

OPINION

by **Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova**

Department of Music, New Bulgarian University
professional field 8.3 Music and dance art on the contributions of the proposed
artistic and creative activity and monograph
of

Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Dimitrova Becheva

for participation in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor"
in the 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,
announced in SG N: 89/16.10.2020.

Personal details

Rositsa Dimitrova Becheva graduated the Secondary School of Music - Plovdiv (1983) with a degree in *piano*. Then she acquired master's degree at the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov"- Sofia (1990) with a degree in *music theory*. She completed a postgraduate qualification in *music pedagogy* at the Academy of Music and Dance "Prof. Asen Diamandiev"- Plovdiv (1997). In 2004 she acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", professional field 8.3. Music and dance art by defending a dissertation on "Methodology of teaching synthesizer". The main research interests of Dr. Rositsa Becheva are in the field of digital arts and sound design, electronic and computer music and composing of computer music. She has also been working on electronic musical interpretation for a long time. She is interested in artistic practice and the integration of music and new computer technologies in the field of piano pedagogy. She also teaches music theory courses at NBU. From 2000 to 2011 Dr. Becheva was a part-time lecturer at NBU. In June 2011 she won a competition for a chief assistant in the professional field 8.3. Music and dance art (synthesizer, computer music making, solfeggio) at the Music Department of NBU. Dr. Becheva is an active lecturer, scientist and artist in this department. She participates in the preparation of passports for courses and teaching aids for bachelor's and master's programs in music, for minor programs and many more. She organizes and holds an author's seminar "ELECTRONIC MUSICAL INTERPRETATION" within the permanent seminar "MUSICAL SUBHORIZONS" of the Department of Music, which aims to expand the students' range of knowledge. Together with Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov, she is a co-organizer of and participant in the seminar "SOUND DESIGN FROM AZ". Dr. Becheva is one of the organizers and most active participants in the annual international forum-festival "THE UNIVERSE OF COMPUTER MUSIC", where she presents her personal pieces of music, scientific reports, participates in radio broadcasts. She participates annually with reports and publications in the scientific conference of the National Section of Acoustics and the Institute of Mechanics - BAS and the National Scientific Conference FEMA, in the Scientific Conference with international participation of doctoral and postdoctoral students "Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance", organized by the "Music" Department - New Bulgarian University, in scientific forums and conferences of the "Musicologists" Section of the Union of Bulgarian Composers (since 2013 she has been a member of this organisation). She received a number of awards: "Crystal Lyre" of the Union of Music and Dance in the category SOUND AND SOUND DESIGN (2016); "Book of the Year" SPECIAL AWARD for "In the World of Simo Lazarov's Electronic Music" (2018); "NEW BULGARIAN MUSIC" (2019), "THE GOLDEN MUSIC STAFF"/NEW BULGARIAN MUSIC 2019, UBC AWARDS and others. She participates actively in various projects, concerts and formats: "Piano, organ and synthesizer - the great instruments of the centuries" (2004); New Bulgarian Music (2008, 2009); "Open Education", at the initiative of the Department of Music - NBU, season 2010 - 2011); the Night of Museums at the National Polytechnic Museum, Sofia (2013, 2014, 2015); the concert performance of the multimedia oratorio - impression "The Divine Beginning" by Simo Lazarov in the First Studio of the Bulgarian National Radio; European Night of Scientists (2015) on the topic: "Music, Mathematics, Physics" and many others.

Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

GROUP OF A INDICATORS (50 points required)

Defended dissertation on "Methodology of teaching synthesizer" (2004)

A total of 50 points are awarded for group A

GROUP OF B INDICATORS (100 points required)

Indicator 3: *Habilitation thesis - published monograph in the relevant scientific field (100 points)*

Rositsa Becheva "In the world of Simo Lazarov`s electronic music" (Sofia: NBU Publishing House, 2018, ISBN: 978-619-233-011-8, 472p.)

Group B presents a total of 100 points

GROUP OF G INDICATORS (120 points required)

Indicator 7. *Published book on the basis of a defended dissertation for awarding an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" or for awarding a scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"*

1. Becheva, R., M. Becheva. *The synthesizer in music education. Methodology of synthesizer training with accompanying functions. School for synthesizer with accompanying functions, S., 2001, PoligrafYug, ISBN 954-8995-01-8*
2. Becheva, R., M. Becheva. *Methodology of synthesizer training with automatic accompaniment. S., 2001, PoligrafYug*

75 points are awarded

Indicator 9. *Articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts*

Proposed 13 articles of 15 items each in various scientific journals, magazines and forums.

