

STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Dimitar Iliev Balkanski,

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen

Subject: the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of Music Education).

Competition data

The competition for associate professor published in the Official Gazette, issue 98/17. 11. 2020 was announced by the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performance at the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavski. The only candidate in it is Chief Assistant Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova, PhD.

The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defence of a doctor's thesis and in terms of the Development of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DAPRBA) has the right to participate in it.

Details of the candidate

In 1985, Liuba Zlatkova graduated from the Higher Institute for Music Pedagogy - Plovdiv (master's degree). From 1985-1986 she was a piano and music teacher at the Nancho Popovich High School in Shumen, and in the period of 1986-1987 she was a music teacher at the German Language High School, Sofia.

Since 1988 she has been a lecturer at the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performance at the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavski. In 2015 Liuba Zlatkova defended her PhD dissertation on the subject of *Dance genres and their place in music education* and received the educational and scientific degree Doctor in the field of Methodology of Music Education.

Chief Assistant Liuba Zlatkova has professional interests in the field of Theory and Methodology of Music Education in kindergarten, school and higher education, in the field of rhythmic, dances and integration between the arts, philosophy of art and educational systems. She has specialised in Rhythmic at the Department of Music and Performing Arts at the State Academy of Music, Sofia (1994-1995) and received a certificate (2018) to increase the foreign language competence in English of teachers at the University of Shumen. She has participated in many university and national projects.

Description of scientific works

In the competition for *Associate Professor* Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Zlatkova participates with 24 publications, of which: 1 monograph and 23 articles and reports published in unreferenced journals with scientific review and in edited collective almanacs.

All scientific papers, presented by Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Zlatkova, have been published and are directly related to the topic of the announced competition for *Associate Professor* in the field of study Methodology of Music Education. They were created between 2012 and 2020 and testify to the active publishing activity of the candidate.

I believe that the *monograph Folk Art - Rhythm - Spirit - Culture*, University Press Bishop K. Preslavsky, deserves special attention out of the presented scientific production. It explores the phenomenon of folk art, examining some of its cultural elements - the word (tale), folk song (music, lyrics and movements - dance), embroidery and the organisation of the house. The author pays attention to the universal symbols, to the number as a symbol in the various elements of folk art, as well as to its connection with the civilisational processes of mankind. Some antique philosophical teachings from antiquity are presented through the prism of rhythm and number, and an attempt is made to hierarchise the arts according to these teachings. The meaning of the symbols contained in the construction of the Bulgarian home of the National Renaissance Period, the embroidery of costumes, the patterns and the folk songs are analysed with the help of rhythm and rhythmic patterns.

In the monograph the author emphasises on the musical folklore and the importance of the number in the rhythm of the folk songs. The rhythmic model is presented as a unity between form and content, as a carrier of knowledge about the principles of life. The scientific work discusses the possibility of using the knowledge and syncretism embodied in folk art, as well as its cultural elements to be applied in an innovative type of education. This, as the author defines, could be used in structuring and updating modern education, to understand the connections between phenomena and processes in the world, to search for and discover new knowledge.

The articles and reports include topics revealing problems in music education and highlighting new aspects of school and higher education in this field. Many of them cover topics such as: the musical-rhythmic code and historical development; the rhythmic model in arts; the exoteric and the esoteric as a manifestation of the form and content in folk art; rhythm as a factor for the manifestation of musical genres and rhythmic education in primary school; art studios and their role in the creative growth of children, pupils and students; musical lecture as a means of developing the creativity of students and pupils; the principle of integrity of the educational process, etc.

The monograph, the articles and the reports of the author are aimed and help to involve students in the process of music education in high school and university, teach them to apply innovative ideas, technologies and methods. They deal with problems determined by improving the efficiency and quality of music education, in building the modern image of the music teacher in terms of his competencies, in encouraging creativity in the future music teacher.

Scientific contributions

The presented scientific product has a theoretical and practical application and the following contributions can be distinguished in it:

1. In accordance with the specifics of music education in kindergarten, primary and secondary school, the pedagogical theory and practice is enriched by clarifying theoretical and methodological issues related to the education of children, pupils and students in the field of art education and upbringing;
2. An in-depth study aimed at theoretical research and analysis of the didactic stimuli of the concept *Rhythmic Model*, dance genres as a set of specific characteristics and the inclusion of this model in the methodological work with students - future music teachers;
3. The advantages are clarified and the creation of an original methodological system for working with students majoring in Pedagogy of music education related to awareness and acquisition of knowledge about genres in music based on rhythm and movement is well-grounded. The need of the inclusion and application of this knowledge in the pedagogical practice of students is presented;
4. In the aspect of folk art and its elements in terms of understanding the symbols in it, the concepts of *form* and *content* are formulated and studied. An educational model for work in primary school has been based on the understanding of the world as a whole - on the principle of integrity of folk art and its functioning as a single organism;
5. The author proposes a concept for leading and conducting educational music lectures with students of pedagogical specialties and students of primary school age which is aimed at their awareness of the genre in the art of music. Students master theoretical knowledge and practical skills for independent implementation of new technology in pedagogical practice;
6. On the basis of many years of experience and teaching, an educational model has been created for application by students from pedagogical specialties with interests in various arts, as heads of art *studios* in extracurricular form of education in primary school. The proposed original form of work in art helps students acquire modern knowledge, skills and competencies, discovering and developing students' creativity, which is in line with current trends in musicology and music pedagogy.

Educational work

The information about the academic workload of Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Zlatkova shows that she participates in the development and updating of curricula in the different pedagogical fields of study.

The candidate for the competition for *Associate Professor* prepares students for participation in scientific forums; she organises and conducts music lectures for children, pupils and students, performances with the participation of students majoring in Music pedagogy - rhythmic-dance performance, musical-rhythmic performance, musical-theatrical realisation performed in kindergartens and primary schools in Shumen. She organises summer art workshops in kindergartens and primary schools in Shumen and kindergartens in Targovishte, open workshops for parents and children.

Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Zlatkova participates in teacher mobility under the Erasmus+ program: Belgium, 2005 - KATHO; Poland, 2017 - Bydgoszcz, Kazimierz the Great University; Spain, 2019 - Universidad de Cordoba.

As a confirmation of her active pedagogical work in the specialised press the citations of the candidate in monographs (4 copies) and in unrefereed editions with scientific review (3 copies) are noticed.

Conclusion

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova meet all the requirements of the Development of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DAPRBA), the Regulations for implementation of DAPRBA and the respective Regulations of the University of Shumen Bishop K. Preslavski. The candidate in the competition meets the minimum national requirements for the quantitative indicators of the submitted materials for the academic position of *Associate Professor*.

After getting acquainted with the scientific papers presented in the competition and the analysis of their significance, I have no doubt of plagiarism in the materials submitted for review. Undoubtedly, the submitted scientific papers are the personal work of the author.

Given the indisputable qualities of the scientific production, which includes topics and identifies innovative trends in music education in high school and university, I strongly recommend the esteemed scientific jury to give a positive assessment of the application. I recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy, proposing that Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova be awarded the academic position of *Associate Professor* in: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of teaching music) at the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavski.

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Prepared by: 

Shumen

professor Dr. Dimitar Balkanski