

PEER REVIEW

by

Dr. Petar Veselinov Koychev

**Associate Professor at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts
– Plovdiv**

Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”

regarding the presented materials by

Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Magardich Sarafyan

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

under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”

specialty: “Clarinet and Chamber Music”

at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Classical and Pop and Jazz Performance
Arts Department with Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts –
Plovdiv

I read in detail the materials provided for the competition for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Clarinet and Chamber Music at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Magardich Sarafyan is the only candidate, who announced his participation in this competition. The documents and materials presented by him meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Born in the City of Plovdiv, Eduard Sarafyan was drawn to music and the clarinet from an early age. He completed his secondary education at Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Art in Plovdiv. During the period from 1994 until 1999, he was a student in the class of Prof. Acad. Petko Radev at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music in Sofia. During his studies as a pupil and student, Dr. Sarafyan actively participated in competitions, winning a number of prestigious awards. He completed his Master’s degree in Clarinet in 2002. His teaching activity began in 1999, as a clarinet teacher at Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Art in Plovdiv, and from 2002 until now he leads the clarinet lectures at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. An important stage of his education was obtained in 2022 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” for a defended dissertation work on the topic: *“Formation and Construction of the Clarinet Embouchure.”*

The creative and artistic activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Sarafyan is extremely

diverse, impressive, and voluminous. He has performed as a soloist and has participated in recordings with the orchestras of the Plovdiv Philharmonic and the Plovdiv State Opera. He has also developed an active chamber and concert activity in the country and abroad. Dr. Sarafyan has participated repeatedly as a member of juries in a number of prestigious competitions such as: "Orpheus Talents" International Competition; "Lilac Holidays" in Lovech; IVth, Vth and VIth Competition for Chamber Ensembles and Solo Performers in Borovets; "Ohrid Te Sakam," Ohrid; "Polyhymnia," Skopje. Today, his name is deservedly ranked among the most active and well-known contemporary artists-clarinetists in Bulgaria.

In the competition for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Clarinet and Chamber Music, Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Sarafyan participates with:

- 4 leading (indicator C) and 4 supporting creative performances in the field of arts (indicator D);
 - 1 published book based on a defended dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (indicator D);
 - 4 articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts (indicator D);
 - 3 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (indicator E);
 - 3 reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts (indicator E);
 - 8 manuals of a master class, studio, or workshop in the field of arts (indicator F);

The activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Sarafyan is divided into three main sections – concert activity, scientific research work, and pedagogical activity. Each of the above-mentioned sections has a sufficiently large volume, valuable, and contributing nature.

The presented concert activity characterizes his prominent creative collaboration with colleagues from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv and with famous classical musicians.

The attached scientometric table of the candidate and the evidence thereto highlights 4 of the concerts, in which Eduard Sarafyan has a leading soloist appearance. I was impressed by the concert of Eduard Sarafyan and Iren Kapelovska on 27.09.2001 at the Theresianische Akademie in Vienna, Austria. In it, the duo presented a diverse program of composers – Francis Poulenc, J. Bossa, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Frédéric Chopin, Béla Kovács, M. Valchanov, which speaks of the high level of the performers. Besides this concert, three more concerts are presented, namely: Chamber concert of Eduard Sarafyan (clarinet) and Snezhana Simeonova (piano); Chamber concert of a trio in the following composition: Eduard Sarafyan (clarinet), Velislava Karagenova (piano), and Zhivka Licheva (percussion)

instruments), and Chamber concert of a trio in the following composition: Eduard Sarafyan (clarinet), Snezhana Simeonova (piano), and Magdalena Chikcheva (cello).

The list of presented supporting creative performances or participation in a collective product in the field of arts, with which the candidate participates in the announced competition, is varied. These concerts are a total of 4 in number in prestigious artistic performances with different formations.

Along with concert appearances, Eduard Sarafyan also works seriously in the direction of scientific research and music theory. The candidate's scientific and research work is related to the clarinet and mainly the clarinet embouchure. Not only the mentioned 4 articles, but also those described in Group of indicators "E.17" – citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, among which: 3 citations by Ivaylo Mihaylov, Maya I. Yordanova, and Ivana M. Pogosyan. An essential part of the scientific-theoretical activity of the candidate is the book published on the basis of a defended dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" – *"Basic Guidelines in the Formation and Construction of the Clarinet Embouchure,"* Plovdiv, 2023, ISBN 978- 619-7682-24-3. In this work, the author demonstrates a high scientific style, a very good knowledge of the issue, and professional competence. The book has a high level of contribution, both in theoretical and in practical-applied aspects. The practical part is especially valuable, including: preparatory exercises without an instrument; author's technical exercises aimed at building and forming a rational clarinet embouchure; extracts of artistic examples aimed at the practical mastery of musical expressive means and at the formation of skills for reproducing the variety and richness of tone as a means of expression. The work could contribute to the improvement and enrichment of the clarinet teaching methodology in the field of classical music.

Evidence of the active activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Dr. Eduard Sarafyan, as an educator and pedagogue, represent the series of master classes presented in the reference – a total of 8 in number. An impression is made by the large number of master classes held by the candidate in Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Pleven, Burgas, and Plovdiv. I believe that he worthily continues a tradition set by his teacher – the great Bulgarian clarinetist and pedagogue Petko Radev. Sarafyan's master classes are extremely useful and enjoy the interest and attendance of young musicians and professionals. Proof of this are the two reviews in the academic cultural and information publication "Art Spectrum", 2018, Issue 47 by Assoc. Prof. Borislav Yasenov and Plamen Pavlov.

I know Eduard Sarafyan as a colleague at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. He is an exceptional professional dedicated to music and the clarinet. Dr. Sarafyan easily involves students and colleagues in his creative activity. As Secretary of the Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts Department, he demonstrates rare organizational qualities and communication skills.

In conclusion, I define the active scientific, pedagogical, and artistic activities of Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Sarafyan as contributing and highly valued. The achieved results fully

correspond to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and cover the minimum national requirements. Based on this, I give my positive assessment and confidently recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to elect Chief Assistant Dr. Eduard Sarafyan to the academic position of “Associate Professor”, specialty: “Clarinet and Chamber Music”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, announced for the needs of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv and the Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts Department.

Date: 19.11.2023

Prepared by:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petar Koychev/