

## EVALUATION REVIEW

*of the documents submitted by*

**Kalina Decheva-Petkova, PhD**

at the **Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Assen Diamandiev”**  
in connection with the competition for the academic position of

**Associate Professor**

in professional field **8.3 Music and Dance Arts**  
specialty **“Foreign Language Interpretation of the Musical Piece”**  
Faculty of **Music Pedagogy**

by **Prof. Ermila Shvaitser, PhD**

**National Music Academy “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov”**

Dr. Decheva-Petkova is a candidate in the competition announced by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Assen Diamandiev” for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the specialty **Foreign Language Interpretation of the Musical Piece** at the *Faculty of Music Pedagogy*. The documentation she submits for the competition includes: a report on the minimum national requirements; a habilitation work entitled *Language in Musical Activities and the Field of Psychological Well-Being*; a statement of the scholarly contributions of the thesis and citations; the monograph *Language as a Bonding Factor in Musical-stage Arts*; a list of publications; the textbook *English for Arts Students: A Specialized Language Guide*; reports and documents confirming participation in projects and workshops; as well as the candidate’s creative biography.

Kalina Decheva-Petkova is an English language lecturer with more than eighteen years of professional experience at AMDFA “Prof. A. Diamandiev,” where she works with students from various performing arts majors - opera singers, visual artists, musicians, and dancers. She was born in Plovdiv, where she completed her secondary education at the English Language School, and subsequently earned degrees in English Philology at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and at Veliko Tarnovo University “St. St. Cyril and Methodius.” In 2025 she defended her doctoral dissertation on the following topic *Language as a Bonding Factor in Musical-stage Arts* at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine arts “Prof. Assen Diamandiev” in Plovdiv.

Dr. Decheva’s research interests lie in the fields of applied linguistics; innovative teaching methods; the influence of music on optimizing foreign language instruction for arts students; language as a connective element in work with musical and performing arts; microlearning; motivational strategies; and artistic techniques that support more effective language acquisition. She has numerous participations in conferences and seminars in the areas of foreign language education, translation, and English language literature. The candidate presents an impressive list of publications that demonstrates her sustained scholarly engagement with the interrelations between speech and music.

The submitted Report on the Minimum Required Points by Indicator Groups meets all stipulated conditions, fully satisfies and indeed substantially exceeds the parameters set by Decree No. 122 amending and supplementing the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, applied since 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. The report is supported with the necessary evidentiary documentation, presented in a precise and well-structured manner.

**Group B of indicators, Item 1** – Habilitation Work – Published Monograph in the Relevant Scientific Field, Kalina Decheva presents the monograph *Language in Musical Activities and the Field of Psychological Well-Being*, Plovdiv, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Assen Diamandiev,” 193 pages, 2025; ISBN: 978-619-7682-48-9 (print), 978-619-7682-49-6 (PDF).

Dr. Decheva’s work makes an indisputable contribution to the field of applied linguistics by investigating language functions in the musical-psychological context, a perspective rarely addressed in traditional studies. It enhances the understanding of speech and music as mutually enriching communicative systems and bridges the divide between linguistic and psycholinguistic approaches through the mediating role of music. The study examines the interrelationship between language, musical arts, and well-being, demonstrating how this connection is manifested in various ways and is enriched by innovations of the digital era as well as the unique traditions of Bulgarian folklore. A particularly strong contribution is that the work is grounded in the author’s own empirical research.

**Overall for Group B of indicators: 100 out of the required 100 points.**

**Group Γ of indicators , Item 7** – *Published book based on a defended doctoral dissertation for the educational and scientific degree Doctor* – Kalina Decheva presents the monograph *Language as a Bonding Factor in Musical-stage Arts*, Plovdiv, 2025, DeltaT Publishing house, 218 pp., ISBN: 978-619-7579-03-1. The book presents a model of foreign-language (English) instruction aimed at developing musical-stage competencies in the context of working with the verbal component of a musical-stage piece. I fully support and confirm the contribution highlighted by the author, namely that the proposed model can be applied in the training of future performers regardless of their level of proficiency in English, thereby fostering both linguistic development and the acquisition of specific musical skills.