A total of 195 points are awarded

Indicator 14: *Supportive creative expression in the field of arts*

9 creative performances of 10 points each are awarded

A total of 90 points are awarded

Group G presents a total of 360 points

GROUP OF INDICATORS D (Required 40 points)

Indicator 17. *Quotations in monographs and collective works with scientific review*

1. Publication: Becheva, R., M. Becheva, *The Synthesizer in Music Education. Methodology of synthesizer training with accompanying functions.* S., 2001. **Quoted in:** Baychev, Ts. *Innovative technologies in the teaching of a musical instrument*, Shumen, 2018, monograph, p.67. ISBN 978-619-201-230-4
Received: 10 points.

2. Publication: Becheva R., M. Becheva. *The synthesizer in music education. Methodology of synthesizer training with accompanying functions.* S., 2001.

Quoted: Baycheva, B., Ts. Baychev. *Current problems in the teaching of electronic musical instruments to students - professional bachelors in pedagogy* (pages 297 -302), BFU (BURGAS FREE UNIVERSITIES) Scientific conference with international participation VOLUME ONE 14-15 JUNE 2013 BURGAS, ISBN 978-954 -95-9
Received: 10 p.

Indicator 18. *Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review*

1. Publication: Becheva R., M. Becheva. *The synthesizer in music education. Methodology of synthesizer training with accompanying functions.* S., 2001.

Quoted in: Baycheva, B., Ts. Baychev. *Organizing the training of future children's and primary teachers in musical instruments* (p.42-45). SCIENTIFIC WORK of the Pedagogical College, Dobrich, Volume I, 2000 – 2001,ISSN 1312-2347
Received: 5 p.

2. Publication: Becheva R., M. Becheva. *The synthesizer in music education. Methodology of synthesizer training with accompanying functions.* S., 2001.

Quoted in: Jean Stefanov Pehlivanov. *Creating Accompaniment to a Melody by Using Computer.* International Journal of Literature and Arts. Volume 3, Issue 5-1, 2015, Pages: 50-54. ISSN Print: 23310553 Online 2331-057X
Received: 5 p.

3. Publication: Becheva, R., M. Becheva. *The synthesizer in music education. Methodology of synthesizer training with accompanying functions.* Sofia: 2001

Quoted in: Baycheva, B., Ts. Baychev. *Rethinking Training In Musical Instruments Of Students - Future Teachers.* Educational Alternatives. 2014, Vol. 12, p.p. 993-1000; ISSN 1313-2571
Received: 5 p.

Indicator 19. *Reviews of realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts.*

1. **Review by Danova-Damyanova, Diana.** In the world of electronic music by Simo Lazarov. In: Magazine "Musical Horizons" Edition of the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers. Year LIV, issue 6, ISSN 13100076. (included in the National Reference List of the National Center for Information and documentation) - **10 points.**

Additionally, a review of Rositsa Becheva's book on the website of the Research Institute *Danova - Damyanova, Diana*. "Sofia Music Weeks" on the eve of its 50th anniversary. - In: Arts Platform, Institute for Arts Study - BAS, July 11, 2018, № 4, p. 26 - 33, ISSN: 2367-7694, <http://artstudies.bg/platform/?p=1938>
http://artstudies.bg/platforma/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/02_web_new_BG.pdf

2. and in English language: Danova-Damianova, Diana. *Sofia Music Weeks on the eve of its Jubilee*. - In: A Platform for Arts, Institute of Art Studies, BAS, July 11, 2018, N 4, p. 26 - 31; ISSN: 23677694,
<http://artstudies.bg/platforma/?p=1983&lang=en>
http://artstudies.bg/platforma/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/02_web_new_en_N.pdf

In the article in English, the name of the monograph is quoted on page 30: „Rositsa Becheva’s book *In the World of Simo Lazarov’s Electronic Music*”

A total of 45 points are awarded in group E

GROUP OF INDICATORS F (50 points required)

Indicator 22. *Participation in a national scientific, educational or artistic project*

There are 26 performances of 15 items, which are united in several areas.

