

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova, New Bulgarian University
on the contributions of the habilitation thesis and the proposed activity
of Assistant Professor Dr. **DIANA IVANOVA DANOVA-DAMYANOVA**
for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor
in Musicology and Music Art (Contemporary Bulgarian Music Culture and
Festival Practices), professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, for the needs of the
Music Department, research group Music Culture and Information, Institute of Art
Studies (IAS), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), according to the
announcement published in the State Gazette (issue 41 / 20.05.2025).

Biographical data

DIANA IVANOVA DANOVA-DAMYANOVA

Education: 1983-1988 “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov” State Music Academy – History of Music (MA); 2004-2006: Institute for the Study of Arts [now Institute of Art Studies - BAS]. Regular PhD student in the section "Information Systems in Music Culture". PhD from 2008; since 2011: Assistant Professor at the **Institute of Art Studies**; since 2007: musicologist at the Music and Folklore Archive. **Primary activity:** Music Department at the National Scientific Centre for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Institute of Music and Folklore, IAS - BAS. Research of contemporary music festivals - *Musica Nova*, ppIANISSIMO, etc.; previously worked on preservation, digitization and restoration of musical folklore; local studies related to musical folklore. **Publications.** *Musica Nova* and Bulgarian Music Culture, Sofia: Institute of Art Studies, 296 p., ISBN 978-954-8594-16-5 (monograph); Sofia Music Weeks. Study on the History and Present State of the Festival, Sofia, 2024, ISBN 978-619-7619-36-2 (monograph). **Other publications:** In the journals "Bulgarian Musicology" and “Music Horizons”, in the scientific almanac "Kipriana Belivanova", in the collections of scientific materials "Bulgarian Historical Musicology", "New Ideas in Musicology 2006", "Art Studies Readings", "60 Years of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences", "Spring Readings"; "Local Lore Readings, Kazanluk"; publications on music and critical materials in the newspaper *Musica Viva*, etc. **Representative scientific projects:** BAAART (Bulgarian Art Archives and Advanced Research Technologies) 1,2,3 (2006-2012) Member of the team; Research project „Information technologies for developing a digital library of sheet music and lyrics of Bulgarian folk songs” (2009-2012). Participants in the project: IAS – BAS, IMI – BAS, IEFSEM – BAS, Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”. Head of the working group of the Institute. **Representative participation in conferences or short summary of participations:** The Fifth SEEDI International Conference: Digitization of cultural and scientific heritage, 2010, Sarajevo, BiH; ; Международная научно-методическая конференция «Музыкальная культура в теоретическом и прикладном измерении» в рамках Международного фестиваля детского и юношеского музыкального творчества «Сибириада», 2014, Кемерово, Российская Федерация; reports and multimedia presentations (incl. as co-author) at different academic and scientific-applied forums: "60 Years

of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences", "Art Studies Readings"; "Spring Readings"; "Local Lore Readings" (Kazanluk); Seminars for users of the Integrated Library and Information System E-Lib, organized by Softlib, etc. **Member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers (UBC)** - member of the Young Composer's Cabinet (1988 - 1990); member of the Musicologists Section of the Union of Bulgarian Composers, since 2011. **Awards: "Book of the Year 2024"** of the Musicologists' Section of the Union of Bulgarian Composers in the category **"Special Prize 2025" (Monographic Studies)** monograph *"Sofia Music Weeks". Studies on the History and Present of the Festival*. Sofia: Institute of Art Studies – BAS, 2024, 320 p. ISBN 978-619-7619-36-2.

Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements under the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

Indicator group A

Indicator 1: Doctoral dissertation for acquiring the educational and academic degree doctor

Danova-Damyanova, Diana. The Modern Message of *Musica Nova* in Bulgarian Musical Culture, **2008**, 370 pp. Scientific degree Doctor, Diploma № /date: 32468 / 24.06.2008, confirmed with Protocol № /дата: 7-17 / 23.04.2008

Total number of points 50

Group of indicators B

Indicator 3: Habilitation thesis - published monograph in the relevant scientific field

Danova-Damyanova, Diana. "Sofia Music Weeks". Studies on the history and present of the festival. Sofia; Institute of Art Studies – BAS, 2024, 320 pp. ISBN 976-619-7619-36-2

Total points 100

Indicator group C

Indicator 7: Published book based on a defended dissertation for acquiring the degree of Doctor of Education and Science or for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science

Danova-Damyanova, Diana. *Musica Nova* in Bulgarian Musical Culture. Sofia. Institute of Art Studies, 2009, 296 pp. ISBN 978-954-8594-16-5 (75 pts)

Indicator 8: Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (4 materials presented - 120 pts.)

Indicator 9: Articles and reports published in specialized journals in the field of arts (6 published materials submitted - 90 pts.)

Indicator 10: Studies published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information (2 materials submitted - 90 pts.)

Indicator 11: Studies published in specialized art journals (1 publication submitted - 30 pts.)

Total points 405

Indicator group D

Indicator 17: Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes (11 citations submitted - 110 pts.)

Indicator 18: Citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals (2 citations submitted - 10 pts.)

Total points 120

Indicator group E

Indicator 22: Participation in a national scientific, educational or artistic project (7 activities presented - 105 pts.)

Indicator 26: Published university textbook or a textbook used in the school network (**Valcinova-Chandova, Elisaveta, Diana Danova-Damyanova, Angelska, Vanya**. Music for eighth grade. Bulvest 2000, 2017, ISBN:978-954-18-1080-4, 64 pp. - 13,334 p.)

Indicator 27: Published university textbook or textbook used in school network (**Valcinova-Chendova, Elisaveta, Diana Danova-Damyanova, Angelska, Vanya**. Music teacher's book for eighth grade. Bulvest 2000, 2017, ISBN:978-954-18-1039-2, 44 pp. - 6,7 p.)

