

# REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. **Ganka Nedelcheva**,

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", FNOI

in a competition for "associate professor" in a professional direction 8. 3. "Music and dance art"

(Musical Aesthetics, Acoustics, Sound Engineering)

announced in SG no. 67 from 28.07.2020 with a single candidate:

**HRISTO KUTEV KARAGYOZOV**

## **I. Data for the competition**

The competition was announced for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Department of Music, FNOI faculty. The report on academic employment shows the required hours for the procedure. The candidate's documents were reviewed at a meeting of the Department of Music and approved with the necessary protocol.

## **II. Candidate details**

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Karagyozev graduated from the Faculty of Theory of the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" in 1993 with a degree in "Sound engineering and music design". He received a doctorate in the Department of Music at the FNOI Faculty with a dissertation on "Methodological models in teaching sound technologies" in 2013.

As a student he started working in various media (Radio 99, Radio "Express" and for more than 10 years actively participated with various functions in private broadcasting in Bulgaria as a sound engineer, specialist in sound design and technical support. He has successes in the field of surround recording and surround mixing. He owns the DIGITAL PLUS studio, a leader in the field of advertising and music production. Develops active recording activities, serving feature and documentary films. Under his leadership, albums in various genres of many Bulgarian and foreign artists and groups have been recorded and mastered. Hristo Karagyozev has personal merits for the professional training and growth of the technical staff in many Bulgarian studios and media.

Dr. Karagyozev's pedagogical activity began in 2007 at the Art College of Screen Arts and continues to this day. In the period 2010-2015 he led postgraduate qualification courses (SDC)

in sound engineering at Sofia University and in parallel taught several disciplines in the Department of Music at NBU - in the disciplines Studio, Sound Analysis, Audio Editing. He is a regular guest lecturer in sound engineering, digital audio technology, acoustics, sound design and audio editing at ESPOL University, Ecuador.

He has been working at Sofia University since 2016 as a lecturer in Sound Engineering, Sound Engineering, Acoustics, Aesthetics, Art History, Music Computer Technologies.

### III. Review and evaluation of documents

#### 1. Publications

In the current competition Dr. Karagyozev presents a list of 8 publications. The natural thematic dominant in them is the area of sound recording, audio post-production, mastering, sound design and all incarnations of digital sound that inhabit the world of modern sound technologies. These publications are directly related to his specific professional work as a sound engineer. As an opposition or addition to this territory, there are publications exposing Hristo Karagyozev's interest in aesthetics and the historical development of art. They seem to suggest a hidden or overt interdependence between these components in his professional territory. The meeting of mathematics, physics and art in his notion of professionalism leads to the real transformation of the audiovisual product into a truly aesthetic one. These well-conscious attitudes are the starting point in his work as a specialist and pedagogue.

I will highlight two of Hristo Karagyozev's authorial editions as fundamental and current with a clear pedagogical message. "Digital sound. Myths and Solutions ", 2011 is a serious attempt to update the idea of sound engineering work with new aspects of the digital environment and audio technologies. **The monograph** impresses with its essay style, which turns it into a communicative reading, but does not deprive it of depth, content and innovation. Auditory perception is located in the conditions of digital technologies, which open unsuspected options for sound reproduction as an element of the modern digital revolution. "Sound technologies. History, methodology, practice" (2020), based on the dissertation text of Dr. Karagyozev is an entirely **methodical format** with the recipient the student entering the field of sound technology. The structure is solved as a methodological manual with all components - a historical overview of the training in sound engineering, variants in the curricula, introduction of new training models.

**Two studies**, written in 2020, are thematically provoked by the new epidemic conditions for living and working in Bulgaria and around the world, which the author interprets as a catalyst for educational practices. "Technical and technological challenges for learning in a virtual environment through audio-video conferencing" (in press) refers to new tools of audiovisual technologies for pedagogical impact and proves their effectiveness.

"Communication and Quarantine" is a studio that finds a place in the book Arts of the Yearbook of Sofia University, for FNOI and complements the topic with new ideas. The emphasis is on the benefits of digital connectivity, which allows conferencing and makes both research and teaching possible.

