

# REVIEW

*by Assoc. Prof. Lyuba Atanasova Zlatkova, PhD,  
"Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen,*

member of a scientific jury  
in a competition for the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 1.  
Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in... (Methodology of  
teaching music),  
published in the State Gazette, issue 94 / 12.11.2021 and on the website of "Konstantin  
Preslavsky" University of Shumen for the needs of the Department of "Musical Aesthetics,  
Music Education and Performance" at the Faculty of Pedagogy  
regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition by  
*Assoc. Prof. Yanna Pavlova Ruskova, PhD* from the same department

## **1. Professional development of the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Yanna Ruskova graduated with a master's degree in Music Pedagogy at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv in 1984. On this basis, she developed her professional interests and achieved successful realization. She complements her competencies by participating in schools and seminars: International Summer School of Accordion, Varna, 1992; International Summer Accordion Seminar, Burgas.

She works as a teacher of music, electronic instruments, piano, solfeggio, harmony; as an accompanist; leads a vocal group, and since 1989 is a full-time lecturer at Shumen University. She has successively held the academic positions of "Assistant", "Senior Assistant" and "Chief Assistant". In 2013 she successfully defended her dissertation on "PROFESSIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION OF STUDENTS – FUTURE MUSIC TEACHERS", for which she was awarded the academic title of "Doctor" in Methodology of music education in PF 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... In 2015, after participating in a competition, she was awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor" in higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in) (Methodology of music education).

The teaching engagement of Assoc. Prof. Ruskova as a university lecturer is related to the preparation, conducting and control of lecture courses and exercises in Methodology of music education at school in the following majors: "Pedagogy of music education", "Preschool and primary school pedagogy", " Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language ", " Preschool pedagogy with a foreign language ", for the academic degrees of "Bachelor", "Master" and "Doctor".

Her research interests are in the field of methodology of music education at school, professional training and realization of future teachers, psychological and pedagogical profile of music teachers, creation of modern music textbooks.

Yanna Ruskova participates in various projects – The "Student Internships" Project of the Ministry of Education and Science, and is the head of various university projects.

She is a member of: the Management Board of Hristo Botev Community Center, established in 1872, and in Novi Pazar - since 2004; of the Organizing Committee and the team for conducting the National Competition for Accordionists "Dancing Keys", Novi Pazar (since 2002).

Since February 2017, Assoc. Prof. Ruskova is Head of the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performance at the Faculty of Pedagogy of "Konstantin Preslavsky" University of Shumen; from December 2017 to September 2020 she was Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs at the Faculty of Education.

During the period 2016 - 2021 she led an author's team for the creation of music textbooks and teaching aids, Anubis Publishing House, Klet Ltd.

## **2. General description of the submitted materials**

### ***Scientific publications***

Assoc. Prof. Yanna Ruskova, PhD participated in the competition with the following materials for scientific and applied research:

- Monographs - 2;
- Articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 17, three of which are co-authored;
- 10 Music textbooks for 1st - 10th grade of high school;
- 10 electronic Music textbooks for 1st – 10th grade of high school;
- 19 study aids (books for music teachers, etc.)

These publications provide the required points for participation in the competition for the academic position of "professor".

### ***Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in literature (known citations)***

A reference including the following citations is presented:

- citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 15;
- citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review - 43.

These citations provide a total of 360 points.

## **3. General characteristics of the candidate's activity**

### ***Teaching and learning activities (work with students)***

Yanna Ruskova conducts educational work with students majoring in "Pedagogy of Music Education" in Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor's Degrees, as well as in the following

majors: “Preschool and primary school pedagogy”, “Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language”, “Preschool pedagogy with a foreign language”.

In the "Pedagogy of music education" major, she lectures on the following disciplines:

*Theory and methodology of teaching music at school; Music psychology; Music editors; Electronic musical instruments; Competence approach and innovations in teaching.*

In the Master's degree "Music Pedagogy" major, she gives lectures on:

*History of music pedagogy, Contemporary trends and schools in music psychology; Piano / Accordion / Electronic instruments; Modern music editors.*

In the majors “Preschool pedagogy”, “Preschool and primary school pedagogy”, “Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language”, “Preschool pedagogy with a foreign language”, “Primary school pedagogy with IT”,

In the Bachelor's and Professional Bachelor's Degrees:

*Methodology of music education in primary school; Musical instruments.*

In the Master's degree:

*Methodology of teaching music in kindergarten; Methodology of music teaching at the initial stage of education; Modern technologies in music teaching in kindergarten; Modern technologies in music teaching at the initial stage of education.*

Yanna Ruskova is the author of 13 curricula.

This gives grounds to note the interrelationships and intertwining of the teaching work, scientific interests and journalistic activity of the candidate.

### ***Scientific and applied science activity***

The guidelines in the research of J. Ruskova can be summarized as follows:

- Music pedagogy and psychology
- Professional and personal development of future music teachers. Competence approach in building a music teacher.
- Practical-applied aspect - music textbooks and tools for their application (Books for the music teacher).