Indicator 28: Prizes received at competitions for creativity and performance given by national professional forums and organizations (1 prize presented by UBC - 10 pts.)

Total points 135

We can visually break down the candidate's activities in a table:

Group of indicators	Minimum points required under the LDASRB	Points submitted by the applicant
Group A	Minimum points required - 50 pts.	Points submitted - 50
Group B	Minimum points required - 100 points.	Points submitted - 100
Group C	Minimum points required - 120 points.	Points submitted - 405
Group D	Minimum points required - 40 points	Points submitted - 120
Group E	Minimum points required - 50 pts.	Points submitted - 135

The presented activity is serious, contributory and sufficient to defend the academic position of Associate Professor in Musicology and Music Art (Contemporary Bulgarian Music Culture and Festival Practices) for the needs of the Music Department, Research Group Music Culture and Information of the Institute of Art Studies - BAS. From the data provided by the candidate can be seen that Assistant Professor Dr Diana Danova-Damyanova meets the necessary scientific-metric requirements and has an active and important scientific and project activity.

Reference for original academic contributions of Diana Danova-Damyanova

For participation in the present competition, the candidate Diana Danova has selected some of her publications (including monographs), realized after her PhD and the competition for the assistant professor, which she has grouped into three thematic groups: 1) The International Festival "Sofia Music Weeks"; 2) Contemporary music on the festival podium (on the example of several Bulgarian festivals); 3) Bulgarian performers and festival practices.

A group of publications on the topic "International Festival Sofia Music Weeks":

The monograph, presented as habilitation thesis, deals with aspects related to the formation, establishment and representativeness of the international festival. This is the first large-scale and focused study of the capital's longest-running international music festival, where its 55-year history is traced in the form of four studies from its inception in 1970 to the most recent (as of 2023) editions. Thematic emphases are placed on the specific features of the festival model, the metamorphoses in the organizational structure, and the consolidation of the international prestige of the forum. Bulgarian music, which is gradually occupying an increasingly important place in the repertoire of Sofia Music Weeks, is the subject of the latest study specifying premiere performances of significant works by Bulgarian composers (from 1978 to 2019). Among the contributions are the eight detailed appendices produced, based on long researched and studied documentary material (opening and closing concerts, author and anniversary concerts, concerts "Under the Honorary Patronage of the European Festival Association", etc., presented chronologically). The rich illustrative material (accompanied by a detailed inventory) complements the text with archival visual material published for the first time. The publications accompanying the monographic study also address important issues related to the Sofia Music Weeks. The publication devoted to the role of Peter Stupel, who directed Sofia Music Weeks for almost two decades and under whose management the forum was at its 'peak', is presented through a critical reflection on synthesized information from extant official documentation and studies for the first time.

A group of publications on the theme of "Contemporary music on the festival podium" (using several Bulgarian festivals as examples):

Contemporary music on the festival podium and contemporary music festivals in the Bulgarian cultural space has been the subject of the candidate's long-standing research interest. The active development of this topic has formed a steady line in Diana Damyanova's scholarly work, and her observation of various forums focused on contemporary music in recent Bulgarian festival practice continues to this day, manifesting itself in several critical publications in the periodical press (which are not the subject of this presentation). The publications presented here are a continuation of her dissertation "The Modern Message of *Musica Nova* in Bulgarian Music Culture", which grew into the book *Musica Nova* in Bulgarian Music Culture (2009). Contemporary Bulgarian and foreign musical creativity have manifested itself in various formats over the years: the Sofia Music Weeks, the *ppIANISSIMO* Festival of Contemporary Piano Music, which emerged as a subsidiary formation of the DNMB and *Musica Nova - Sofia*, etc.

A group of publications on the topic "Bulgarian performers and festival practices":
In the selected publications, Diana Damyanova's research interest is focused on the musician as an important figure in festival programming, not only as a subject attracting spectator interest, but also as a co-participant in the formation of the festival program. Particularly important in the programming of Sofia Music Weeks is the concern for young performers, for whom the festival provides a podium for artistic expression before they take their successful path to the world stages. ("Podium of the Young Performer", "Stage of the Young Musician", etc.) This tendency runs as a "red thread" from the very first festival editions to manifest itself with the greatest intensity in the last two decades of the forum.

From what has been said it is evident the great activity and the important significance and contribution of the candidate in her activities for Bulgarian musicology and music culture.

Study and teaching activities

Main areas of lecturing at universities: Music History, Music Analysis – Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”, Music Theory - Solfège, Music Theory, etc. at Air Defense Training Centre, The National Guards Unit.

Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)

I know Diana Damyanova from our meetings at various scientific forums and from short conversations. She is punctual and responsible. I am impressed by her scholarly work and her serious approach to everything she has presented, especially her dedication to the Bulgarian school of music composition.

My opinion can be assessed in the following way:

On the basis of all stated above, as well as the conclusions drawn on the proposed scientific and applied activities of assistant professor Dr. **Diana Danova-Damyanova**, taking into account her great activity, the contributory nature of the proposed scientific activities and projects, **I give my confident positive evaluation** and propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury of the competition for "Associate Professor" in "Musicology and Music Art" (Contemporary Bulgarian Music Culture and Festival Practices), professional field 8.3. "Music and Dance Art", for the needs of the Music Department, Research Group "Music Culture and Information" at the Institute of Art Studies - BAS, to propose to the esteemed higher authority of the Institute of Art Studies - BAS **to elect assistant professor Dr. Diana Danova-Damyanova for the academic position of "Associate Professor"**, according to the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Date 10.08.2025

Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova