

## **PEER REVIEW**

by Prof. Dr. Toni Dimitrova Shekerdzhieva-Novak,  
Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”,  
Department of **Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing (Classical and Pop and Jazz  
Performing Arts)**

of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

in a competition for the occupation of the academic position of “Professor”

in Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “**Flute**”

at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing at Prof. Asen Diamandiev  
Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, published in State Gazette, Issue 12 of  
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for the candidate **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yassenov**

### **General presentation of the procedure and the candidate:**

The set of materials presented by the only candidate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov, is in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, with the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

### **Biographical data about the candidate:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov was born in Plovdiv. In 1986, he graduated with honors from the High School of Music, today Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Arts – Plovdiv, with specialty “Flute”. He studied in the classes of Emanuil Didov and Stefan Pashev. Six years later, in 1992, he graduated with Master degree in the class of the remarkable pedagogue and flutist Assoc. Prof. Kiril Grozdanov at, then the Academy of Music, Dance and Arts, and today Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Since 2008, Dr. Borislav Yassenov has been a part-time lecturer, and since 2012 a full-time assistant at the Academy. The desire to develop as a flutist in two genres led him to two specializations at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy – Sofia, with professors Lidiya Oshavkova and Simeon Shterev. In 2009, Yassenov graduated in “Instrumental Art – Flute, and in 2010 – “Pop and Jazz – Flute”.

### **General characteristics of the activity of the candidate:**

In 2013 Yassenov defended his dissertation on the topic: “Some Aspects of the Flute Performing Art in Baroque and Jazz” at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy – Sofia, and obtained the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”. This degree allowed him to win in a short time the competitions for Chief Assistant (in 2015) and Associate Professor (2017), opened for the specific features of

the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing, which formed its full-time position for a flute teacher with the possibilities of a pedagogue, distinguished in the classics and jazz. Borislav Yassenov is the author of training programs for **classical and pop and jazz flute** of the disciplines – **pop and jazz formations, theory and improvisation, and chamber music**.

The study load of Assoc. Prof. Yassenov at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for the occupation of the academic position “Professor” according to the submitted reference is sufficient. The excellent realization and the shown high achievements of his students – soloists and orchestrators of various formations and successful teachers, should be taken into account. He has a student approved to study at the Conservatory of Trieste under the Erasmus+ program. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov supports the performances of his students, organizes their concerts, and expands their performance outside the halls of the Academy.

As a distinguished lecturer and performer Borislav Yassenov participates in the juries of national and international competitions. The large number of master classes in flute conducted by him both at home and abroad, is also impressive (Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, National School of Music and Performing Arts – Burgas, National Schools of Arts in Varna, Pleven, and Ruse, the George Enescu National University of Arts in Iasi, Romania, the Giuseppe Tartini State Conservatory in Trieste, Italy, etc.)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov is a musician with a successful career in both classical and jazz music. We know him as an instrumentalist with impeccable technique, brilliant sound, brilliant improvisation skills, and profound artistic and interpretive thought. As early as 1989, he created and led his own jazz band (“Horus”), with which he carried out a rich concert and recording activity. He has had concerts in Sofia, Bankya, Bansko, Haskovo, Dimitrograd, Sopot, Sozopol, Balchik, Sliven, Vidin, and other cities in the country both as a classical and as a jazz flutist.

Yassenov performs as a soloist of the symphony and chamber orchestras of Vidin, Sliven, Yambol, and Kazanlak. His concerts outside the country are numerous – Germany, Italy, Romania, Greece, and Republic of North Macedonia. He has had recordings on BNT, BNR and has released 3 original jazz albums by Riva Sound Records Ltd. – in 1995, 1998 and 2004, as well as a classic album entitled “Baroque and Modernity”, realized with the guitar duo Valchevi in 2002. Borislav Yassenov participated in many other recording projects and is an author of a number of compositions and arrangements for various performing groups. He premiered Bulgarian works for flute, some of which were specially written for him. I also want to mention his participation in the latest project of the American jazz drummer Jim Shepherd.

