests related to conducting as a main musical performance activity. Graduated from State Academy of Music (now the National Academy of Music) „Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" with a degree in Choral and Orchestral Conducting. She worked as a choir conductor, as an expert on choral activity in the town of Targovishte, as a piano teacher (at home and abroad). From 1996 until now he has been a lecturer at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", successively holding the positions of assistant, senior assistant (2002), chief assistant (2007). In 2014 he defended his doctoral dissertation related to the problems of teaching conducting to students majoring in "Pedagogy of music education". Apart from musical-educational professional activity and scientific activity corresponding to the field, her biography and production speak of lasting interests and in forms of work for creative activities related to conducting - she leads various ensembles. All this determines the appearance of her scientific, teaching and creative activity and career development - combining the problems of musical performance and conducting with contemporary musicology and music pedagogy.

About scientific works

For participation in the competition, according to the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Chief Assistant Professor Juliyana Panova, PhD presents the following materials, 25 in number: 1 monograph, 24 articles and 7 citations. Everyone can connect with her professional-scientific and professional-creative interests in the context of making the competition. The main theoretical and methodological directions of the research activity of the candidates include jointly determined thematic areas. The following two main lines are outlined: musical-performing activity conducting - essence, peculiarities, modeling, management; the training of students - future music teachers.

The monograph "Modeling and management of the musical-performing process" (2021, 182 p.) is a kind of natural continuation of the interests and searches of Chief Assistant Professor Juliyana Panova, PhD, originating from her education, interests, work; of her dissertation (conducting, teaching students), as well as of her disciplines related to conducting for students majoring in "Pedagogy of music education".

Already in the **introduction** the author points to the relevance of the study: justifies the need to bring out, design, conduct activities and processes related to musical performance, which speak of a new type of thinking - not methodically focused only on conducting, but managerial thinking in musical performance and the presence of managerial competence in this area. The musical performance is considered in a procedural-dynamic aspect, the principles and directions set in its separate phases, its modeling and management, leading to its optimization, are revealed. This ambitious task is successfully unfolding in **four chapters**.

The first chapter is devoted to the theoretical foundations of Dr. Panova's concept for modeling and managing the music performance process. Arguments are:

- the procedural-dynamic aspect of the musical performance;
- the essence and characteristics of the music performance process;
- management as a process - in connection with other sciences (psychology, pedagogy, management, etc.);
- the musical-performing process as an object of modeling and management - characteristic, specificity;
- the essence, the characteristics of the management - in general and as a musical-performing process;
- stages - goal setting, forecasting, planning, organizing, conducting, motivating, controlling, regulating and correcting;
- management - functions and roles of the head of the music-performing process (in the management cycle, with functions, approaches to work), incl. and leadership, management;
- the information-communicative area of management of the music-performing process.

On the basis of the scientific definitions and analyzes of the procedurality in music, the essence and the characteristics of the musical-performing process and its study in a procedural-dynamic aspect are derived: as a purposeful complex dynamic system; as an activity act of the performer, aimed at objectification of his creative idea in sound material; as a complex, multifaceted process containing transformational moments; as a form of

expressing a value attitude towards the world of the subject of creative activity. A second important point is the specification of the concept of "quality of the musical performance process", in terms of designating and synthesizing objective and subjective criteria and assessments of the level of practical realization of the musical work in terms of predetermined and fixed performance concepts in a musical cultural context. A third important conclusion concerns the concepts "modeling" and "management" considered and analyzed in depth, their connection and mutual conditioning, as well as their key importance for the more effective and high-quality realization of the music-performing process.

This theoretical modeling of the issue serves for the derivation in the **second chapter** of *Technology for modeling and management of the music performance process*, for its application in the formation of managerial competence not only of performers and leaders (conductors, music teachers, choirmasters, etc.) of music groups, but also of students - future music teachers. The technology defines the following stages of modeling and management of music performance processes:

- *input information* - the necessary initial information for the implementation of the process such as: level of mastery of the musical work by the performers, musical-performing abilities of the performers, concept for the realization of the musical work, etc .;
- *conditions for starting* - under what circumstances the implementation of the process starts;
- *activities, steps* - the tasks performed by the contractors.

All the main steps are derived and characterized, with relevant goals, prerequisites, activities, results, methods and techniques of work, in connection with the work model argued in the first chapter, leading to a model for a specific work process - with specific technological requirements with the essence and characteristics of the musical-performing processes (rehearsal and concert), their structuring and realization, aimed at realization of the musical work; specific technological requirements related to musical performance (individually and collectively) based on an analysis of the experience of leading specialists in this field. **The value** of this part of the work is determined by the described practical models - *specific 15 steps for performing a score* of a work. They represent a synthesized technology for modeling and managing the process of musical performance, in a defined hierarchical sequence, with specific criteria. This is a prerequisite for the use of the justified technology in other than conducting, music performance processes.

The third chapter defends the projection of the technology presented in the second chapter as a pedagogical technology, whose goals, content, methods and tools are aimed at *forming competence* for modeling and managing the music performance process specifically in students - future music teachers, in studying the discipline *Technologies in choral singing and conducting*. The purpose, the subject and the tasks of the conducted research of the formed **managerial competence** in the students are substantiated. **The original contribution** of the author is the argumentation of the important for the whole monograph managerial competence - with specific characteristics and respective competencies, with their adjacent criteria and indicators for research, with 4 levels of level of development. The organization of the research is in accordance with the requirements for conducting such type of research and includes three stages - ascertaining, forming, concluding.

