

REVIEW

by Prof. Elisaveta Borisova Valchinova-Chendova, D.Sc., NBU,

Professional field 8.3. Music and Dance art

in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor",

Professional field 8.3. Music and Dance art

(computer music and sound design, music theory)

at the Faculty of Basic Education and the Department of Music at New Bulgarian
University,

published in OG, no. 89 / 16.10.2020,

with a single candidate: Chief Assistant Dr. ROSITSA DIMITROVA BECHEVA

CANDIDATE PRESENTATION

Rositsa Dimitrova Becheva graduated from NUMDA "Dobrin Petkov" in Plovdiv (1983) and NMA "Prof. P. Vladigerov" in Sofia as a master with a degree in "Music Theory" (1990). She has also a postgraduate qualification (specialty "Music Pedagogy") in AMTFA "Prof. A. Diamandiev" - Plovdiv. In 2004 she successfully defended the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", and her dissertation was the first paper, dedicated to the methodology of teaching an electronic instrument (synthesizer). It is actively used in the teaching of this instrument and is cited in scientific and methodological publications. From 2000 to 2011 she was a part-time lecturer at NBU. Since June 2011 she has been a chief assistant - scientific specialty 05.08.02. Musicology and music art (synthesizer, computer music making, solfeggio) at the Department of Music.

Her teaching activity is active and innovative: she develops and applies her own methodology for teaching synthesizer in the courses at NBU; she participates in the preparation of textbooks for the module "Computer Music"; she participates in the preparation of new courses such as "Electronic musical interpretation", "E-sound - live electronic, sound design and music production" at the Music Faculty, "Electronic musical interpretation" in BP; organizes and conducts an author's seminar "Electronic music and (bp) interpretation" within the permanent seminar "Musical subhorizons" of the Department of Music; together with Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov is a co-organizer and participant in the seminar "Sound Design from A to

Z"; she participates in many national and international projects. Rositsa Becheva is one of the engines of the International Forum-Festival "The Universe of Computer Music". Her artistic activity is related to festival and individual concert performances, recordings, etc.

She is the author of articles and reports, published in scientific journals. She annually presents her research at the scientific conference of the National Section of Acoustics and the Institute of Mechanics - BAS (2009 - 2013) and the National Scientific Conference FEMA (2014-2018), at the Scientific Conference with international participation for doctoral and postdoctoral students "Young Scientific Forum for music and dance", organized by the Department of Music, etc.

She has been a member of the section "Musicologists" at the Union of Bulgarian Composers (since 2013).

Her book "In the world of Simo Lazarov's electronic music" (Sofia: NBU, 2018. 472 p. With appendices and musical examples) has been highlighted as a contribution to musicological research. In 2018 and 2019 she was awarded two prizes: the Special Prize "Book of the Year 2018" of the section "Musicologists" at Union of Bulgarian Composers (UBC) and the award "Golden Five Lines 2019" (award for a musicologist - member of UBC, with significant publications and works, which have promoted and caused a high public response to the works of Bulgarian composers).

**RESEARCH / CREATIVE ACTIVITY AND RELATED RESULTS
(ACCORDING TO THE INDICATORS FOR THE DIFFERENT SCIENTIFIC
DEGREES AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS FOR THE COMPETITION AREA: 8.3
"MUSIC AND DANCE ART")**

The materials with which Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Dimitrova Becheva participated in the competition include activities that cover the minimum requirements for this section in the individual groups. According to the requirements, I will limit myself to commenting on the groups of indicators with submitted materials for the competition and the comments to them.

• GROUP "A" - 50 points / defended doctoral dissertation

Dissertation on the topic "Methodology of teaching synthesizer", scientific specialty 05.08.02. Musicology and music art. This has been certified by Diploma 29482 / 24.01.2005, approved through a Protocol from 10.11.2004 (NACID). The dissertation and publications,

related to it, have been evaluated as a theoretical study that has applicability in the learning process.

• Group B: achieved a total of 380 points with a minimum number of 100 points.

Indicator 3 (100 points) - the monograph "In the world of Simo Lazarov's electronic music", which I will review separately.

Indicator 5 (280 points): 8 activities in 2018 are indicated, related to the presentation of the NBU publication "In the world of Simo Lazarov's electronic music": in Sofia (UBC, NBU, Center for Culture and Debate "Red House" Andrey Nikolov ", Museum of the History of Radio in Bulgaria, MF "Sofia Music Weeks", in Plovdiv (Cultural Center "Trakart"), program" Hristo Botev ". As a reviewer of the book, I have attended some of the events, related to it. Organized meaningfully and interestingly, each of these events was an occasion for active dialogues about the creative contribution of the composer Simo Lazarov and discussions on contemporary music and the genre of electronic music in Bulgaria and around the world.