**Regarding Item 9** – *Articles and conference papers published in specialized journals in the field of the arts* – the candidate lists twelve publications. The contributions of these works

are indisputable. I will mention only some of them: they enrich traditional approaches to language teaching by integrating musical elements into lectures; they propose ways in which music can serve as a tool for stimulating creativity among arts students; they provide evidence that music can enhance collaboration and social interaction among students in the arts; they demonstrate that listening to songs increases motivation and satisfaction in language learning; and they substantiate the thesis that language and culture are inseparably connected—that language is not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of cultural attitudes, traditions, and modes of thinking.

**Total for Group Γ of indicators: 255 points instead of 120 points required.**

**Group Δ of indicators, Item 17** – *Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes* – two citations are presented.

**Item 18** – *Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scholarly peer review* – five citations and one review, all precisely and accurately documented.

**Total for Group Δ of indicators: 50 points instead of 40 points required.**

**Group E of indicators, Item 22** – *Participation in a national research, educational, or artistic-creative project* – Kalina Decheva lists three projects:

1. **Expert** for academic disciplines within the activities of the project *Modernization of the Educational Process at the National Music Academy “Pancho Vladigerov” and AMDFA “Prof. Assen Diamandiev”* (BG05M2OP001-2.016-0034), Supplementary agreement to employment Contract No. 12/14.02.2011.
2. Member of the project team – **consultant in speech technique** for Project 20/2023 at AMDFA, supervised by Alia Hanse, PhD, for the staging of George Gershwin’s opera *Blue Monday*, its premiere in Bulgaria, and participation of the production in a national stage forum.
3. **Coordinator** for Project 24/2024 at AMDFA “Prof. Assen Diamandiev,” supervised by Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, PhD, dedicated to the research of the innovative *Application and Study of the Concept of Microlearning in English Language Instruction for Vocal Students*.

**Item 27** – *Published university textbook or teaching aid used in the school network* – the candidate presents *ESP Handbook for Arts Students. Помагало по специализиран*

*английски език за арт студенти*, compiled and annotated by Kalina Decheva, AMDFA “Prof. A. Diamandiev,” Plovdiv, 2024; ISBN 978-619-7682-43-4 (PDF) // ISBN 978-619-7682-44-1 (soft cover), 100 pages.

**Item 28** – *Leading a masterclass, atelier, or workshop in the arts* – Kalina Decheva presents four public lecture-workshops:

1. Public lecture–workshop for doctoral students in the arts, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, on the topic: *How to Select Appropriate Translation Material for the Final Doctoral Exam.*
2. Public lecture–workshop for doctoral students in the arts, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, on the topic: *How to Successfully Prepare the Four Components of the Doctoral Minimum.*
3. Public lecture–workshop for doctoral students in the arts, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2025, on the topic: *How to Succeed in the English Language Examination.*
4. Public lecture–workshop for doctoral students in the arts, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, on the topic: *Common Errors at the English Language Examination.*

**Total for Group E of indicators: 145 points instead of 50 points required.**

**In conclusion**, taking into account all of the above said, the submitted materials, the contributory nature of the candidate’s scholarly works, publications and projects, as well as the fact that the candidate substantially exceeds the required number of points in most indicators, I confidently propose to the esteemed Academic Jury of the present competition to confer upon Kalina Decheva-Petkova, PhD, the academic position of *Associate Professor*, specialty *Foreign Language Interpretation of the Musical Piece* in the Professional Field 8.3 *Music and Dance Arts*.

**Date:** 14 November 2025

**Place:** Sofia

**Reviewer:**

*Prof. Ermila Shvaitser, PhD*