In 2019, Hristo Karagyozov published in the scientific journal FEM ACOUSTICS **the article** "How the acoustic taste changes under the influence of the reproduced sound we consume". The author analyzes sound perception as a psychophysiological phenomenon, separates the problems of this perception in acoustic and reproduced listening, in order to arrive at an analytical commentary on the peculiar "shifted reality" in contact with real and processed sound.

**The report** "Some specifics in the use of sound hardware and software in the process of creating multimedia learning materials for the needs of distance and e-learning in sound and audiovisual technologies" was presented at the 6th National Conference "E-learning in higher education in 2016 and published in the collection of it. The synergistic parameters of the specific application of technical means in distance and electronic form of education are derived. The "question-answer" format applied in the presented text increases the coefficient of its useful practical-applied effect.

The next two publications of Chief Assistant Dr. Hristo Karagyozov demonstrate his profound philosophical and aesthetic interests. And not only. **The monograph** "Aesthetics - Genesis and Development of the Work of Art", 2019, is a vivid illustration of the rich culture and intellectual life of a musician who chooses the technological world for his professional realization, but does not stay in it. This publication provides information on other details of his personal profile, but is more important as a fact that confirms that great achievements and high professionalism are rooted in much deeper levels. The monograph was written by a scholar with a provocative style, who managed to reveal in an attractive form the processes of genesis and development of the work of art, the resonance of beauty in its recipient and thus gain high cognitive value.

In 2020, the monograph of Teodor Lipps "Aesthetics" was published, the publication of which is entirely a conceptual project of Hristo Karagyozov, engaged in the functions of compiler, translator and author of the **introductory article**. It illustrates his interest in the psychological line of aesthetics, represented by Theodor Lipps, author of the theory of empathy. Karagyozov's introductory article was written with the skill of a guide who knows both the beginning and the end of the road - with details, nuanced assessments and personal position. His sympathy for the author and for his fundamental position, which translates the process of aesthetic perception through the psychology of the individual, is obvious.

## **2. Artistic and creative activity**

The candidate's documents also present the artistic production of Dr. Hristo Karagyozov. As mentioned earlier in this review, he has extensive experience and achievements in sound

recording. The genre range and performance range of the albums is very wide (classical, pop and jazz, solo and choral music, children's songs) with popular names such as Stefan Dimitrov, Rositsa Kirilova, Panayot Panayotov, Upsurt Group, Monolit, Zhivko Petrov, mixed choir "Peter Dinev" at the church "St. ST. Cyril and Methodius ", Elin Kolev, violin. The registrations of songs with the chorus "Bells", "The little Ghost", as well as 40 animated children's songs, published by "Kanev Music" are interesting.

### **3. Pedagogical activity**

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Karagyozev works with students majoring in "Music" and "MMTT". He is distinguished as a responsible and disciplined teacher who forms and influences his graduates with his own high professional criteria. Provides scientific guidance to bachelors and masters and conducts master classes in selected thematic areas.

### **4. Scientific contributions**

Each of the publications of Chief Assistant Karagyozev makes serious scientific contributions. This applies both to the field of music technology and in the field of musical aesthetics. They have a high degree of theoretical and practical value, located symmetrically in these two territories. The interesting angles and discourses that are present in his texts, as well as the non-standard provocative and polemical style make them a methodical literature preferred by students.

### **5. Citation**

Dr. Karagyozev is also cited as an author in 5 publications of colleagues - pedagogues and musicologists and receives high references.

### **6. Reference for scientometric indicators**

The data from the scientometric parameters show many times more than the values required for the competition. The activities are precisely set out by the candidate according to the table of minimum requirements and summarize the activity with the following points: indicator A - 50 points, indicator B - 100 points, indicator D - 365 points, indicator D - 50 points, indicator E - 230 points with a total of 795 points. The candidacy of Dr. Hristo Karagyozev is valuable and well-argued with all his professional assets.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

The activity of Ch. Dr. Hristo Karagyozov is rich and meaningful. The bright achievements and contributions in it are indisputable. I fully and confidently support his candidacy in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor". The findings, comments and assessments in this review are eloquent evidence of the current procedure, which deservedly wins as a candidate.

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Prof. Dr. Ganka Nedelcheva,  
member of the Scientific Jury