

## PEER REVIEW

under a competition for occupation of the academic position of “ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,”

Specialty “Clarinet and Chamber Music”

Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”

for the needs of the Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

according to the announcement in State Gazette, Issue 81 dated 25.09.2023,

with candidate Chief Assistant Dr. EDUARD MAGARDICH SARAFYAN

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Sava Dimitrov

There is only one candidate, namely Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Magardich Sarafyan, for the announced competition in State Gazette, Issue 81 dated 25.09.2023 from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”, specialty “Clarinet and Chamber Music,” under field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts.” Eduard Sarafyan was born in 1975. He completed his higher education at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music in Sofia with a Master’s degree in Clarinet in 2002. In the same year, he started working as a teacher at the Music School in Plovdiv and as a Chief Assistant at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. In 2022, he defended his dissertation on the topic “*Formation and Construction of the Clarinet Embouchure.*” Dr. Sarafyan is a winner of Bulgarian and international awards.

Until the announcement of the competition, Chief Associate Dr. E. Sarafyan has published one scientific monograph and 4 articles related to his dissertation, 2 of which are reports at scientific forums. As a performer, he has participated in various chamber ensembles in 16 concerts in Bulgaria, Austria, and North Macedonia. He was a soloist and participated in sound recordings, concert, and opera tours with the orchestras of the Plovdiv Philharmonic and the Plovdiv State Opera.

An appendix to the documentation includes the necessary reference for contributions in scientific and creative production, as well as a summary of the works and a list of the stage appearances, with which the candidate participates in the competition. His entire output is presented in two large sections, the first of which has distinct groups to illustrate his varied activity. (The presentation is in accordance with the requirements for candidates participating in the competition for scientific field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”).

The first part, called ARTISTIC AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY of the candidate Chief Assistant Dr. E. Sarafyan, covers three groups. The first group (“C”) includes the monograph “*Basic Guidelines in the Formation and Construction of the Clarinet Embouchure,*” specified by the candidate as his habilitation thesis, as well as four concerts united under the theme “Leading creative performance in the field of arts.” The second group (“D”) includes the monograph “*Basic Guidelines in the Formation and Construction of the Clarinet Embouchure,*” defined as a published book based on a defended dissertation work for the awarding of an educational and scientific degree

“Doctor,” as well as four articles related to the subject, published in specialized publications in the field of arts. As supporting creative performances, the candidate’s participation in a collective product in the field of arts is noted – Festive concert on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of Prof. Asen Diamandiev, Concert of lecturers from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Union of Bulgarian Composers, Chamber concert with works by Olivier Messiaen, as well as a concert by Magdalena Chikcheva (cello) and Snezhana Simeonova (piano) with his participation.

#### Group of indicators „C”

It is natural that in this exhibition the monograph *“Basic Guidelines in the Formation and Construction of the Clarinet Embouchure,”* designated as a habilitation thesis, deserves special attention. It was created after the candidate taught chamber music at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for several years and knows very well the specifics of work in this field. It is very useful that the work includes explanations of the described principles for overcoming some performance difficulties, which have been practically verified by the candidate as an instrumentalist and educator. His preoccupation with the subject is inextricably linked to the quality of sound reproduction and the responsibility for the degree of acoustic fidelity in reproduction, and this is one of the key elements in the performance system of playing wind instruments. The goal, as the author writes, is, on the one hand, to clarify the nature, the necessary constructive, technical techniques and exercises, as well as, on the other hand, their application in specifically selected artistic material. The research is related to the current state and perspectives in the clarinet teaching methodology, considering psychological-cognitive structures and processes in the musical performance activity, presented transcribed and summarized results of semi-structured interviews with clarinet pedagogues on issues related to the presented issues, as well as in conclusion, a retrospective diagnostic and prognostic analysis on the basis of several conducted master classes. The included overview and classification of the Bulgarian didactic literature for clarinet is valuable, as well as the presented original author’s technical exercises, helping to develop and condition the embouchure system, by considering and analyzing examples of practical mastering of musical expressive means on original scores from artistic clarinet literature.

Therefore, it is possible to accept the statement made in the reference to the contributions of Dr. E. Sarafyan, that the reasoned conclusions in the study are the result of a thorough analytical-structural and performance reading, because it shows the importance of musical articulation as an essential component for each interpreter regardless of the musical style.

#### Group of indicators “D”

The presented monograph *“Basic Guidelines in the Formation and Construction of the Clarinet Embouchure”* is based on the successfully defended dissertation work of the

candidate for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” and has an extended title. However, to the extent that the dissertation has already received its evaluation, it does not need to be discussed in detail in this peer review, although the candidate has detailed its contributions to this research. In doing so, the candidate’s research is cited by three of his colleagues.

On the other hand, the other part of the candidate’s activities should be specifically mentioned here – above all, his participation in the Jubilee Concert dedicated to Prof. A. Diamandiev, as well as in the Chamber Concert with works by Olivier Messiaen, which gave the candidate the opportunity to revealed his artistic abilities as a performer.

In the second part of the production of Chief Assistant Dr. E. Sarafyan, called PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY, he presents a list of eight creative meetings and master classes with students in Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven, Burgas, Plovdiv, as well as in Skopje and Ohrid (North Macedonia). Along with this, three flattering evaluations of his works are also included. The candidate’s participation in five juries of chamber music competitions should also be mentioned here.

I especially want to note the way, in which the candidate Dr. E. Sarafyan has presented the contributions in his works, because here his own assessment of his production is outlined quite clearly and precisely and the qualities of the events and his publications are comprehensively highlighted.

All the presented facts show that as a mature specialist with accumulated experience Chief Assistant Dr. E. Sarafyan offers in his publications in-depth conclusions and summaries on important issues and has made a significant contribution with his studies in the field of chamber music and its teaching. In his texts he directs his attention to specific problems and always reaches valuable generalizations. For me, it is particularly indicative that throughout his development the candidate Dr. E. Sarafyan quite purposefully moves in one direction, his interest remaining constant, to be crowned with in-depth publications, the results of which undoubtedly find their application in his creative and teaching activity.

According to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the candidate for the academic position of *associate professor* must have submitted a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific publications. This means that the candidate must have submitted what is called a *habilitation thesis* for assessment. With his proposed monograph and other publications, the candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Dr. E. Sarafyan meets this condition.

It is a requirement of the Act that the candidate also submits other original scientific research works and developments, which are evaluated as a whole. All other presented publications of Dr. E. Sarafyan (4 in total) meet this requirement with their volume and qualities, as provided by the legislator.

A careful examination of the candidate’s publications will clearly show that in some of his earlier publications he shows some caution in formulating his own opinion on the matters under consideration. This is natural, given that the articles reflect his development as a researcher and educator over several years. However, positive results

from all the candidate's studies are essential. All the evaluations he receives for his artistic performances are also positive.

Therefore, based on all the presented facts, I believe that Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Magardich Sarafyan, may take the academic position of "*Associate Professor*" under Professional field 8.3. "Music and Dance Arts."

10.11.2023

Prof. Dr. Sava Dimitrov