

PEER REVIEW

for the candidacy of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yassenov**,
participant in the competition for occupation of the academic position “*Professor*”
in field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “*Flute*”, for the needs of the Department of Orchestral
Instruments and Classical Singing,
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

Reviewer: **Prof. Dr. Sava Dimitrov**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yassenov graduated from the Academy of Music, Dance and Arts – Plovdiv and has two specializations: in Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music in flute with Prof. L. Oshavkova and Simeon Shterev. Since 2008 he has been teaching at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. In 2013, in Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music, he defended doctoral dissertation on the topic: “*Some Aspects of the Flute Performing Art in Baroque and Jazz*”. In 2017 he was appointed Associate Professor at the Academy. He teaches flute at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing at the Academy, of which he is also the head. Dr. Yassenov also teaches “Classical Flute”, “Pop and Jazz Flute”, “Pop and Jazz Bands”, “Theory and Improvisation”, Analysis and Interpretations of Music Literature”, “Chamber Music”, etc.

From the proposed documents it is clear that as a candidate for the academic position of “Professor” at the Academy under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “*Flute*”, Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yassenov meets all the criteria and indicators for long-term certification and has met the national requirements for the groups of indicators for the respective academic position.

In order to participate in the competition, the candidate presents a very rich creative biography, which includes his participation as an author, performer, and lecturer.

Indicator A

The in-depth dissertation work of the candidate for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” corresponds to this indicator. The work is on the topic: “*Some Aspects of the Flute Performing Art in Baroque and Jazz*”, and was defended in 2013.

Indicators B

Indicator 4 (Realized author’s project) corresponds to the realized author’s concert of the candidate “Reflection”, which includes works and arrangements by him. The concert is part of the “Jazz Festival in the Valley of the Thracian Kings” in 2019 at the Art Gallery in Kazanlak and it includes not only the author but also a pianist, bass, and drums, as well as an earlier author’s concert as part of the Plovdiv Jazz Evenings International Festival – Autumn Salon of Arts from 2008 with the participation of the author, pianist, bass, and drums. In both concerts the candidate shows a strong desire to work with modern means of expression.

Indicator 4 (Realized author’s project) also corresponds to the author’s album CD “There, where...”, produced by the BNR – Plovdiv and released in 2004 by Riva Sound – Sofia, with the participation of the author, pianist, bass, drums, guitar, saxophone, and flute, highly rated in the attached review of Rhythm Magazine.

Under Indicator 5 (Guiding creative performance) the candidate presents as a performer his artistic and creative activity through five significant projects – concerts with the Sliven Symphony Orchestra and with the Vidin Symphony with guest conductor Michael Rosenzweig, in which he participated as a soloist, as well as three concerts in the Concert Hall of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – “Flute Protuberances” (2019), “Through the Flute Music of Germany” (2018) with the participation of Velislava Karagenova (piano), and “Latin American Nuances” (2018) with the participation of Stela Dinkova (classical guitar).

These are projects that the candidate has indicated. To them I would like to add the collection “Jazz Pieces for Flute and Formations” (2018), his monograph “Flute Art and Culture from the Mid-Eighteenth Century to the 1930s” (2017), as well as the three original jazz albums.

Indicators D

Indicator 9 (Articles and reports) includes three publications of the candidate from a collection of materials from the II International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art” (2019), from the Yearbook of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (2018), and from a collection of materials from the International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art” (2017). In all three publications, the author very precisely indicates his own contribution to the subject.

Indicator 13 (Guiding creative performance) includes a total of eight performances of the candidate in Plovdiv, Kazanlak, Yambol, Varna, Bansko, and Sofia. Among them stands out “The Spirit of the Flute”, a 2017 concert at the First Studio of the Bulgarian National Radio – Sofia, together with Teodosiy Spasov, including works by the two soloists, combining folk rhythms with the classical sound of the flute, which give a special color to the works, and his participation in the International Jazz Festival “Varna Summer” (2007) and the International Jazz Festival “Bansko” (2001).

Indicator 14 (Supportive creative expression) includes five performances of the candidate, among which is his participation in the presentation of the book “Padre Athanasius Kircher” (2019) by Yavor Konov with a work by A. Schnittke together with the author Yavor Konov, and “Latino Jazz Project”, a concert at the International Jazz Festival “Bansko” (2018).

Indicator E

Indicator 16 (Citations or reviews in scientific journals) refers to a quote from G. Dimitrova on the work of the candidate “Improvisation from Baroque to Jazz”.

Indicator 17 (Citations in monographs) includes two quotations from A. Tsvetanov and E. Savafyan (2019) from an article by the candidate “Interpretation and Performance. The Artistic and Creative Nature of the Performing Arts”, and his monograph “*Flute Art and Culture from the Mid-Eighteenth Century to the 1930s*”.

Indicator 19 (Reviews of realized author’s products) includes 12 reviews in Musical Horizons Magazine, Art Spectrum Magazine, Guitar Magazine, Rhythm Magazine, Culture Newspaper, many of which are dedicated to the candidate’s performing skills as a jazz musician.

The citations have value by showing an assessment of the candidate’s research activities and performance skills.

Indicator F

Indicator 21 (Guiding successful PhD students). The candidate was the research supervisor of Asen Tsvetanov Angelov, who defended a dissertation on the topic: “The Contribution of the Bulgarian Waldhorn School to the development of the Waldhorn Art in Brazil” (2020).

Indicator 28 (Guiding master classes) includes the classical guitar master classes led by the candidate in the music schools in Varna, Burgas, Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven, Ruse, Plovdiv, Iasi (Romania), and Trieste (Italy). He has had master classes and concerts in Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Romania, Greece, and Republic of North Macedonia. The large number of master classes shows the interest of young musicians in the pedagogical activity and interpreting skills of the candidate.

The proposed description reveals the extremely active and fruitful activity of the candidate as an author, performer, and lecturer.

Based on all the above facts, I am convinced that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yassenov can occupy the academic position of “*Professor*” in 8.3 “*Music and Dance Arts*”, specialty “*Flute*”.

01.07.2020

Prof. Dr. Sava Dimitrov