A total of 390 points are awarded

Indicator 24. *Management of a national scientific, educational or artistic project*

Presented 1 project: Organization and participation in the "Final concert - E-music and sound design" - works of teachers and students from the courses in: "Electronic and computer music" and the minor program "Music DJ (DJ) and Video J- ing”

A total of 30 points are awarded

Indicator 28. *Management of a master class, studio or workshop in the field of arts*

Author's seminar (12 lectures and a workshop of 20 points - 260 points) "ELECTRONIC MUSICAL INTERPRETATION" within a permanent seminar of the Music Dep. "Musical subhorizons": Organizing (together with Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov) and participation in the Permanent Seminar "Sound Design from A to Z" (5 editions of 5 points - 25 points)

Organization and participation in a concert of teachers and students of the module "Computer Music and Sound Directing" (8 editions of 5 points - 40 points)

A total of 305 points are awarded

Indicator 29. *Creative performance in a master class, studio, workshop in the field of arts*

Presented 18 activities of 5 points - 90 points.

A total of 90 points are awarded

Indicator 30: Prizes in competitions for creativity and performance given by national organizations

1. "Crystal Lyre" of the Union of Musicians and Dancers in the category SOUND AND SOUND DESIGN (2016).

2. Awards "Book of the Year" 2018 of the section "Musicologists" – Union of the Bulgarian Composers, SPECIAL AWARD for "In the world of electronic music of Simo Lazarov <https://ubc-bg.com/en/book-of-year-2018-na-section-musical/>

3. 2019 Annual Award of the Union of Bulgarian Composers "Golden Music Staff", Award for a musicologist - a member of UBC with significant publications and works that promoted and caused a high public response to the work of Bulgarian composers.

Link to the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuQcpoMSC1E>

A total of 30 points are awarded

A total of 845 points are presented in group F

The provided data is completely sufficient and exceeds the necessary national requirements for the academic position of an “Associate Professor”.

Dr. Becheva's self-assessment also includes activities that correspond to the additional indicators for the New Bulgarian University, which she certainly meets.

Research (creative) activity and results

The contributions of the proposed artistic activity and monograph of the Chief Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva

The monograph "In the world of electronic music of Simo Lazarov" is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov, Honorary Professor of the New Bulgarian University. It focuses on the creative laboratory of the composer Simo Lazarov – *founder of electronic music in Bulgaria*, to his compositions, on audiovisual, multimedia and mega performances. The monograph is the first comprehensive study dedicated to the pioneer of electronic and computer music in Bulgaria and the development of this type of creativity and performance in our country, analysis of the musical thinking of Simo Lazarov, his musical-linguistic system. The author has focused on the overall creative activity of the composer - the creation of works, the idea and realization of projects, studio, performing and concert activities, pedagogical and production activities, promotional activities. An attempt is made to bring out the aspects of electronic sound and interpretation, the composition system, the ideas of tone quality space, the idea of art synthesis, of linguistic and semantic layers, the conceptual model of synthetic performance, stylistic features of his music, creative approaches and solutions. The peculiarities of digital performance, the integration of electronics and computer technologies, the incorporation of multimedia in the performance and the unconventional forms of presentation are detailed. The book has two applications, the first of which presents innovations in electronic music, as well as information about the capabilities of the laser harp and innovative electronic MIDI instruments, created by the Cynthia Audio Visio Band, as the second application contains a complete list of works by the composer and performer - Simo Lazarov. The presented research can be used in the process of training students and PhD students in the field of electronic and computer music.

The presented monograph, the artistic and creative activity (noted in her reference is beneficial and qualitative, as well as sufficient enough for the defense of the academic position "Associate Professor" at NBU, the Music Department.

Academic activities

Ch. Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva is a full-time lecturer at the New Bulgarian University, Faculty of Basic Education as well as in the Department of Music. She is a useful and valuable academician, both in theoretical courses, in practical and creative courses and projects of students and teachers.

Administrative and public activities

Dr. Becheva has no administrative commitments at the NBU, but her activities and continuous work, which she has performed in projects, conferences, seminars, are a sufficient proof of her great work for the public presentation of NBU in the media and public space.

Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)

I know Dr. Becheva very well in my capacity of a Music Department Head. She is responsible, hardworking, principled, a good expert and a wanted lecturer by students and colleagues. She is always ready to help and to get involved in a new project or concert. I think that she will perform the work of a full-time associate professor with great enthusiasm.

Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

I don't have any.

The opinion may end with the following assessment:

On the grounds of all the information, detailed above, as well as on the grounds of the conclusions made on the submitted scientific, creative and teaching activities of **Ch. Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva**, having in mind her activity, the contribution of her scientific, teaching and creative work, I give my **definite positive assessment** and suggest to the respected members of the Scientific Jury of the competition for "Associate Professor" (computer music and sound design, music theory) in the professional field 8.3 Music and dance, to propose to the honorable Academic Council of NBU to elect **Ch. Assistant Dr. Rositsa Becheva** for the academic position "Associate Professor" subject to the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Date 31.01.2021.

Signature:

Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova