

EVALUATION REVIEW

by

Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov, PhD,
Professional Field 8.3 **Music and Dance Arts**
Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv

In connection with the competition for occupying the academic position of

Associate Professor,
professional field **8.3. Music and Dance Arts,**
specialty **“Foreign Language Interpretation of the Musical Piece,”**
at the **Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv,**

announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 57 / July 15, 2025

Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

The set of materials submitted by the sole applicant in the competition, **Kalina Ivanova Decheva-Petkova, PhD**, is in full compliance with the requirements of the *Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria*, its *Implementing Regulations*, and the *Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and for Holding Academic Positions* at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv.

The submitted documentation includes:

- Creative Curriculum Vitae
- Report on meeting the minimum requirements for participation in the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in specialty **“Foreign Language Interpretation of the Musical Piece,”**
- Report on the contributive nature of the artistic-creative and pedagogical activity
- List-appendix of artistic-creative, pedagogical, and research activity

General Presentation of the Candidate

Biography / Information/

Kalina Decheva graduated from the English Language School in Plovdiv and subsequently continued her higher education at **Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”** and **Veliko Tarnovo University “St. St. Cyril and Methodius”**. Her primary academic interests were formed in the field of translation and intercultural communication, focusing particularly on issues of linguistic imagery, cultural specificity of expressive means, and the transmission of national linguistic consciousness in translation between Bulgarian and English.

Her **Master's thesis** is on the translation of diminutives in the English renditions of Yordan Yovkov's works, analyzing the transfer of expressiveness and culturally marked meanings into an Anglophone context.

After graduation, Kalina Decheva worked as a journalist and translator, gaining practical experience in the fields of communication, language, and literary translation.

From the establishment of the degree programmes "Primary School Pedagogy with a Foreign Language" (PSPFL) and "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy with a Foreign Language" (PPSPFL), she became part of the teaching staff at **Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"**, where she played an active role in the development of foreign language teaching in pedagogical disciplines. She later continued her professional career at the **Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" (AMDFA)**, combining a humanities and artistic perspective in her teaching and research activities.

Her scholarly interests cover a broad spectrum of topics, including translation, intercultural communication, the semantics of diminutives, linguistic imagery, and foreign language teaching methodology. In recent years, her research has increasingly focused on the interrelationship between foreign language learning and music, as well as on the potential of the suggestopedic approach in the English classroom. She demonstrates particular interest in the connections between language, the musical-stage piece, and psychological well-being, examining these phenomena within the framework of integrative educational and psycholinguistic models.

Kalina Decheva exhibits a marked interest in innovative approaches to foreign language teaching, including extracurricular learning, the multicultural approach in education, and the student-centered classroom model. She views these methods as instruments for fostering creativity, cultural awareness, and emotional engagement among learners in the contemporary educational context.

In her most recent research, Kalina Decheva explores the possibilities of microlearning in the vocal class, emphasizing its advantages and comparing it to traditional methods based on Lado's aural-oral approach. She analyzes the potential of microlearning to optimize the educational process, enhance motivation, and develop students' individual artistic and linguistic competences, offering a modern integrative perspective for effective teaching in musical-stage education.

Group A of Indicators – 50 points

Dr. Kalina Decheva is the author of a doctoral dissertation entitled
"Language as a Bonding Factor in Musical-stage Arts"
(Diploma No. 121 / 18 February 2025)

Academic advisor: **Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva–Novak, PhD**

Group B of indicators – 100 points.

Habilitation Work – Published Monograph in the Relevant Academic Field

Language in Musical Activities and the Field of Psychological Well-being

Plovdiv: Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” 2025, 193 pp.

ISBN 978-619-7682-48-9 (print)

ISBN 978-619-7682-49-6 (PDF)

Group Γ of indicators – 255 points.

Published Book Based on the Defended Doctoral Dissertation

Language as a Bonding Factor in Musical-stage Arts

Plovdiv: Delta T Publishing House, 2025, 218 pp.

ISBN 978-619-7579-03-1

75 points.

Articles and Conference Papers Published in Specialized Editions in the Field of the Arts

- 1. Music in English Language Classes with Art Students – Some Ideas for Enriching Current Practice.**
Jubilee Collection “Music-Theoretical Training in Higher Music Education”, 2017, pp. 76–83.
ISBN 978-954-2963-24-0 – 15 points.
- 2. The Role of Musical Background in English Language Lessons.**
Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings 2017”, AMDFA, 2017, pp. 59–62.
ISSN 1314-7005 – 15 points.
- 3. Photos and Reproductions of Famous Paintings in English Language Classes with Art Students – New Aspects of Existing Practice.**
Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art”, 2017, pp. 384–388.
ISBN 978-954-2963-23-3 – 15 points.
- 4. How Listening to Songs Influences Language Competence.**
Annual book of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, 2018, pp. 253–260.
ISSN 1313-6526 – 15 points.
- 5. The Opinions of Certain Authors on the Relationship between the Development of Musical Skills and Language Competence.**
Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings,” 27–28 April 2018, AMDFA, First Edition, 2018, pp. 36–41.
ISSN 1314-7005 – 15 points.
- 6. How Memorizing Songs Facilitates More Effective and Enjoyable English Language Acquisition.**

Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings”, AMDFA, 2019, pp. 112–118.
ISSN 1314-7005 – 15 points.

7. **Why Studying the Culture of a Nation Is Essential for Mastering Its Language.**
Proceedings of the 3rd International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art”, 2021, pp. 211–219.
ISSN 2738-8956 (Print), ISSN 2738-8964 (Online) – 15 points.
8. **How Learning the Language of Foreign Students Can Enhance the Teaching of Bulgarian.**
Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings”, AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” Plovdiv, 2021, pp. 42–49.
ISSN 1314-7005 – 15 points.
9. **How Assessment Can Be Used as a Motivational Tool in English Language Teaching for Art Students.**
Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings”, AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” Plovdiv, 2022, pp. 38–47.
ISSN 1314-7005 – 15 points.
10. **Carol Dweck’s Theory of Motivation and Mindset in English Language Teaching for Art Students.**
Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings”, AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” Plovdiv, 2023, pp. 37–45.
ISSN 1314-7005 (Print), ISSN 2738-7720 (Online) – 15 points.
11. **Optimizing Work on Pronunciation When Assigning English Repertoire to Chinese Vocal Students.**
Multidisciplinary Journal of Science, Education and Art – Proceedings of the Seventh Balkan Scientific Conference “Science – Education – Art in the 21st Century”, 2024, pp. 349–356.
ISSN 1313-5236. Available at: [<http://www.usb-blagoevgrad.swu.bg/media/3368/2024.pdf>] – 15 points.
12. **Microlearning in the Arts (for the Vocal Class): A Literature Review.**
Proceedings of the Third National Scientific and Practical Conference “Digital Transformation of Education – Problems and Solutions”, University of Ruse, 2025, pp. 216–221.
ISSN 3033-0610 (Print), ISSN 3033-0629 (Online). Available at: [<https://www.conf-dte.bg/proceeding-papers.html>] – 15 points.

Group D of indicators – 50 points.

Citations in Peer-Reviewed Monographs and Edited Volumes

1. **Cited work:**
Decheva, Kalina. *Music in English Language Classes with Art Students – Some Ideas for Enriching Current Practice*. In: *Jubilee Collection “Music-Theoretical Training in Higher Music Education.”* Plovdiv: AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” 2017, pp. 76–85.

Cited in: Ruseva, S. *On the Teaching of the Discipline “Bulgarian Folk Music” to Students in the Programme “Bulgarian Folk Choreography.”* In: *Proceedings of the Jubilee International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Art: 50 Years of Tradition and New Trends in Dance Genres.”* Plovdiv: AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” 2024, ISBN 978-619-7682-45-8 (soft cover), ISBN 978-619-7682-46-5, pp. 305–309 // p. 307 – 10 points.

2. **Cited work:**

Decheva, Kalina. *Approaches to Overcoming Certain Difficulties Related to Pronunciation in Assigning English-Language Repertoire (“Blue Monday” by Gershwin, a Production of the Academic Opera Theatre of AMDFA).* In: *Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art.”* Plovdiv: AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” 2023, ISSN 2738-8956 (Print), ISSN 2738-8964 (Online), pp. 127–132.

Cited in: Hanse, A. *The Academic Opera Theatre of AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” as a Workshop for Student Ideas and Collaborations.* In: *Intellectual Property – Creativity, Innovation and Sustainable Development.* Sofia: Academic Publishing House “Za Bukvite – O Pismenah,” 2024, ISBN 978-619-185-687-9, pp. 343–353 // p. 350 – 10 points.

Citations or Reviews in Non-Refereed but Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. **Cited work:**

Decheva, Kalina. *Carol Dweck’s Theory of Motivation and Mindset in English Language Teaching for Art Students.* In: *Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings,”* Plovdiv: AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” First Edition, 2023, ISSN 1314-7005 (Print), ISSN 2738-7720 (Online), pp. 37–45.

Cited in: Mateva, E. *Microlearning in Vocal Practice – An Experiment for Enhancing Language Skills.* *Knowledge – International Journal*, Vol. 67.5, 2024, ISSN 1857-923X (Print), ISSN 2545-4439 (Online), pp. 807–813 // p. 812 – 5 points.

2. **Cited work:**

Decheva, Kalina. *Why Studying the Culture of a Nation Is Essential for Mastering Its Language.* In: *Proceedings of the 3rd International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art,”* 2021, ISSN 2738-8956 (Print), ISSN 2738-8964 (Online), pp. 211–219.

