

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Yuliyana Stoyanova Kuyumdzhieva

for the materials submitted for participation in the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, State Gazette, Issue 12 of 12.02.2020

for occupation of the academic position “Professor” under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Choir Conducting” at the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department

of the only candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Ivanova Geleva

Data of the candidate

Vesela Geleva graduated with honors from Dobrin Petkov National School of Music – Plovdiv in 1985 and from Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy in 1991 with the specialty “Choir Conducting” with teachers Prof. Vasil Arnaudov and Prof. Dr. Virzhiniya Atanasova. As a student she received the award for excellent success of the Faculty of Theory, Composition and Conducting.

After graduation she worked as a teacher at Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and as a conductor of the Plovdiv Opera, Stefka Blagoeva Plovdiv Boys and Youth Choir, “Detska Kitka” Representative Choir, Angel Bukoreshtliev Plovdiv Singing Society, the Trimontsium Ladies’ Choir, and the choirs at the temples St. Georgi and St. Trinity in Plovdiv.

In 2008 Vesela Geleva defended her dissertation on “*Specifics and Education of the Singing Voice in Children and Adolescents and Problems of its Application in the Choirs*” and received the scientific and educational degree “Doctor”.

Since 1994 Vesela Geleva has been teaching at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, and since 2010 she has been an Associate Professor of Choir Conducting. In 2006 Geleva created the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir, which participates in many choir festivals at home and abroad – Sofia, Yambol, Pomorie, Gabrovo, Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad, Ohrid (Macedonia), Paralia (Greece), Loreto (Italy), Veszprém (Hungary), Hajnówka (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), Paris (France) and which has realized concert tours in Belgium, Germany, France, Great Britain, Czech Republic, Poland, and Italy. The Gaudeamus Choir was invited as a resident choir at the First International Competition for Young Choir Conductors “Maestro Zahari Mednikarov” in Albena. Under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva, the Ensemble participated in the first performances for Bulgaria of works by JS Bach, A. Grétry, F. Liszt, L. Mozart, J. Van, as well as in the productions of the Educational Opera Theater at Prof. Assen Diamandiev

Academy of Didona and Aeneas”, “The Fairy-Queen” by H. Purcell and “Semele” by G. F. Handel.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva is one of the most active church conductors in Bulgaria. With the choirs of the temples St. Georgi and St. Trinity in Plovdiv, as well as with choirs of other churches in the country, she participated in the celebration of over 1,500 evening and morning liturgies. She is a member of the jury and the organizing committee of the International Orthodox Music Festival “Saint Mary – Axion Estin” in Pomorie.

Furthermore, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva is included in the jury of the International May Choir Competition “Prof. Georgi Dimitrov” in Varna and at the International Thracian Choir Festival in Yambol.

For her work as a choir conductor she has won awards, including an award for high choir conducting skills from the 13th International Orthodox Music Festival “Saint Mary – Axion Estin” in Pomorie, as well as an honorary plaque for overall contribution to the development of the festival, and the academic award of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy – “Meden Chan”.

Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements according to Art.26, para.2 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva presented the following materials for her scientific and artistic activity:

1. Group of indicators A – required points 50; presented Diploma No 30218 for defended doctoral dissertation. Total points of group A – 50.

2. Group of indicators C – required points 100. In indicator 5 – *Leading (independent) performance in the field of arts*, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva presented 10 performances: concerts with the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir in Bulgaria – Sofia, Plovdiv, Gabrovo, and abroad – Antwerp (Belgium), Krakow (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), Paris (France). Total points from group C – 350.

The presented concerts highlight the level of the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir and the prestige that this Ensemble has on various stages at home and abroad thanks to its leader Assoc. Prof. Geleva. Among the performances I will highlight the concerts in Belgium in November 2013, where the Ensemble performed Orthodox chants by Chesnokov, Bortnyanski, Arkhangelsky, Zinoviev, Kedrov-father, Fyodorov, Feiner, D. Hristov, P. Dinev, A. Nikolaev-Strumski, G. Popov and K. Popov, many of them for the first time; the premiere performances for Bulgaria of the cantata “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” BWV 140 by JS Bach and the opera “Richard the Lionheart” by A. Grétry together with the Sofia Philharmonic; the Bulgarian premiere of “Music of Love and Stars” by Jeffrey Van, performed together with a string quartet from Minneapolis, USA, within the GuitArt festival in the Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy.