• Group of indicators G: collected a total of 1110 points with required 120 points.

Indicator 7: Published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (75 points) - two editions, completed 150 points.

Indicator 9: Articles and reports, published in specialized publications in the field of arts (15 / n) - 12 publications were presented (15 points each - 180 points).

The publications in magazines and collections are thematically related to various aspects of electroacoustic music. Most of them are dedicated to important theoretical problems, which are formulated and derived on the grounds of the work of Simo Lazarov. They contain analytical observations on the music of various contemporary music composers experimenting in the field of timbre (for example, "The idea of timbre in the trilogy "Mergers" by Simo Lazarov", collection № 8 "Young Scientific Forum for Music and dance 2014", etc.). A special emphasis in her research is music making and interpretation, considered terminologically, as a musical practice and in the educational process. Various technological principles of sound extraction are also analyzed.

Listed as “additionally presented” are also 39 independent scientific articles, listed on the NBU website, on the website of the Music Department and in other publications. They are defined as 585 points fulfilled (39 articles of 15 points each).

I know many of these texts, they are interesting and fruitful, but since they are not in reviewed editions, I accept them only as a fact that illustrates the scientific activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva, and I do not include them in the number of points on the card.

Indicator 12: Realized short author's product in the field of arts (30 points) - two author's products (60 points) are presented:

1) 14.12.2012, 17:30, UniArt Gallery, NBU - Concert performance of the author's electroacoustic composition "Reflection", with the participation of: Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva - synthesizer, Assistant Dr. Stella Atanasova - electric viola, Yavor Lazarov (student of "Computer Music") - computer sound design, within the International Forum-Festival "The Universe of Computer Music 2012".

2) 03.03.2018 - organization and participation in a CD of teachers and students from the courses in "Electronic and Computer Music" - "Pictures from Bulgaria". The author's composition "November noise" (computer music) is presented, as well as the co-author's composition "Sound canvases from Bulgaria" (in collaboration with the students Rumena Marinova and Vasilena Popangelova)

Indicator 13: Leading (or independent) creative performance in the field of arts, which is not a main habilitation work (35 points) - a rich and diverse artistic activity (performing, organizing, journalistic) is presented with 9 concert participations - individually and in a team with colleagues - defined as 20 activities (700 points).

And here is included an additional activity as well: participation in radio programs in the field of electronic and computer music - creative performances on behalf of NBU; participation in discussions on the electronic environment, the practice of current music making, works of electronic and computer music, making and listening to music, musical and aesthetic parameters; on the ideas historically embedded and manifested in the philosophical interpretations of electronic music. A total of 11 activities, which I take for information only.

Indicator 14: Supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts (10 points) – scored 20 points:

1) 01.11.2016, Musical Theater, Ceremony of awarding the national prizes "Crystal Lyre" on the Day of the People's Awakeners - part of the team of multimedia projects "Planets" (premiere on 01.12.2015), "Mergers" (premiere on 25.05. 2016) and "Light" (pre-premiere 06.07.2016). For the three projects, "Stanislav Stanchev-Stanley" Training and Practice and Research Center for Computer Music Making and Computer Sound Processing at NBU received the Crystal Lyre.

2) 16.11.2016, NBU, Hall 511, Building 1 - organization and participation (together with Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Vasilev) in the concert program of the official opening of the Training-Practical and Research Center for computer music making and computer sound processing "Stanislav Stanchev-Stanley".

• Group of indicators D - minimum 40 points, presented 50 points.

Indicator 17: Cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (10 points) - three citations (30 points).

Three citations of "The Synthesizer in Music Education. Methodology of synthesizer training with accompanying functions "(2001).

Indicator 18: Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review (5 points) - two citations (10 points)

Two citations of "The Synthesizer in Music Education. Methodology of teaching a synthesizer with accompanying functions (2001): in an article published in the International Journal of Literature and Arts, 2015, p. 54, ISSN 2331-0553 (Print), ISSN 2331-057X (Online); in Educational Alternatives, 2014, Vol. 12, p. 1000, ISSN 1313-2571. The International Journal of Literature and Arts is referenced in literature and art databases (excluding WoS and Scopus).