Cited in: Petkov, L. *On Crossover in Music from a Different Perspective.* *e-Journal VFU*, Issue 23, 2025, ISSN 1313-7514, pp. 557–563 // p. 558 – 5 points.

3. **Cited work:**

Decheva, Kalina. *Approaches to Overcoming Certain Difficulties Related to Pronunciation in Assigning English-Language Repertoire (“Blue Monday” by Gershwin, a Production of the Academic Opera Theatre of AMDFA).* In: *Proceedings, Vol. 1 of the 4th International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art.”* Plovdiv: AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” 2023, ISSN 2738-8956, pp. 127–133.

Cited in: Petkov, L. *On Crossover in Music from a Different Perspective*. e-Journal VFU, Issue 23, 2025, ISSN 1313-7514, pp. 557–563 // p. 560 – 5 points.

4. **Cited work:**

Decheva, Kalina. *The Opinions of Certain Authors on the Unity between Text and Music in the Musical-Stage Work*. In: *Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings,”* AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” Plovdiv, 2024, ISSN 1314-7005 (Print), ISSN 2738-7720 (Online).

Cited in: Mateva, E. *Musical Transformations of a Lyrical Inspiration – “Nur Wer Die Sehnsucht Kennt” by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*. e-Journal VFU, Issue 23, 2025, ISSN 1313-7514, pp. 663–672 // p. 675 – 5 points.

5. **Cited work:**

Decheva, Kalina. *Carol Dweck’s Theory of Motivation and Mindset in English Language Teaching for Art Students*. In: *Proceedings “Spring Scientific Readings,”* Plovdiv: AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” First Edition, 2023, ISSN 1314-7005 (Print), ISSN 2738-7720 (Online), pp. 37–45.

Cited in: Mateva, E. *Musical Transformations of a Lyrical Inspiration – “Nur Wer Die Sehnsucht Kennt” by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*. e-Journal VFU, Issue 23, 2025, ISSN 1313-7514, pp. 663–672 // p. 675 – 5 points.

6. **Review:**

Review of the Monograph “Language as a Bonding Factor in Musical-stage Arts.” Pehliyanov, Zh. *A Brief Overview of the Book “Language as a Bonding Factor in Musical-stage Arts” by Kalina Decheva*. *Art Spectrum (Academic Edition)*, Issue 66, May 2025, ISSN 1314-0000, p. 61 – 5 points.

Group E of indicators – 145 points.

Participation in National Scientific, Educational, or Artistic–Creative Projects

1. **Expert** (academic disciplines within project activities) under the project “*Modernization of the Educational Process at the National Academy of Music ‘Pancho Vladigerov’ and the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts ‘Prof. Asen Diamandiev’*” (BG05M2OP001-2.016-0034).
Supplementary agreement to employment contract No. 12/14.02.2011.
— 15 points.
2. **Team Member – Speech Technique Consultant** under Project No. 20/2023 at AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” led by Alia Hanse, PhD, for the stage production of George Gershwin’s opera *Blue Monday* (Bulgarian premiere).
Participation also included presentation of the production at a national stage forum.
— 15 points.
3. **Project Coordinator** under Project No. 24/2024 at AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” led by Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, PhD, focused on the innovative methods, *Application and Research of the Concept of Microlearning in English Language Training for Vocal Students*.
— 15 points.

Published University Textbook or Teaching Aid Used in the Educational Network

ESP Handbook for Arts Students.

Compiler and Notes: Kalina Decheva. Plovdiv: AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev,” 2024.

ISBN 978-619-7682-43-4 (PDF) // ISBN 978-619-7682-44-1 (Print).

— 20 points.

Masterclass, Atelier, or Workshop Leadership in the Arts

1. **Public Lecture – Workshop for Art Doctoral Students,**
19th February 2024: “*How to Select Appropriate Material for Translation for the Doctoral Minimum.*”
— 20 points.
2. **Public Lecture – Workshop for Art Doctoral Students,**
26th February 2024: “*How to Prepare Successfully for the Four Components of the Doctoral Minimum.*”
— 20 points.
3. **Public Lecture – Workshop for Art Doctoral Students,**
21st February 2025: “*How to Succeed in the English Language Examination.*”
— 20 points.
4. **Public Lecture – Workshop for Art Doctoral Students,**
28th February 2025: “*Common Mistakes in the English Language Examination.*”
— 20 points.

Personal Impressions

I would also like to share my personal impressions of the doctoral candidate as a devoted lecturer and a true mentor to her students—one who has transcended the boundaries of purely linguistic instruction. This dedicated attitude towards her work consistently fosters the depth of experience and confidence reflected in the materials she has presented.

Therefore, based on all the considerations outlined above, I confidently recommend that the esteemed academic jury award **Kalina Ivanova Decheva-Petkova, PhD**, with the academic title of **Associate Professor** in the professional field **8.3. Music and Dance Art**, specialty “**Foreign Language Interpretation of the Musical Piece**”

Date: October 2025

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov, PhD

