

# REVIEW

by

**Prof. Lyudmil Borisov Petkov, PhD**

In connection with a competition for the  
academic position of ‘**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**’

Announced in State Gazette Issue 63/25.07.2023

in professional field **8.3. Music and Dance Art**

Major ‘**Violin, Viola and Chamber Music**’

for the needs of the Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts  
at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy

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

have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury by the order of the Rector No. RD-27-118 Plovdiv 21.09.2023 on the grounds of Art. 25 of Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRB) and the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Music Pedagogy (protocol No. 13 of 19.09.2023).

The only candidate for the competition is **Asst. Prof. Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD**.

The documentation submitted to me is in order and has all accompanying requisites in accordance with the requirements of:

- Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act;
- Rules on the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act;
- The Regulations on the Structure and Activities of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Evgeny Shevkenov is a hereditary musician, born in Plovdiv in 1971 in the family of opera singer and vocal teacher Elena Baldzhieva-Shevkenova and pianist Vladimir Shevkenov.

After graduating from the Plovdiv School of Music, he was awarded master’s degrees successively by *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* NMA - Sofia and the University of Music and Theatre Arts in Vienna.

As a pupil and student he won a number of national and international awards, and during his studies he was part of the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Opera Orchestra for 5 concert seasons.

In 2000 E. Shevkenov was awarded honorary Austrian citizenship for outstanding achievements as a musician and special services to Austria by the Government of the

Republic and the Vienna City Hall.

From 2000 to 2014 he taught violin at *Gustav Mahler* Conservatory in Vienna, where he was also vice-rector for one term.

From 2014 to date he has been teaching violin, chamber music and orchestra at the *Richard Wagner* Conservatory in the Austrian capital.

Since 2013, he has regularly given masterclasses at the ‘Vienna Music Seminar’, held annually at the State University of Music Vienna. Since September 2021 he teaches violin, viola and chamber music at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (AMDFA) - Plovdiv.

In his career as a soloist and conductor, he has performed in over 40 countries, including the most prestigious concert halls such as the Musikverein and Konzerthaus Vienna, Carnegie Hall New York, the Gasteig and others.

By Presidential Decree of June 2022, he received the state title of Professor of the Republic of Austria, and in December of the same year he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Plovdiv, under the scientific supervision of Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak.

## **Brief presentation of the materials received for review on the various indicators of the Table of Scientometric Indicators**

### ***Indicators A Group***

Presented dissertation entitled ‘Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart’s Violin Concertos KV207, 211, 216, 218 and 219’ (Diploma No. 83/15.12.22).

### ***Indicators B Group***

Presented as appropriate in weight to the habilitation work:

- Producer of the international music project ‘Pontubis artis - Bridges of Art London-Vienna-Plovdiv’ - contract No. 2/29.06.2023 (concerts, master classes and book presentation).
- Soloist in concert-recital, New York, USA, Austrian Cultural Forum - 01.12.2004.
- Soloist at the 250th Anniversary Mozart Concert - Tokyo, Japan, 28.02.2006, Metropolitan Grand Hall
- Soloist in recital concert, Washington, USA, Austrian Embassy Hall - 14.02.2006.
- Soloist in chamber concert, London, UK - 06.11.2016, Conway Hall

### ***Indicators I Group***

A published book based on the PhD Thesis with the same title, ISBN: 619-7682-21-2, is presented.

Then follow:

- ‘Innovativeness as a permanent state of the creative personality. Homo Creator’ - International Scientific Conference ‘Science, Education and Innovations in the Field of Art’, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (AMDFA) - Plovdiv, vol. 1, 2021, ISSN: 2738-8956 (print), pp. 377-384
- ‘Specificity of Compositional Multilayer Nature and Bach Baroque Virtuosity in the Presto from the Violin Sonata in G minor BWV1001’ - AMDFA - Plovdiv Yearbook, 2022, ISSN: 1313-6526, pp. 94-105

The following are presented as leading creative performances:

- Conducted by the Alba Regil Orchestra, Székesfehérvár, Hungary, St. Stephen's Basilica, 18.12.2015.
- Conductor - Barenboim - Saud Orchestra, Ankara, Turkey, Nazam Hikmet Hall,
- Conductor - Wiener Staatsorchester, Vienna, Austria, Ehrbar Hall, 29.12.2022.

Supporting artistic performance:

- Violinist - Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Taipei, Taiwan, National Concert Hall, 03.03.2004.
- Vienna New Opera - performer of the role of ‘Moses - the Violinist’ in the performance of ‘Triptychon’ by Gerhard Schedl, Vienna, Austria, MuseumsQuartier, 04.07.2007.