Indicator 19: Reviews of realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts (10 points) - entirely positive review of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Diana Danova-Damyanova in "Musical Horizons" (2020, № 6, p. 20, ISSN 1310-0076) for the book "In the world of Simo Lazarov's electronic music".

Group of indicators E - minimum 50 points, achieved 940

Indicator 22. Participation in a national scientific, educational or artistic project (15 points) - a total of 29 projects in 5 areas are presented. I reduce the participation in scientific conferences with a report, so the projects are 20, a total of 300 points. Their character is at concert and educational forums.

Indicator 23. Participation in an international scientific, educational or artistic project (20 points) - 260 points achieved (13 activities in total).

Data are also presented for another 14 projects (with continuation over the years) of leading importance in the personal and research realization of Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva, which I accept for information only.

Indicator 29. Creative performance in a master class, studio, workshop in the field of arts (20 points) - 18 creative performances (360 points).

Indicator 30. Prizes in competitions for creativity and performance given by national professional forums and organizations (10 points) - two prizes (20 points):

1. Special award "Book of the Year 2018" of the section "Musicologists" - UBC.
2. Award of the Union of Bulgarian Composers "Golden Fiveline ".

The mentioned "Crystal Lyre", as I have already mentioned, was awarded in the category "Sound and sound design" of the Training and Practice and Research Center for Computer Music, Computer Sound Processing and Sound Design "Stanislav Stanchev-Stanley" at the New Bulgarian University. Rositsa Becheva has an active role in the organization and implementation of the projects of this center and this is, of course, recognition for all participants in them, respectively for her, but cannot be included as a personal reward.

Presented in total:

Group A	Minimum points – 50	Achieved points – 50
Group B	Minimum points – 100	Achieved points –380
Group C	Minimum points – 120	Achieved points –1110
Group D	Minimum points – 40	Achieved points – 50
Group E	Minimum points – 50	Achieved points –940

As can be seen, the presented data cover and in some groups many times exceed the necessary national requirements for the academic position of "Associate professor".

Ch. Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva also has the activities corresponding to the additional indicators for New Bulgarian University.

Research (creative) activity and results: The monograph "In the world of Simo Lazarov's electronic music", dedicated to the work and the 70th anniversary of Prof. Dr. Simo

Lazarov, Honorary Professor at the New Bulgarian University, is an impressive musicological study. Undoubtedly, this is the first comprehensive study, dedicated to Simo Lazarov as a pioneer of electronic and computer music in Bulgaria, but also to the history of electronic music in our country. "The massive information foundation, supported by numerous specially conducted interviews, is a solid ground for the detailed outline of the creative portrait of Simo Lazarov" (emphasizes Diana Danova-Damyanova in her review). During the creative years of Simo Lazarov and his searches, the development of this genre in our country is outlined, the different search directions, related to current compositional projects in the music of the twentieth century and the present. Rositsa Becheva manages to trace various creative searches musically in-depth and precisely, understanding the nature of the individual composer's projects. Her observations are based on rich personal observations and in-depth knowledge of almost all possible professional literature by Bulgarian authors, which is relevant to the topic "Contemporary and New Music", the genre of "electronic music" and related theoretical and practical issues (" sound spaces, electronic sound extraction and interpretation ', ' compositional system ', ' synthesis of the arts', etc.).

Fundamental works by foreign authors - composers and researchers are also included. Her musicological view is also reconsidered by her practical experience in the genre. The peculiarities of the digital performance, the integration of electronics and computer technologies, the incorporation of multimedia in the performance and the unconventional forms of presentation are also commented. It is no coincidence that her monograph received high professional evaluation and aroused the interest of the general public. The book is also a contributing edition for NBU. It can be used in the process of training students and doctoral students in the field of electronic and computer music.

Teaching and learning activities: Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva is a full-time lecturer at NBU, Faculty of Basic Education and the Department of Music. She teaches both in theoretical courses and in practical and creative courses and projects of students and teachers. She has an active versatile artistic activity with participation in projects, conferences, seminars.

Personal impressions of the candidate (if any): Based on my personal observations from the teaching and artistic activities of Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva and her work with students, I am convinced that she will motivate and successfully fulfill her commitments as a full-time associate professor.

Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activities and achievements of the candidate: none.

Conclusion: Based on all the above and in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria I give my positive assessment. I share the opinion of the members of the Scientific panel in the competition for "Associate Professor" (computer music and sound design, music theory) in professional field 8.3. Music and dance to propose to the esteemed Academic Council of NBU **to elect** Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Dimitrova Becheva for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Sofia, 26.02.2021

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