

REVIEW

regarding the competition for the academic position of
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
in professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art
for the needs of the Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts at
the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv
according to the announcement in State Gazette, Issue 81 of 25.09.2023
with candidate Asst. Prof. EVGENIY VLADIMIROV SHEVKENOV, PhD
Reviewer: Prof. Sava Dimitrov, PhD

In the competition announced in the State Gazette, issue 81 of 25.09.2023 by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv for Associate Professor of violin in professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art there is only one candidate – Asst. Prof. Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD. He was born in 1971, completed his higher education at *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music, Sofia, and at the University of Music and Theatre Arts, Vienna. Since 2021 he has been teaching violin, viola and chamber music at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. In 2022 he defended his dissertation thesis with topic: ‘Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart’s Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219’. 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 the Munich Philharmonic, Pesti Vigadó, Budapest, Conway Hall, London, Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Seoul Art Center, Tokyo Metropolitan Center, Osaka Symphony Hall, Kanagawa Hall in Nagoya, Zorlu Performing Arts Center Istanbul, etc. By the time the competition was announced, E. Shevkenov, PhD has published one scientific monograph and 2 articles, which are related to his dissertation.

An appendix to the documentation includes the necessary reference to the contributions to research and creative works, as well as summaries of the works and stage performances with which the candidate participated in the competition. All of his works are presented in two major sections, the first of which has distinct groups to show his varied activities. (The presentation is in line with the requirements for candidates participating in the competition for scientific field 8.3. Music and Dance Art.)

The first section, called ARTISTIC AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES, covers three groups. The first group (B.) includes the monograph ‘Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart’s Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219’, referred to by the candidate as his habilitation thesis, as well as his activity as the producer of an international music project ‘Pontibus artis - Bridges of Art London - Vienna - Plovdiv – 2023’, including concerts, master classes and a

book presentation held at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Under the unifying theme of Leading Artistic Performance in the field of Arts, the candidate's two performances as a soloist in a concert recital in New York and Washington DC, as a soloist in the '250 Years of Mozart' concert in Tokyo and in a chamber concert in London were included. The second group (Г.) includes the monograph 'Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart's Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219', defined as a published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and qualification degree of PhD, as well as two articles published in specialist journals in the field of arts. Also included in this group are the candidate's leading artistic performances in the field of arts which are not major habilitation work, such as participation as conductor of the Alba Regia Orchestra in Hungary, the Barenboim-Said Orchestra in Turkey and the Wiener Staatsorchester, in Austria. The candidate's participation as a violin orchestrator in the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in Taipei, Taiwan, and the performance of the role of Moses the Violinist in the performance 'Triptychon' in Vienna, specifically noted in the review published in the 'Die Presse' newspaper, Vienna, are considered as supporting artistic performances or participations in a collective product in the field of arts.

B.

Naturally, the monograph 'Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart's Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219', determined as a habilitation thesis, deserves special attention. It examines and analyses Mozart's concertos in detail on the basis of the historical-political and philosophical-scientific context of the Age of Enlightenment in the light of the trends in society and art that gave rise to the Mozart phenomenon. Thus, as the author writes, an innovative analytical method is applied, combining the formulation and application of syncretic meaning formulas based on specific semantic musical codes characteristic of Mozart's musical language and style, argued through the interpretation of the use and combination of individual constituent musical elements. The work demonstrates that this approach is universally applicable to the work of a wide variety of composers and styles. As the author notes, the work also has practical-applied value, as it offers an alternative innovative system that can enrich existing practices and contribute to the successful achievement of a qualitatively new interpretative result, and this enhances its contributory character.

The candidate's participation as soloist in concert recitals in New York and Washington, and as soloist in the '250 Years of Mozart' concert in Tokyo and in a chamber concert in London, is undoubtedly of a contributory nature. A positive review of the candidate's solo recital in Washington was published in the Washington Post. Thus it is demonstrated that the specificity of the works and the stylistic features of the individual works require the performer to show

great skill in presenting the characteristic style and each musical idea in the compositions performed. The performance of the works is indicative of the wide amplitude of instrumental possibilities and knowledge in recreating different emotional states.

Г.

The published monograph ‘Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart’s Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219’ is based on the candidate’s defended dissertation thesis for the academic degree of ‘PhD’ and bears the same title. Inasmuch as the dissertation has received its grade, it is not necessary to deal with it in detail in this review, although the candidate has comprehensively described his contributions in this study. The monograph has been cited in six studies by colleagues of the author.

Instead, special mention should be made here of the candidate’s involvement as conductor of the Alba Regia Orchestra in Hungary, the Barenboim-Said Orchestra in Turkey and the Vienna Staatsorchester in Austria.

In the second section of Shevkenov’s (PhD) production, entitled PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY, he presents the successes of his students and refers to his leadership of violin master classes in Seoul, Vienna, Plovdiv and Sofia. It should also be noted here the candidate’s soloist participation in a faculty concert at the Vienna Music Seminar, as well as the diploma and monetary award ‘2010 International Music Award - Venusto music society Seoul’ he received for his international excellence as a violinist and conductor.

I would especially like to note the way in which the candidate Shevkenov, PhD has presented the contributions in his works, because here his own assessment of his production is clearly and precisely outlined and the qualities of his performances and publications are comprehensively highlighted.

All the facts presented show that as a mature specialist with accumulated experience, E. Shevkenov, PhD offers in his publications thorough conclusions and generalizations on many issues and has made his own significant contribution with his research. Overall, it is striking from a review of his entire production that, even when he directs his attention to specific issues in his texts, he always achieves valuable generalisations. For me it is particularly indicative that in his work Shevkenov, PhD moves quite deliberately in one direction, his interest remaining constant, to be crowned by ever more thorough publications, the results of which undoubtedly find their application in his creative and teaching activities.

According to the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the candidate for the academic position of *Associate Professor* must have submitted a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific journals. This means that the candidate must have submitted for evaluation what is called a *habilitation thesis*. With his proposed monograph and other publications, the candidate, Asst. Prof. E. Shevkenov meets this condition. The positive results of all his research works are very substantial. Positive are also all the evaluations he received for his artistic performances

Therefore, on the basis of all the stated facts, I fully confidently believe that Assistant Professor Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD can take the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art.

November 11, 2023

Prof. Sava Dimitrov, PhD