

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Kostadin Mihaylov Buradzhiev

**for the presented materials by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yasenov
for participation in the competition for occupation of the academic position “Flute Professor”**

**at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing (Classical and Pop and Jazz
Performing Arts), Faculty of Music Pedagogy**

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

Higher education field: 8 “Arts”

Professional field: 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”

The documents submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position “Professor” by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the respective Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Borislav Yasenov graduated from high school with a degree in flute at Dobrin Petkov High School of Music – Plovdiv (now National School of Music and Dance Arts), with Master’s degree at the Academy of Music, Dance and Arts (now Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv) in the flute class of Assoc. Prof. Kiril Grozdanov, and with V professional qualification degree at the Department of Information and Teacher Training with the Trakiya University – Stara Zagora, awarded for achievements of outstanding students-flutists at national competitions and festivals. He also has two specializations – “Instrumental Art – Flute” with Prof. Lidiya Oshavkova and “Pop and Jazz – Flute” with Prof. Simeon Shterev at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy – Sofia.

In 2013, at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy, Borislav Yasenov defended his dissertation on the topic: “*Some Aspects of the Flute Performing Art in Baroque and Jazz*”, for which he was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor of Musicology and Music Art”.

Since 2008 he has been a part-time lecturer in “Flute and Pop and Jazz Formations” at the Academy and since 2012 he has been a full-time lecturer and has passed through all academic degrees.

Undoubtedly, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov is one of the most prominent Bulgarian flutists in the field of classical music and jazz, who has given concerts and master classes in Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Romania, Greece, and Republic of North Macedonia.

His concert performances with various symphonic and chamber ensembles, as well as his participation in national and international festivals, are significant. The deep knowledge of the specifics of classical music from different eras makes him a sought-after partner for various creative projects, through which he has realized his great creative potential as a performer and performer. Here I must mention his special participation in the concert of the famous Italian flutist Luisa Sello – Professor at the Giuseppe Tartini Conservatory, Trieste (Italy) in 2017, within the project “Great Music – European Capitals of Culture and UNESCO sites 2017-2019”.

Reflection of the above is the monographic work *“Flute Art and Culture from the Mid-Eighteenth Century to the 30s of the Nineteenth Century”*, a series of analytical articles on the art of the flute, related to interpretation and performing arts. His scientific research has a wide national and international response.

However, Borislav Yassenov has a greater devotion to the art of jazz. The significant number of concerts, participations in national and international festivals, and author’s concerts mentioned in his creative reference are impressive. And this is completely logical – there is no doubt that he is a leading performer of this genre of music with the flute. His wonderful improvisational qualities and perfect mastery of the instrument make him a sought-after soloist and special guest and partner for various creative projects – with Milcho Leviev, the American jazz drummer Jim Shepherd, and the legendary saxophonist Ornette Coleman; with “White, Green, Red”, Nadiya Toncheva, Veselin Veselinov (Eco), Stoyan Yankulov (Stundzhi), Pavel Petkov, and many others.

Apart from being a performer, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov is also a wonderful composer. He writes music and arrangements for various formations. The three original jazz albums released by Riva Sound Records are highly appreciated – “Mo, di, log” – 1995; “Crazy World” – 1998; “There, where...” – 2004 – produced by the BNR – Plovdiv, in which, as written in the review of the discs, the author remains “true to his musical style, combining jazz with elements of musical modernism of the 20th century and rhythms and intonations, characteristic for the Bulgarian musical folklore, conveyed in a peculiar way”.

Yassenov’s original compositions are also included in various musical compilations – “Essential Jazz from Bulgaria” – CD and compilation CDs from jazz festivals, as well as in the collection “Jazz Pieces for Flute and Formations”.

Borislav Yassenov publishes his knowledge in the field of jazz in various articles related to various aspects and analyzes of the performing arts, interpretation, modern jazz, and the participation of the flute in it.

Borislav Yassenov’s concert and scientific work also bridges the gap in his pedagogical work. His students regularly participate in concerts of the Department, class productions, youth festivals and jazz concerts and are part of the cultural public life. After completing their training, they are successfully realized in professional institutions and are excellent teachers and lecturers – Bozhidar Mazev (Bachelor, “Performing Arts – Pop and Jazz”) – flutist at the Shumen Symphony; Pavlina Nikolova (Master, “Performing Arts – Classics”) – freelance flutist; Nadezhda Andreeva (Master, “Performing Arts – Classics”) – flutist at the Ruse Philharmonic and teacher at Prof. Veselin Stoyanov National School of Arts – Ruse, and others.

Borislav Yassenov also shares his art in a number of master classes organized in Bulgaria and abroad.

Yassenov received high recognition for his performing and scientific activity with his inclusion in the personal encyclopedia “Prominent Plovdiv Citizens”, a kind of kaleidoscope of famous people of national and world importance from all fields of art and science, including Milcho Leviev, Veselin Nikolov, the directors Krikor Azaryan, Anzhel Wagenstein, the composers, conductors and pedagogues Ivan Dimov, Asen Diamandiev, Acad. Prof. Nikolay Stoykov, the artists Tsanko Lavrenov, Zlatyu Boyadzhiev, Dimitar Kirov, and others. He is a member of the Muzikautor Copyright Management Association – Sofia, and Artistic Director of Frucade Jazz Fest (Kazanlak) and Winter Jazz Fest (Plovdiv).

Due to the above, and taking into account the contribution nature of the significant concert performances at home and abroad, the created scientific-methodical literature, the social and professional activity, and the high moral and ethical qualities of Borislav Yassenov as a lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, I offer with full REASON and CONVICTION, on the basis of all abovementioned facts, proving the contribution of all performing, pedagogical and research activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov reflected in this peer review, my positive assessment, and ***I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the academic position of “Flute Professor”*** to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov, Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field: 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”.

23.07.2020

/Prof. Dr. Kostadin Buradzhiev/