

## **PEER REVIEW**

**by Prof. Dr. Kostadin Mihaylov Buradzhiev**

**for the presented materials by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva  
for participation in the competition for occupation of the academic position  
“Professor of Choir Conducting”  
at the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department, Faculty of Music Pedagogy,  
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv  
Higher education field: 8 “Arts”  
Professional field: 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”**

The documents submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position “Professor” by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the respective Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva is a prominent conductor who for many years has enriched the Bulgarian musical culture with her activity. Her creative biography goes through various fruitful stages and contributes to her growth as a conductor, researcher, educator, and public figure.

Vesela Geleva graduated with honors from Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Arts in Plovdiv in 1985 with the specialties “Piano” and “Music Theory”. She received her higher education at the Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy in Sofia in the choir conducting class of Prof. Vasil Arnaudov and Prof. Dr. Virzhiniya Atanasova. During her studies she received the Prof. George Dimitrov Award of the Faculty of Theory, Composition and Conducting of the National Music Academy for excellent success. Dr. Geleva works as a teacher of compulsory piano, solfeggio, and aesthetics at Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Arts and as a conductor of the Choir at the Plovdiv State Opera, Stefka Blagoeva Choir of Plovdiv Boys and Youth, “Detska Kitka” Choir, Choir of the Angel Bukureshtliev Plovdiv Singing Society, Trimontsium Ladies’ Choir, the choir at the St. Georgi Church – Plovdiv and the Chamber Mixed Choir at the St. Trinity Church – Plovdiv.

Naturally, the greatest pride of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva is the Gaudeamus Academic Mixed Choir, established in 2006, through which she realized her great creative potential as a conductor and interpreter of secular and orthodox choir music. I have always publicly expressed my admiration for her conducting work, for her active participation in the cultural life of the City of Plovdiv and the country, and for this I would like to emphasize the materials presenting her creative activity as a conductor, who is highly valued by professionals and the public.

As a significant contribution to the Bulgarian musical culture are the huge number of concerts at home and abroad, the participation in the most prestigious festivals and competitions in Europe, the realized for Bulgaria premiere performances of music from different styles and eras, and the received highest awards, diplomas and distinctions, including “Crystal Lyre”, award of the Petya Pavlovich

Foundation for high achievements in the field of choir performance, the award “Musician of the Year” – category “Ensemble” by Allegro Vivace – BNR. Here, I cannot fail to point out the concert with orthodox music, recorded and broadcast throughout Europe by Euroradio.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva is the winner of the award for high choir conducting skills, and has an honorary diploma from the Darby Foundation – Sofia for proven contribution to the musical and choir education of adolescents and young people. She is also the winner of the academic award “Meden Chan” for high artistic and creative achievements, the award of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy, diploma and plaque for contribution to the popularization of Bulgarian culture by the Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Club in Prague, and many others.

I am completely convinced of the contributing character and I highly appreciate the production created by Vesela Geleva and the Gaudeamus Academic Mixed Choir, as a significant creative achievement. I cannot help but appreciate Geleva’s conducting work: always very accurate and expeditious, with characteristic manual technique, with many nuances, but also very frugal and authoritative. Her choir always sings with great artistry and emotionality, presenting the stylistic features of the performed works.

In 2005, Vesela Geleva, on the basis of a defended dissertation on the topic: *“Specifics and Education of the Singing Voice in Children and Adolescents and Problems of its Application in the Choirs”*, was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”.

The fruit of her many years of activity and research are the many articles and the monograph *“Petar Dinev and his Church Choir Legacy”*, published in 2008.

This scientific activity of Vesela Geleva throws a bridge in her pedagogical work – training of masters in church choir music. She also developed the curricula in the disciplines “Conducting Skills”, “Choir Conducting with Piano”, “Course Choir Conducting with Choir Science”, “Church Choir Conducting”, “Scores Playing”, “Course Choir with Choir Science”, etc. Dr. Geleva is the author of the qualification characteristics for the Master’s degree in Choir Conducting, as well as the author of a program in “Church Choir Conducting” for the Department of Language and Specialized Training at the Academy, in connection with a project for improvement and specialization of lecturers and teachers.

Her pedagogical activity in the preparation of outstanding students is reflected in their realization as conductors of various choir formations – Dzhuliya Uzunova – choirmaster and conductor in “Detska Kitka” Choir – Plovdiv; Momchil Tomov – conductor of the High School Choir in Vratsa, the City Mixed Choir in Vratsa and the Nikolay Gyaurov Mixed Choir in Velingrad; Stefan Boyadzhiev – conductor of the choirs in the Varna Opera; Tsvetan Tsvetkov – conductor of the Angel Bukoreshtliev Plovdiv Singing Society; Stanimira Manolova – conductor of the Cappella Anima Chamber Formation – Plovdiv; Petya Petrova – conductor of the preparatory staff at the Academy with the State Opera – Plovdiv; Stefan Vladov – conductor in Tunisia; Tsvetanka Kirilova – conductor in Norway; Gergina Nedelcheva – conductor of the choir at the St. Petka Church in Plovdiv; Rayna Angelova – conductor of the choir at the Church of the Holy Mother of God – Pazardzhik.

The great public response of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva as a professional gives her the opportunity to be invited to evaluate a number of public events in our country. She has been a longtime member of a scientific jury with a number of reviews and opinions, a member of the jury at the International Orthodox Music Festival “Saint Mary – Axion Estin” – Pomorie, Prof. Georgi Dimitrov International May Choir Competition – Varna, the International Thracian Choir Festival in Yambol, and others.

Due to the above, and taking into account the contribution nature of the awards and distinctions from prestigious local and international competitions, the realized significant concert performances with the Gaudeamus Academic Mixed Choir, the created scientific-methodical literature, the social-professional activity, and the moral and ethical qualities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva as a lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, I offer with full REASON and CONVICTION, on the basis of all abovementioned facts, proving the contribution of all performing, pedagogical and research activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva reflected in this peer review, my positive assessment, and ***I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the academic position of “Professor of Choir Conducting”*** to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva, Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field: 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”.

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/Prof. Dr. Kostadin Buradzhiev/