### ***Indicators II Group***

The candidate submits four citations of his work from:

- Nadezhda Kuzmanova (two citations) - AMDFA - Plovdiv Yearbook, 2020 ISSN: 1313-6526, p. 69, p. 71
- Stefan Chaplikov - AMDFA - Plovdiv Yearbook, 2020 ISSN: 1313-6526, p. 109
- Sofia Ruseva – ‘Spring Scientific Readings’ Collections, AMDFA-Plovdiv, 2023 - in print

The following reviews are presented:

- In the Washington Post, ‘Classical Music’ column, by Grace Jean, 10.12.2004.
- From the Austrian Die Presse, column ‘Classics’, with author Gerhard Kramer,

10.07.2007.

### ***Indicators E Group***

Evgeny Shevkanov is the head of the prestigious international project International Chamber Music Festival - Plovdiv, 2020, of which he is also the artistic director (contract No. 188/03.06.2022).

Four violin master classes held in:

- Europe Music Academy - Seoul, South Korea, 16-22.08.2012.
- Vienna Music Seminar - Austria, 4-13.08.2021.
- Academy of Music - Plovdiv, 27.05.-07.06.2022.
- *Lyubomir Pipkov* National School of Music - Sofia, 28-29.04.2023.

As a participant - soloist participation in Vienna Music Seminar Antonio Vivaldi Hall, University of Music, Vienna, Austria, 24.07.2020.

For international achievements as a violinist and conductor E. Shevkenov received the '2010 International Music Award - Venusto music society Seoul'.

### **Contributions and personal impressions**

E. Shevkenov's candidacy is clearly and convincingly presented, with an enviable creative compatibility between the different spheres of his professional activity.

A violinist, conductor, researcher, pedagogue and visionary in terms of a spirituality liberated in its creative capacity, he actively deploys the potential of his qualities on several continents. As one who has followed his artistic development since his teenage years, I can say one thing: this is a colleague with a wealth of erudition, talent, and an exceptionally pure pursuit of art as a cause, outlined and residing through his messages. His recitals in New York, Tokyo, Washington DC, Seoul, etc. inspire respect and pride not only for the sophistication of their programs, the prestigious halls and forums in which they are performed, but also for the stamp of a creative will striving for consistently high artistic results. Evgeniy Shevkenov's rich musical and intellectual experience gained in Austria, his work in some of the most prestigious orchestras in the world - the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Opera Orchestra, his concerts on several continents and his success as a teacher at the Richard Wagner Conservatory in the Austrian capital and now at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, give the final completion to the image of an extremely highly qualified pedagogue and performer. The awards of his students simply flow out one after another.

Evgeniy Shevkenov's candidacy is monolithic in terms of academic standards and at

the same time - meaningfully multilevel and psychologically multifaceted reflected in the profile of his activities. In the scientific field, the candidate impresses with the degree of dedication with which he ‘meticulously’ gets to know and details the unlit corners in his exciting and preferred research topics, getting as close as possible to the meaning of authentic values in scientific, humanitarian and educational progress.

E. Shevkenov transcends the pattern of the stiff art regulations and conveys his rich experience to a concentrated, insightful and clearly mentally defined artist. As a man with a very precise orientation in the complex problematics of art, he can be counted among the type of artists whose phenomenology is nourished by valid and accomplished landmarks, reshaping the messages of continuity with the characteristic achievements and polemical accents of the contemporary era. His extensive knowledge of music, aesthetics, history, psychology, religion, violin methodology and his creative exaltation are revealed in every encounter and in every moment of his activity. An enthusiastic advocate of the progressive, Evgeniy Shevkenov is a pillar and guardian of the best exemplars of classical and academic norms and traditions, often obscured and distorted in the labyrinth of educational and concert conventions.

Finally, as a subject of outright intelligibility, Evgeniy Shevkenov has achieved the mastery of conveying concepts through his music.

## **CONCLUSION**

On the basis of the materials presented in the Report and examined in detail by me, I believe that the candidacy of Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov is defended at an exceptionally high and substantive academic level. His overall work is extensive and respectable.

**Therefore, I confidently and without reservation propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the academic position of ‘ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR’ in the professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, major ‘Violin, Viola and Chamber Music’ to Asst. Prof. Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD.**

November 20, 2023  
Plovdiv

Review written by:  
Prof. Lyudmil Petkov, PhD /signed/