

REVIEW

By Prof. Mariyana Nikolaeva Buleva-Petrova, DSc –

**"Music" Department of St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo,
regarding a competition for the academic position of "professor" -
field of higher education 8. Arts, professional direction 8.3. Music and Dance Art (Music
Analysis)**

**Department of "Musical Aesthetics, Music Upbringing and Performance" at the Faculty
of Education –**

Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen,

announced in the State Gazette, no. 42/12/05/2023

Candidate: Associate Professor Nikolay Mitev Andriyanov, PhD

1. Contest details. The competition for a professor in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional direction 8.3. Music and Dance Art (Musical Analysis) is announced by the Department of "Musical Aesthetics, Music Upbringing and Performance" of Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen. Associate Professor Nikolay Mitev Andriyanov is the only candidate in it. All stages of the procedure were completed correctly, in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. The materials provided provide the necessary information in full. The candidate in the competition, **Associate Professor Nikolay Andriyanov, PhD, meets the condition of meeting the minimum national requirements** for occupying the academic position of "professor" in the relevant professional field.

2. Applicant data. Nikolay Andriyanov is a graduate of Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky Higher Pedagogical Institute (today Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen), where he obtained a bachelor's degree with the qualification of music pedagogue. He defended his dissertation in 2004 at the Specialized Scientific Council on musicology and musical art. His academic career developed again at Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen

(since 2004 – assistant, since 2007 – chief assistant, since 2015 – associate professor). His artistic activity is related to his work as a conductor, including the "Native Sounds" choir at the "D. Voynikov - 1856" – Shumen, with whom he performed dozens of concert and competition performances at home and abroad. His participation in university scientific research projects, in projects for the National Fund "Culture" and for the Municipal Fund "Culture" (Shumen) is impressive.

3. Description and contributions of scientific works. Nikolay Andriyanov's scientific activity developed over the years is in two spheres of music theory: musical analysis and harmony. He also produced a textbook on harmony, 2023 (included in the materials for the current competition - group of indicators E - 26), and a textbook on musical analysis (2011), as well as a monograph based on the dissertation, dedicated to harmonic issues (group of indicators D - 7), as well as monographs related thematically to musical analysis, including issues of musical style (two of which are included in the scientometrics under this procedure, group of indicators B and D – 6). In principle, the sciences within the framework of music theory are organically linked, but at the same time they are also specialized both at the level of their subject and in their applied aspects. Therefore, today it is an increasingly rare phenomenon for a music theorist to develop a publication activity in the subject area of various music-theoretical sciences. It does honor to the candidate in the competition for professor that he bravely works in the territories of his scientific and pedagogical competences (in his capacity as a teacher of various musical theoretical disciplines) and covers a variety of scientific issues.

In the scientific production presented by Nikolay Andriyanov, it is also impressive that he makes the work of Bach and Beethoven the object of his research – a fact that must be brought out in parentheses, since it is a question of composers, or the name of separate branches in the science of music: Bachology and Beethovenology. There is an enormous amount of literature in various

languages worldwide, and the expectation is that the main and most current works are within the reach of the researcher who decides to immerse himself in these creative worlds fundamental to musical culture.

The general characteristics of the scientific production proposed for review outlined here outline the individual research appearance of Nikolay Andriyanov. A list of noted citations is attached to the competition materials, which provide the necessary points for indicator D - 16. Excluding the citation by R. Smilkov in the Mozart-Beethoven-Liszt studies, the rest belong to one author with scientific developments in the field of preschool music education. I will allow myself to point out that there are other citations of Nikolay Andriyanov in texts with a music theory profile - in a monograph¹, in a report from the Academic Forum "Integral Music Theory"² and in an article in the magazine "Bulgarian Musicology"³, which shows the wide possibilities of applicability of his scientific publications.

