



## REVIEW

**from Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Doctor of Philology**

**Margarita Todorova Terzieva - Professor at the University „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“- Burgas**

**of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position „Associate Professor“ at the University „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“- Burgas in the field of higher education**

**1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty „Methods of teaching music in kindergarten and primary school“**

In the competition for associate professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 107 of 16. 12. 2021 for the needs of the Department of Pedagogy and Teaching Methodology at the Faculty of Social Sciences, as the only candidate involved Chief Assistant Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova from the same faculty.

General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order № PD-35 of January 27, 2022 of the University „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“ I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor“ in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Methodology of teaching music in kindergarten and primary school), announced for the needs of the Department of Pedagogy and Teaching Methodology at the Faculty of Social Sciences. I was appointed reviewer at the first meeting of the jury.

Ch. Assistant Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova from the University „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“ has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition. The set of materials presented by the candidate is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the University.

Ch. Assistant Dr. Smilena Smilkova has submitted a total of 21 scientific papers: 1 monograph, 1 book based on a dissertation, 1 textbook and 18 scientific articles, the distribution of which, according to their publication in the country and abroad, is 8 to 10.

The author is not satisfied with quoting popular scientific opinions, but seeks their contemporary interpretations in pedagogical conditions. It offers musical miniatures, tales and plays that can expose children and students to „aesthetic radiation“, making them connoisseurs of music.

The second chapter – „Model of perception of instrumental musical works in preschool and primary school age“ - contains the most important sections of the monograph. The formation of competencies in children and students through the perception of music is analyzed. Their skills, communication skills, phases of creative development are considered. The ways for the development of children's speech on the basis of emotional and figurative perception of music are revealed. The author's proposed model „Tell me music“, based on empirical research, uses pedagogical observation, questionnaire methods and didactic test. Kindergarten children, primary school students and pedagogical students are immersed in a creative atmosphere created with the help of fairy-tale concerts, creative word games, observation of paintings depicting various dances, etc. This fosters emotional sensitivity, encourages non-standard approaches and ingenuity, raises the level of general culture. In this sense, I fully agree with the author's opinion that „the relationship between the various arts in music education enriches knowledge, experience, associative and figurative thinking, which determines the creativity and artistic invention in children and students.“ The methodical syncretism achieved by Dr. Smilena Smilkova will probably become a starting point for related research, which makes this work especially valuable not only in the field of music pedagogical practice, but also in native language teaching and fine arts education.

The textbook „Creative tasks for the development of imagination through the perception of instrumental music“ convincingly proves that today creative discoveries can be made „on the edge“ of two or more sciences and scientific fields. The author explores the skills of students in pedagogical specialties, setting them tasks in the field of music, literature, and fine arts. From the point of view

- „Identity in dance and song“ (contract 2019-1-BG01-KA229-062344\_1 between Sofia University „N.Y. Vaptsarov“, Aytos and Center for Human Resources Development);
- „Music and Arts in Nature“ (contract 2019-1-IT02-KA229-063291\_3 between Sofia University "NY Vaptsarov", Aytos and Center for Human Resources Development);
- „Trends and perspectives in the development of status-role models and key competencies of Bulgarian teachers“ (NIH - 436/2020) of the University „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“.

### **Scientific contributions**

The candidate's contributions can be divided into three groups:

- scientific - a theoretical model has been developed for the perception of children's musical instruments in preschool and primary school age, which is based on children's imagination and creativity;
- scientific-applied - artistic syncretism has been achieved by discovering intersections between literature, music and fine arts in the work with students of pedagogical specialties, which contributes to their multidirectional cultural and aesthetic enrichment and self-enrichment;
- applied - a graduate of the candidate wins prestigious awards at four prestigious piano competitions - three international and one national.

These contributions reveal the qualities of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Smilena Smilkova as a researcher with specialized methodological interests in the field of music education of children, pupils and students.

### **Citation**

A total of 8 citations of works by Dr. Smilena Smilkova were found in the submitted documents, of which 4 are in Bulgarian scientific journals and journals and 4 - in journals abroad. Seven of the citations are in peer-reviewed scientific journals. They characterize her as a recognizable person in the methodological community.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of the degree "Doctor". Her works are oriented towards the methodical preparation of the students from the pedagogical specialties and towards the real pedagogical practice.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, the analysis of their significance and the contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences for the election of Chief Assistant Dr. Smilena Dimitrova Smilkova to the academic position of „Associate Professor“ at the University „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“ in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Methodology of teaching music in kindergarten and primary school).

28. 03. 2022

Review written by:

(Prof. DSc Margarita Terzieva)