3. Group of indicators D – required points 150. In indicator 12 – Realized short author’s product in the field of arts, Assoc. Prof. Geleva presented an author’s program dedicated to the 130th anniversary of the birth of Petar Dinev and broadcast on the “Hristo Botev” program of the BNR. In indicator 14 – Supporting creative performance or participation in a collective product in the field of arts, the reference contains 22 participations of the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir – opera performances, concerts, festivals, and international projects in Bulgaria – Sofia, Plovdiv, Yambol, Blagoevgrad, Pomorie, and abroad – France, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic. Total points from group D – 250.

The activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva in this group of indicators reveals the active partnership of the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir with various vocal and instrumental ensembles in Bulgaria and abroad in the implementation of international and national cultural projects. I will especially emphasize the participation of “Gaudeamus” in the productions of the Educational Opera Theater of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy, for the successful realization of which the team has an undoubted contribution.

4. Group of indicators E – required points 80. In indicator 19 – Reviews of realized author’s products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts, 11 reviews in specialized editions are presented – “Musical Horizons” magazine (8) and the Artspectrum newspaper (3). Total points of group E – 110.

The presented materials, the authors of which are established music critics and musicologists – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miglena Tsenova-Nusheva, Olga Shurbanova, Yanina Bogdanova, Manuela Mancheva, Dr. Polyana Paunova-Tosheva, Prof. Dr. Yuliyana Kuyumdzhiev, reveal the high evaluation, which the activity of Assoc. Prof. Geleva as conductor of the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir receives.

5. Group of indicators F – required points 120. In indicator 24 – Management of a national scientific, educational, or artistic project, Assoc. Prof. Geleva presents three projects implemented in Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad, and Pomorie. In indicator 30 – Awards of competitions for creativity and performance given by national professional forums and organizations, Assoc. Prof. Geleva mentions 9 awards, and in indicator 31 – Awards from competitions for creativity and performance given by professional forums and organizations abroad – one award from Ohrid, Macedonia. Total points of group F – 200.

According to the presented information about the scientometric data, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva meets the conditions of Art.26, para.2 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and has a total of 960 points from indicators A (50 points), C (350 points), D (250 points), E (110 points) and F (200 points), which significantly exceeds the points required by the Act in the relevant indicators.

With her overall creative activity Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva has established herself as one of the significant contemporary Bulgarian choir conductors and enjoys respect among the professional guild in the country. Her work with a number of choirs in Plovdiv has

been very important for the musical life of the city in the last few decades. The Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir, led by her, has an impressive activity and is a desired and sought-after partner of various ensembles at home and abroad. Its participation in many projects is undoubtedly important for their successful implementation. The high level of Gaudeamus and the work of Assoc. Prof. Geleva are also evidenced by the awards given to the Ensemble and personally to its leader by authoritative music forums and cultural institutions.

The presence of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva in the artistic and educational work of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy outlines her as one of the outstanding personalities in the Academy. Through the Gaudeamus Choir created and led by her, she unites the educational work of the students with their creative activity. The achievements of this staff are among the most important for raising the prestige of the Academy and for attracting more candidates to study in it. The successes of the Gaudeamus Academic Chamber Mixed Choir make it one of the most recognizable “faces” of the Academy and have a significant contribution to the ranking of the Academy in the public space.

I will especially emphasize the awards received by the students of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva at various competitions and the successful realization of a number of her graduates in various music institutions in the country, many of whom are among the promising choir conductors in the country: Tsvetan Tsvetkov – conductor of the Angel Bukoreshtliev Plovdiv Singing Society, Stefan Boyadzhiev – conductor of the Varna Opera, Momchil Tomov – conductor of the High School Choir in Vratsa, the City Mixed Choir in Vratsa and the Nikolay Gyaurov Mixed Choir in Velingrad, Dzhuliya Uzunova – choirmaster and conductor in “Detska Kitka” Choir in Plovdiv, and Gergina Nedelcheva – conductor of the choir at the St. Petka Church in Plovdiv.

Conclusion

Based on the materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva, the indisputable contribution of her artistic and pedagogical work, as well as my personal impressions, I strongly suggest to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to choose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva for the academic position “Professor” under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Choir Conducting” at the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

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