In the **fourth chapter** the results of the research are presented and analyzed, protected by the obtained reliability and validity of the system. The different groups of students are characterized according to the levels of the formed managerial competence, which gives grounds for the development of specific work for overcoming problems and achieving higher

levels. Only in this way they will be "armed" with knowledge, skills and competencies for optimal management decisions in certain music-performing situations, independence in organizing music-pedagogical and music-performing activities, for solving music-performing tasks, as well as readiness for the application of management techniques and management activities in their future work as music teachers. And in a specific plan, in terms of the discipline, it is possible for a real score-rating assessment, for transparency and maintaining direct feedback with students. The individual rating card for each student (Application 1) is a wonderful finished "product", possible for variable application in other disciplines.

In conclusion, I evaluate the monographic work of Yuliana Panova, PhD with a very high rating due to: the relevance of the issue, the specific development of theoretical and real research model, scientifically proven reliability and validity of the system, applicability of technology in other implementation practices and respectively training.

The articles of Yuliana Panova refer to theoretical and methodological problems, reflect the variety of problem areas in connection with her interests and work, related to: choral art and conducting as an executive and managerial process, the training of students in the formation of conducting and managerial competence, the achievement of higher results in these processes, the evaluation of the students' achievements, psychological aspects of the considered processes, methodological peculiarities, the singing culture - in the past and today. For the most part, they promote the positions and searches of the author, developed in a single whole in the monograph. They have been published in specialized scientific journals, yearbooks, collections of scientific conferences.

The **citations noticed** by the candidate and presented in the reference are 7 pcs. Five of them are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review.

Teaching and other activities

Chief Assistant Professor Juliana Panova, PhD is a longtime lecturer in the specialty "Pedagogy of music education". Conducts lectures and exercises in the disciplines "Choral Singing and Conducting", "Choir study and vocal staging", "Piano Conducting", "Technology in Choral Singing and Conducting". He is the author of the relevant curricula.

Actively participates in the internal university projects of the department. Panova's work is permanent and purposeful in connection with various activities conducted with students in the specialty. All of them are subordinated to the main direction in the musical-creative and musical-pedagogical orientation of her work, which is reflected in her publications. She successfully leads 6 graduates in the development of diploma theses and master's theses. She is the conductor of the student choir formation "Veneta Vicheva", with numerous concerts and performances, with awards from competitions. Her merit is the creation and holding of the national student competition "Golden Stick" (4 editions), a number of workshops, round tables, discussion studios and more.

Numerous are her personal projects - international, national, municipal, implemented with different teams, incl. and as a leader (10 pcs.). Her expertise and professionalism are the basis of the numerous awards received by the teams led by her (21, abroad and at home).

Contributing moments

From all the presented titles (monograph and articles) and other activity the main research and creative interest of Chief Assistant Professor Yuliyana Panova, PhD: choral art

and conducting music performance and related aspects of the modern educational process for successful training of future music teachers.

This is reflected in the following theoretical contributions:

- development of a scientifically substantiated and applicable methodological system for the formation of the conducting competence of the students in the specialty “Pedagogy of music education”;

- synthesis and definition of technology for modeling and management of the music performance process as a basic methodological guide for modeling and management of the music performance process (in general, not only in the specific conducting activity);

- determining the characteristics of the main competencies for piano conducting, as well as for the modeling and management of the music performance process and their respective competencies;

- derivation and definition of the musical-performing process in procedural-dynamic aspect; the concepts of "modeling" and "management" as key to the effective and quality implementation of the music performance process; the concept of "quality of the musical-performing process" in terms of designating and synthesizing objective and subjective criteria and assessments of the level of practical realization of the musical work in relation to predetermined and fixed performing concepts in a given musical-cultural context.

Practical contributions relate to:

- application of the derived theoretical models for work in the practical work with the students, for development and formation of competencies for their future music-pedagogical activity;

- creation of an original modular technology of education, ensuring the gradual mastering of the knowledge and skills of each student during the whole period of study in the disciplines of the "conductor's" cycle;

- synthesis of a point-rating system for assessing the level of acquired competencies, as an accurate, objective and operational technology for control and assessment of students' knowledge and skills, enabling tracking of students' achievements in conducting throughout the learning process, and the dynamics of formation and development of the conducting competencies of each student.

Conclusion

The analysis of the materials and the teaching activity of the candidate for the competition allow to summarize the following more important points:

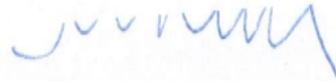
- Documents and materials meet the requirements.
- A sufficient number of papers published after the materials used in the defense of PhD are presented.
- In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions. Theoretical developments have practical applicability, and most of them are directly oriented to the educational work.
- The formulated contributions and obtained results are a personal merit of Yuliyana Panova, PhD.
- Her scientific and teaching qualifications are unquestionable.

After getting acquainted with the materials and papers presented in the competition and their review, after analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions

contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report to the Faculty Council. of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" for election of Chief Assistant Professor Juliyana Georgieva Panova, PhD for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Sofia University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" in scientific field 1. Pedagogy, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in ..., scientific specialty "Methodology of conducting".

June 20, 2021.

Reviewer:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Yanna Pavlova Ruskova', written over a faint rectangular stamp.

(Assoc. Prof. Yanna Pavlova Ruskova, PhD)