The habilitation thesis "The early symphonies of Ludwig van Beethoven. Compositional-structural features" (University publishing house "Bishop K. Preslavski", 2022 ISMN 979-0-707697-09-2) is 269 pages long. The text examines in detail the First and Second symphonies of the great composer. This determines the structure of the work: after the comparative first chapter, in which a parallel of Mozart's and Beethoven's style is realized, the main second and third chapters contain the analysis of each of the symphonies in chronological order. The subheadings correspond to the parts of the cycle form and to the divisions of each part. Analytical studies are combined with notation on the sheet music texts (sonatas and piano excerpts of the symphonies in the

¹ Vrangova, Snezhina. Structural-functional ambiguity. Music-analytical approaches to period and simple form types. Sofia: Mars 09, 2022, 220 pp. ISBN 978-954-2925-51-4. Citation pages: 59, 61.

² Vrangova, Snezhina. Reduplicated forms of the period. Creative solutions and theoretical problems. An attempt at modern interpretation. - In: Academic Forum "Integral Music Theory" 9/ 2022. Sofia: NMA "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov", 2022, pp. 150 - 162. Citation page: 157.

³ Gurbanov, Nikolai. Questions of terminology in the study of music for orchestra from Bulgarian folk instruments (on examples from the orchestral suites of Kosta Kolev). - In: Bulgarian musicology, 2021, No. 3, 64 - 81. Citation page: 69.

Appendix) of the structural phenomena, which is defined by the author as a "binary" research approach and highlighted first in the contribution reference. An additional landmark with a mnemonic function is the brief information about the format and its schematic representation by terms and repetition marks under each subheading.

Nikolay Andriyanov emphasizes the specific difficulties in the syntactic and functional analysis of stages of the musical form, subject to different interpretations (as a convincing example of this I will point to the beginning of the analysis of the first movement of the Minuet from the First Symphony - p. 73). The author also compares the studied works with Beethoven's later symphonies, as well as with other works - overtures, piano sonatas, instrumental concertos, etc. The work is multifunctional from the point of view of its applicability - it can serve both pedagogical practice and future theoretical developments both on the work of the composer or on the specific works, as well as on problems of music-theoretical science.

The monograph "On some features of the compositional style of Ludwig van Beethoven" (University publishing house "Bishop K. Preslavski", 2021, 338 p., ISBN 979-0-707697-07-8) is of key importance for entering the creative world of research composer. The author worked on it in parallel with the habilitation thesis and notes in the introduction that the work is an approach to the formal-structural analysis of Beethoven's early symphonies: *"This study is in the final phase of preparation and will also be published soon"* (p. 7). Therefore, before us is a *large-scale research project* with clearly defined phases, the first of which should reveal "a number of features" of the compositional style and realize the introduction of approaches *"aimed at a more accurate interpretation of the functional organization of the content of micro- and macro level..."* (p. 7).

Undoubtedly a good connoisseur of the choral music of Johann Sebastian Bach, having entered it through his doctoral dissertation, Andriyanov has

cultivated the ability to make interesting connections between new research objects and Bach's work. I think this is a fruitful line in his professional activity, and it will undoubtedly continue to feed both his pedagogical work and his future scientific pursuits.

Associate Professor Nikolay Mitev Andriyanov, PhD, is constantly making efforts to enrich the educational literature, which is a sign of responsibility towards the academic results of the educational process. This side of his activity is visible in the scientometric reference - indicator E. I will especially note that for him scientific and teaching activity are interacting spheres - a fact stated in the introduction of the monograph from 2021. Such a trend is an achievement that deserves to be specially highlighted.

4. Conclusion. The candidate in the competition for professor, Associate Professor Nikolay Andriyanov, boldly enters into big topics and significant research objects. Makes practical-applied contributions in the field of musical analysis and harmony. It combines different types of performances, including pedagogical, artistic, expert, project.

Everything said in this review is a reason to support the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Mitev Andriyanov, PhD, for the academic position of "Professor" in professional direction 8.3 Music and Dance Art (Musical Analysis).



August, 2023

Reviewer:

Prof. Mariyana Buleva, DSc