### ***Contributions***

The published articles and reports reveal different aspects of the author's search. They show the development and clarification during the time of her musical-pedagogical concept. In this regard, the monograph entitled "Contemporary Music Pedagogy - Theoretical and Analytical Aspects" is a large-scale study that summarizes the author's research in much of her professional career. The work is focused on the professional training and realization of the music teacher and has two accents with different weight - the art of music and man, as its user and translator for the minds of adolescents. The monograph draws attention to music as a

necessity, to the functions of music through the eyes of music pedagogy and the philosophy of music. The art of music is traced in historical aspect and in symbiosis with other scientific and aesthetic branches. The in-depth review takes us to the next level - the modernity and the new functionality of the art of music, elegantly pointing out the need for balance by combining the different functions of music and art in education.

Decent attention is paid to the objective and subjective in the performance of music. Performance, as a multilevel process, is seen as an act of creativity, as a mental phenomenon in the artist's contact with the work, a condition of satisfaction, a spiritual catharsis in perception. The musical-interpretive process is analogous to various human activities and especially to the educational process - the perception of music, the structure of the lesson, the personality of the teacher as a mediator, the pupils/students as an audience.

In the **second chapter** of the paper, a competency model of the music teacher is presented, a structure with derived key, professional and personal competencies is proposed. "*Key competencies* are manifested in every profession when deciding on professional tasks when using: information, communication, social and legal bases of personal behavior in civil community. [Ruskova 2021] *The basic competencies* reflect the specifics of a particular professional activity (pedagogical, medical...) *The special competencies* reflect the specifics of the area of professional activity."

According to the author, the key competencies "are the common language among all participants in the educational process", and the future music teacher needs to have communicative, digital, social and educational competencies that are paramount and specific to the music field. The professional competencies of the future music teacher include *two main structural elements* - basic and special competencies. The basic ones are summarized as professional-pedagogical competence.

The proposed structure contains *two main areas* - psychological-pedagogical and methodological component. Their characteristics are derived on the basis of qualifications standard of bachelor's degree graduates at Shumen University. The **third chapter** points to the place of the event - the music lesson, modern requirements, new curricula, structuring a lesson, musical and non-musical means of experience and learning. The lesson is viewed in musicological aspect - topic; idea; lesson genre; composition, as well as variants of lesson composition depending on the emphasis on one of the other elements; the dramaturgy of the lesson is compared to the musical score. "The development of the musical-pedagogical composition of the lesson is a concretization of the idea in a kind of architectonics of the lesson.... The syllabus or methodological development can be conditionally compared with the libretto in the performing arts, in which the actors are the Teacher, the Students and the Music »[Ruskova 2021]. But the teacher is the main actor, his improvisational talent is the one that allows, with the means of art, knowledge of children, atmosphere, space and other factors, to create a lesson in which their love for children and art will be intertwined.

### **Scientific contributions:**

The monographs and articles propose concepts and models in various aspects of music pedagogy and psychology; professional and personal development and the image of future and current music teachers; competency approach in education; pedagogical-psychological bases of musical performance; a modern music lesson and textbook for the secondary school.

### **Scientific and applied contributions:**

The monograph presents some applied aspects that would provide an opportunity to raise the level of awareness of students, to motivate the professional and personal needs of professionals to be in line with changes in modern times in education and life. Practical guidelines for work (current technologies, forms, methods, approaches to work - non-verbal communication, verbalization of music content, interactivity, heuristics, music therapy practices, etc.) are provided by revealing modern requirements for music lessons.

The developed model and methodology for research of the professional self-determination of the future music pedagogues gives an opportunity to receive information that on the one hand would optimize the professional work, on the other hand - supports the development in the personal direction. The research model can also be applied in the training of specialists in various specialties.

### **Applied contributions:**

The creation of modern textbooks and teaching aids in music by the author is the result of her extensive experience in working with students, the arsenal of knowledge and competencies of theoretical and applied nature in the field of musicology, music pedagogy, digital technology and others.

### **Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate**

The objective analysis of the presented contributions shows that they are a personal and independent work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ya. Ruskova. All scientific publications are in the academic style, which determines the importance and originality of scientific achievements. The authenticity of the materials submitted in the competition is supported by the relevant declaration (for the accuracy of the information), signed by the candidate.

### **Conclusion**

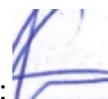
Based on the above, I believe that the candidate meets the requirements of The Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and its regulations and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen. All of this allows me to give a positive mark on her overall work.

I am voting **in favor** and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury that Assoc. Prof. Yanna Pavlova Ruskova, PhD to be elected to the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of teaching music) for the needs of the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Music Education and Performance at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the “Konstantin Preslavsky” University of Shumen.

22.02.2022

Shumen

Member of the scientific jury:



(Assoc. Prof. L. Zlatkova, PhD)