

STATEMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Georgi Vassilev Mitev, PhD**

regarding the competition for the academic position of "Professor"
at "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen,
scientific field 1. Pedagogy,
professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in ...,
scientific specialty "Methodology of music education",
published in the State Gazette, issue 94 / 12.11.2021

The only candidate in the announced competition is **Assoc. Prof. Yanna Pavlova Ruskova, PhD**. She is a lecturer at the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performing at the Faculty of Pedagogy at the "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen. All necessary documents and evidence are available and comply with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and its regulations, and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen. The following demonstrate the fulfillment of the requirements for holding the academic position of "professor": the candidate is a doctor of methodology in music education, has held the position of associate professor for six years; materials from production for previous procedures are not repeated - declared by the applicant and by the reference made by me in NACID; the required number of points for each indicator are present, in fact the minimum requirements under Art. 2 b, para. 2 and 3 of LDASRB are exceeded (1026 points instead of the minimum 550 points).

The professional development of Assoc. Prof. Ya. Ruskova, PhD, shows purposefulness in the field of musical art and music education: music school, higher music-pedagogical education, music teacher, leader of music formations, teacher of music and music-pedagogical disciplines at "K. Preslavsky" University of Shumen; climbing the academic ladder from assistant to associate professor (1989 - 2015), the acquisition of the academic title of "Doctor" in Methodology of Music Education (2013). In general, the disciplines in which she teaches students at the Faculty of Pedagogy (not only in the "Pedagogy of music education" major) are divided in three groups: 1. with a profile of methodological and musical-psychological training; 2. musical instrument (electronic musical instruments and accordion); 3. digital technologies in music (digital music notation). She is the head of four doctoral students (one has defended his thesis, the other three are with an upcoming defense). Her professional competence is also reflected in the implementation of expert

activity: conducting qualification activities with teachers, including the use of the innovative 'webinar' form. An important aspect of her expertise is her long-term participation in organizing, conducting and judging in the national competition for accordionists "Dancing Keys" (2001 - 2021). Her organizational and managerial competence is manifested in the managerial positions she holds - Head of the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performing (from 2017 until the present), and Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Pedagogy (2018 - 2020).

For the competition, Assoc. Prof. Yanna Ruskova, PhD presents a significant production of a total of 59 titles (2 monographs, 18 articles, 20 textbooks and 19 teaching aids) and 58 notable citations. All of them are definitely related to the professional direction of the announced competition. They relate to various aspects of music pedagogy, covering a wide range of relationships - music didactics, music psychology, instrumental learning, digital technologies in music. The main thematic cores stand out: the professionalism of the music teacher, the modern textbook and the music lesson.

The main emphasis in the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Ya. Ruskova, PhD are the two monographs, which frame both of the main directions in her scientific and research competence: one monograph is a theoretical and analytical work on contemporary aspects of music pedagogy, and the other monograph shows the possibilities of the candidate for the position to build, conduct and defend scientific and empirical research related to the development and formation of the future music teacher.

In the monograph "Contemporary music pedagogy. Theoretical and Analytical Aspects" the candidate reveals the scientific and theoretical main areas of interaction between different scientific fields, forming the current modern approach in music pedagogy - developing and forming a music teacher through understanding of the relationship between music pedagogy and: music philosophy and philosophy of education, music psychology, art didactics, musicology, traditions and modernity in methods and approaches, etc. The seemingly different scientific-theoretical areas and topics (functions of music, competence model of the music teacher, the modern music lesson) are unfolded, the connection of each thematic theoretical aspect with applied-practical moments is clearly outlined. Very skilfully, from the philosophical approach through musicological bases leading to methodological projections, important topics are interpreted regarding the functions of musical art, verbality and nonverbalism in music pedagogy and psychology, interpretive designs in musical activities and others. The section in the monograph, in which the

competency image of the music teacher is modeled, is especially relevant and contributing. A complete, multifaceted portrait is revealed, by structuring and developing competencies in three main categories - key, professional and personal, each of which is revealed in detail and characterized by multiple competencies. This is a definite contribution of Assoc. Prof. Ruskova, because such a complete competency model with its characteristics is not found in our literature. The third section of the monograph shows another scientific position of the author - the music lesson, but through the prism of interrelated aspects with other areas (in this case - with other arts): genre, composition, drama, improvisation. This concept, as well as others from the first section of the monograph, are clearly traceable in the next important section of the materials presented for participation in the competition - textbooks and teaching aids in music.

The other monograph, "Professional and personal development of students - future music teachers. Professional Self-Determination", presents a theoretical and empirical study of the development of the future music teacher at the stage of higher education. The focus is the professional self-determination as a psychological and pedagogical category in the scientific literature. Here the contribution of Assoc. Prof. Ruskova is the theoretical modeling of this process, the derivation of structure, types and characteristics related to the future music teacher. The model is protected by the validity and reliability of the entire author's system, which includes many tests and surveys - regarding the attitude to 4 music and music-pedagogical activities, the motivation and self-assessment of personal characteristics. The conducted empirical research and the analysis of the data from it lead to the specific attention and work related to self-knowledge, the motivation to achieve professional-personal self-determination, the forms of interaction during the training of creative and competent specialists.

The articles presented by Assoc. Prof. Ruskova (18 copies) are related to the direction of the competition. Naturally, they are related to the subject of both monographs, but also to her direct teaching work. They consider the main theoretical (psychological and methodological) problems of music pedagogy, music-pedagogical education and training of future music teachers, the image of the music teacher, and modern music textbooks.

The citations presented for the competition (58 in total) show that Assoc. Prof. Ruskova is recognizable among her colleagues - university teachers and music teachers, even the future ones. Many of them relate to the music textbooks, the image of the music teacher, the psychological aspects of music and music education.

The realization of all textbooks and teaching aids in music from first to tenth grade, made by Assoc. Prof. Ruskova, is impressive, as she is the leader of three teams for the three educational degrees. Obviously, her professional expertise is the basis for the successful implementation of this huge project. The complete set contains not only the textbook itself, but also the current electronic textbooks, books for the music teacher (including modern interactive ones), classroom work, audio cassettes with a huge amount of extremely diverse music. This is an extremely extensive professional work, a great responsibility, of great importance for the development of music and pedagogical literature, responsible for the overall development of students today through music. Therefore, I have great respect for the overall activity and the proposed production for the competition.

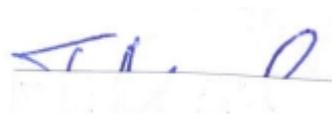
All presented and analyzed documents and materials, as well as the teaching and expert activities of Assoc. Prof. Ruskova determine the following important points:

- The documents and materials meet the requirements.
- A sufficient number of papers published after the materials used in the defense of the academic title of "Doctor" and "Associate Professor" are presented.
- In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and most of them are directly oriented to the educational work.
- The formulated contributions and results obtained are her personal merit. No plagiarism was noticed.
- The scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Ruskova is unquestionable.

This gives me grounds for a positive assessment and a recommendation to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Assoc. Prof. Yanna Pavlova Ruskova, PhD to the academic position of "Professor" at "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen, scientific field 1. Pedagogy, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in ..., scientific specialty "Methodology of music education".

11.03.2022

Statement by:



(Assoc. Prof. Georgi Mitev, PhD)