

PEER REVIEW

by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Borisov Petkov

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at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv,
appointed by Order of the Rector No PД-27020/09.06.2020

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under a competition for the academic position “PROFESSOR”
in the specialty “Flute”

Higher education field **8 “Arts”**

Professional field **8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”**

to the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing
of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv,
announced in State Gazette, Issue 12/11.02.2020,

pursuant to Art.3, para.1 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of
Bulgaria and in accordance with the requirements of
the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in
the Republic of Bulgaria

The only candidate in the competition is **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yassenov**. The normative requirements for the acquired educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (Diploma No 40, issued on 17.12.2013, Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music School – Sofia, Faculty of Instrumentation) and for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” for at least two academic years, have been met.

Borislav Yassenov was born on 24.10.1967 in the City of Plovdiv. He completed his secondary education with a degree in Flute (1986) at Dobrin Petkov Specialized Music School, Plovdiv (now National School of Music and Dance). In 1992 he received Master’s degree at Academy of Music, Dance and Arts, Plovdiv (now Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) in the flute class of Assoc. Prof. Kiril Grozdanov. Dr. Yassenov received a fifth professional qualification degree at the Trakiya University – Stara Zagora, Department of Information and Teacher Training, awarded to him for creative achievements at national competitions and festivals.

Borislav Yassenov has two specializations:

1. “Instrumental Art – Flute” with Prof. Lidiya Oshavkova in Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music School – Sofia;
2. “Pop and Jazz – Flute” with Prof. Simeon Shterev in Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music School – Sofia.

In 2013 Dr. Yassenov received the educational and scientific degree “DOCTOR” in Musicology and Music Art (Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music School – Sofia). His teaching career began in 1988 at the Music School with Geo Milev House of Railway Culture – Plovdiv. In the period 1992-2014 he taught in the City of Kazanlak at Ekzarh Antim I High School. In 2008 he became a part-time lecturer in flute and pop and jazz formations, and in 2012 he was employed as a Flute Assistant in the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing, Faculty of Music Pedagogy at the Academy. In 2017 Dr. Yassenov won a competition for Associate Professor of Flute. Since 2016 he has been a member of the Academic Council of the Academy, and in 2020 he was elected Head of the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing (now “Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv).

Working as a long-term full-time lecturer at the Academy, I have a look at the activity of B. Yassenov from the very beginning. He is extremely consistent in his creative development and the intensity in terms of his teaching. His concert and composition work is enviable. The permanent presence of his name in authoritative festivals in itself speaks of a very well-received and maintained creative work.

The Rector Award in 2017 for scientific activity and high activity in the educational process and the two diplomas (2016) from the Mayor of the Kazanlak Municipality – for overall contribution to the establishment of Bulgarian spiritual values and exceptional merits in the field of education, are well-deserved recognition in aspect of his realization as a teacher and instrumentalist.

B. Yassenov fully meets the requirements set out in Article 2, item 1 of the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. In my opinion, it is most appropriate for me to monitor and review his activities as set out in the order of the relevant minimum national requirements.

Group of indicators A

The candidate presents a diploma for awarded educational and scientific degree “DOCTOR” in Musicology and Music Art on the topic: “*Some Aspects of the Flute Performing Art in Baroque and Jazz*”.

Group of indicators C

Three realized author’s products are presented as corresponding to a monographic work – two concerts and a CD, published by the BNR & Riva Sound. The unifying thread in them is the authorship and arrangements of all works performed at both concerts and in the CD “There, where...”. It would be good to present the names of the compositions included in the two concerts, as mentioned in the album “There, where...”, in order to make it clear that they are not duplicated.

From the leading solo performances to the same group of indicators, which are sufficient in number according to the requirements of the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, I want to mention the two

concerts – with the Sliven Symphony Orchestra (Jacques Ibert – Flute and Orchestra Concerto) and with the Vidin Symphony (Flute and Orchestra Concerto) by C. Reinecke), with their concert aspect – instrumentally complex and difficult to interpret works, suggesting a very good technical and intellectual condition in order to reveal their full brilliance to the audience.

Group of indicators D reveals the impressive activity and variety of concert activity of B. Yassenov. Not without significance for the overall performance of the candidate are his theoretical developments – an in-depth look and search in the direction of theoretical musicology. Here, the choice of themes is directly related to the candidate’s concert activity, which with its aesthetic, interpretive, and analytical degree makes visible the mental weight of the steps leading to full creative expression and understanding of the essence of the creative act.

Group of indicators E includes evidence of the presented citations and reviews of realized author’s products – in a sufficient volume according to the requirements of the Act in field 8 “Arts”.

In Group of indicators F (the last one) B. Yassenov meets the requirements necessary for participation in the competition – by conducting master classes (including in the City of Trieste, Italy, at the Giuseppe Tartini Conservatory).

Beyond the formal level overcome in the study of the competition documentation, I want to emphasize the high degree of defense in the expertise of the musical activities as classical and jazz musician of the candidate. As part of the dynamics of the educational activity and the artistic horizons, from which the performing and interpretive creation situate the object of study, with a key function for recognizability, I find that in its direction the justifying moments correspond to surpassed in intensity and quality equivalent of purely routine effort.

Didactics (in its role as an essential part of the pedagogical tools), as necessarily infiltrated for the construction of a holistic image, is present with the right balance and weight in order to responsibly preserve the academic identity of the candidate.

CONCLUSION

Based on the researched documents and my long-term professional impressions of Borislav Yassenov, relying on the wide range, level of creation, and academic responsibility in the performing, pedagogical, and scientific activity, in the complementarity and symbiosis of an established classical and jazz performer, teacher and author of music, I would like to propose responsibly and with absolute conviction to the distinguished scientific jury to award **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yassenov** the academic position “**PROFESSOR**” in the scientific specialty “**FLUTE**” under Professional field **8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”**.

22.07.2020

Respectfully,

Plovdiv

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Petkov