Yassenov has performed at a number of art festivals and jazz festivals, including: “Varna Summer”, Bansko, “Plovdiv Jazz Evenings, Ruse, Bankya, “Frukade” Jazz Fest, “Winter Jazz Fest Plovdiv”, “Apollonia Arts Festival”, “Golden Diana” – Yambol, “White Swallow” – Balchik, “Autumn Music Festivals” – Skopje, the International Festival “Joaquin Rodrigo”, the Festival of Arts “Spring in the Old Town” – Plovdiv, the Music Festival “Petko Staynov” and “Chudomir Holidays” in Kazanlak, “New Bulgarian Music” – Sofia, and others. He is the artistic director of the Frukade Jazz Fest in Kazanlak and the Winter Jazz Fest in Plovdiv. Together with Teodosiy Spasov he realized a project – “The Spirit of the Flute” in

2017 in the First Studio of the Bulgarian National Radio, which includes original plays by both musicians.

For his concert and pedagogical realization, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov has been awarded a number of prizes, including: the Award of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in 2017, as well as an award of the Mayor of Kazanlak twice – in 2007 and 2016.

As a lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov carries out active research. He is the author of the monographic work “Flute Art and Culture from the Mid-Eighteenth Century to the 30s of the Nineteenth Century”, published by the Academy and Astarta Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2017, the collection of original compositions “Jazz Pieces for Flute and Formations” published by the Academy and Astarta Publishing House – Plovdiv in 2016, as well as of numerous scientific publications from academic and international scientific conferences.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov has been a member of the Academic Council of the Academy since 2016. In March 2020, he was elected Head of the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing, renamed by a decision of the Academic Council of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv in the Department of Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts.

**Of particular importance for the current competition is the fact that the candidate meets the minimum scientometric indicators set by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for occupation of the academic position of “Professor”.** After getting acquainted in detail with the documentation that Yassenov has provided for his participation in this competition, I believe that it not only covers but also exceeds the point requirements for the groups of indicators for the scientometrics of the National Center for Information and Documentation. The amount of evidence presented concerning scientific and artistic production, in accordance with the national requirements for the academic position of “Professor”, is remarkable in scope and nature and presents the candidate in many ways, as a serious scientist, educator, author, and performer.

By group indicators C, Yassenov presents five concerts under indicator C5, as well as three author’s concerts under indicator C4. I have attended most of these concerts and I appreciate them extremely highly. These are:

1. Concert with the Sliven Symphony Orchestra, with conductor Dimitar Karaminkov, in Sliven on 23.01.2020.

2. Flute Protuberances – a concert in the Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, held on 20.11.2019, together with the pianist Assoc. Prof. Dr. Velislava Karagenova.

3. Concert in Vidin, with the Vidin Symphony, with guest conductor Michael Rosenzweig, on 14.06.2019.

4. Latin American Nuances – a concert in the Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, together with Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova – classical guitar, on 21.11.2018.

5. Through the Flute Music of Germany – a concert in the Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, held on 14.03.2018, together with the pianist Assoc. Prof. Dr. Velislava Karagenova.

**The three author’s performances presented by the candidate under indicator C4 are:**

1. Reflection – author’s concert within the Jazz Festival in the Valley of the Thracian Kings, Kazanlak, on 30.08.2019, at the Art Gallery, Kazanlak.
2. Author’s concert at the Plovdiv Jazz Evenings International Festival within the Autumn Salon of Arts, Plovdiv, on 11.10.2008, at the Plovdiv Concert Hall.
3. CD “There, where...” – author’s album, produced by BNR – Plovdiv, released by Riva Sound – Sofia, on 23.01.2004.

I highly appreciate the participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov in the specialized publications and in the international scientific conferences of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. His publications contribute to the high level of these forums, and as a musicologist he has been quoted many times by his colleagues. In the table with scientometric indicators Borislav Yasenov also applies reviews evaluating his remarkable concert activity (Indicator E18). As a research supervisor he has a doctoral student who successfully defended his dissertation.

I know personally Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov, with whom we are colleagues in the same department – “Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts”. He is a highly intelligent professional, with a sense of responsibility to colleagues and students, and a specialist with great creative and teaching activity. Yasenov is a worthy successor of his teachers Assoc. Prof. Kiril Grozdanov, Prof. Lidiya Oshavkova, and Prof. Simeon Shterev, who besides being exceptional instrumentalists were also teachers with a great contribution to the development of the flute art in Bulgaria.

Based on what has been said so far, **I give my positive assessment and propose to the esteemed members of the scientific jury in the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor” to choose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yasenov for the position of “Professor” under Higher Education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” (Flute), for the needs of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.**

27.07.2020

Prof. Dr. T. Shekerdzhieva-Novak