

OPINION

by

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on the artistic activity and activities of

Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD and in connection with his

participation in a competition for

the academic position of 'ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR' in the

professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art

The present review concerns a competition for the academic position 'Associate Professor' in the professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art. The only candidate is Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD, lecturer of violin, viola and chamber music at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv.

Dr. Evgeniy Shevkenov is a broad-spectrum musician who has proved through his numerous performances in various fields of musical art a significant presence in musical life far beyond the borders of Bulgaria.

Successful as a *violinist* (soloist and orchestrator), *conductor* and *organizer* of musical events. Shevkenov's rich experience in academia and as an *administrator* - he was vice-rector (one term) of the *Gustav Mahler* Conservatory in Vienna and not least a *teacher*. Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD taught violin classes for 14 years (2000 - 2014) at the *Gustav Mahler* Conservatory, Vienna. Since 2014 he has been teaching violin, chamber music and orchestra at the *Richard Wagner* Conservatory in the Austrian capital, and since September 2021 he has been teaching violin, viola and chamber music at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv - his hometown. There, Evgeniy Shevkenov completed his secondary vocational education with a major in violin at *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music and Dance Arts. He continued his higher education initially at *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music - Sofia, and later at the University of Music and Theatre Arts in Vienna. Already as a student in Vienna, his talent did not go unnoticed and he was engaged for 5 concert seasons in the orchestra of the world-famous Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra as well as in the Vienna Opera Orchestra. I am impressed by the extraordinary wealth of concert activity that Shevkenov, PhD presents with evidentiary material in the present procedure. He has performed in over 40 countries, including the most prestigious concert halls and music

centers in Vienna, New York, Munich, Budapest, London, Mexico City, Seoul, Tokyo, Osaka, Istanbul, etc. His performance has been repeatedly praised with positive reviews in renowned publications of the world press.

Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD makes a real contribution to the quality development of cultural life in Plovdiv and Vienna, the two cities with which his professional life is most closely connected.

In Vienna, his activities include - *Founder* and *artistic director* of the 'Concertante Ensemble' and the Europa Music Academy, as well as *co-founder* and *chairman* of the European Cultural Society - Vienna and long-time chairman of the cultural committee of the Vienna Economic Forum.

His contribution to the development of culture in Plovdiv is even more evident after 2018, when he became the *artistic director* of the International Chamber Music Festival in the city.

Since 2013, Shevkenov has regularly given masterclasses at the 'Vienna Music Seminar', a forum held annually at the State University of Music Vienna.

In high recognition of Shevkenov's contribution to the educational field of Austria, a decree issued by the President of Austria in June 2022 mentions that Evgeniy Shevkenov was awarded the state title of *Professor* of the Republic of Austria.

And in December of the same year, Shevkenov successfully defended his PhD dissertation at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv.

I highly appreciate the contribution of these valuable professional events, all of which meet the minimum national requirements as follows:

Group A:

Dissertation for the award of an educational and academic degree 'PhD'.

University: *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv,

Professional field: 8.3. Music and Dance Art;

Diploma No. 83 / 15.12.2022 (AMDFA)

PhD thesis on subject: '*Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart's Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219*'.

The choice of the topic is far from random, on the contrary - it corresponds

perfectly to the professional searches that over the years have crystallized into a sustained interest and conscious direction of the candidate's creative energy towards the classical 'Viennese' repertoire

This makes **a total of 50 out of the 50 points required in Group A.**

Group B:

According to Contract No.2 of 29.06.2023 the candidate has produced the International Music Project '*Pontubis artis - Bridges of Art London - Vienna - Plovdiv 2023*', held from 26 to 29 June 2023 at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA - Plovdiv* and included concerts, master classes and a book presentation. According to the criteria of **indicator 4** – '*Realised author's product in the field of arts (film, performance, exhibition, concert, etc.)*', this activity is awarded 50 points.

Under indicator 5 – '*Leading (solo) creative performance in the arts*', E. Shevkenov, PhD presents the following performances made in the period 2004 - 2016:

- Concert-recital New York, USA, Austrian Cultural Forum;
- Concert-recital Washington, USA, Austrian Embassy Hall;
- Soloist at the '250th Anniversary Mozart Concert' - Metropolitan Grand Hall, Tokyo, Japan;
- Soloist in chamber concert - Conway Hall, London, UK.

The concert programmes include significant examples of world violin classics.

According to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the above performances under **indicator 5** carry a total of **140** points (4 x 35 points). Combined with the points from **indicator 4**, they cover the required number of one hundred points.

Thus, 190 of the required 100 points have been collected for Section B.

Group Γ

Under indicator 7 – '*Published book based on a defended dissertation thesis for the award of academic degree of 'PhD' or for the award of the degree of 'Doctor of Science'*'. Shevkenov presents the book '*Contextual Analysis of Mozart Violin Concertos KV 207,211,216,218 and 219*' published by the Academic Library of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine aRTS - Plovdiv*, 2023, with a volume of 274 pages (ISBN 978-619-7682-21-2).

Under indicator 9 – ‘Articles and reports published in specialised journals in the field of arts’, two reports are presented:

- A paper on subject ‘*Innovation as a permanent state of the creative personality. Homo creator*’, presented in the collection of papers presented at the III International Scientific Conference ‘Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art’, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv. The publication appears in Volume 1, 2021, ISSN 2738-8956 (Print), ISSN 2738-8964 (Online), pp 377 - 384
- A paper on subject ‘*Specifics of Compositional Multilayer Nature and Bach Baroque Virtuosity in the Presto from the Sonata for Solo Violin in G Minor BWV 1001*’, presented in the 2022 edition of the Yearbook of Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA, Plovdiv 2022 (ISSN 1313-6526 (Print) and ISSN 2738-7712 (Online) from page 94 to 105.

Under indicator 13 – ‘Leading (or solo) creative performance in the field of arts that is not a major habilitation work’

E. Shevkenov presents three performances as a conductor:

- Hungary, Székesfehérvár, St. Stephen’s Basilica, where he conducted the Alba Regia Orchestra on 18.12.2015;
- Turkey, Ankara, Nazam Hikmet Hall, where on 4.12.2018 he conducted the Barenboim-Said Orchestra;
- Austria, Vienna, Ehrbar Hall, where on 29.12.2022 he conducts the Wiener Staatsorchester.

Under indicator 14 – ‘Supporting creative performance in the field of arts’ are presented participations in:

- violinist-orchestrator in a concert given by the Vienna Philharmonic on 3 March 2004 at the National Concert Hall, Taipei, Taiwan.

and in the *Triptychon* performance by Gerhard Schedl, staged at the Vienna New Opera in July 2007. There, Shevkenov performed the role of Moses the violinist.

According to the table for the calculation of the scientometric contributions, the performances in indicators 7, 9, 13 and 14 of group G bring a total of 230 points, which far exceeds the minimum requirements set by law, namely 120 points, or a total of **230 points for section Γ.**

GROUP D:

Indicator 17 – ‘Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review’ lists four citations in publications, three of which in the yearbook of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA - Plovdiv*, and the fourth one in the collection ‘*Spring Scientific Readings*’ of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA - Plovdiv 2023* (under print).

The parameters of the academic publications are duly indicated (volume, page, ISSN number). It makes an impression that the quotations taken from Shevkenov, PhD are used in works related to different musical specifics - for example in the work of N. Kuzmanova, devoted to ‘*Staging problems in piano playing and their overcoming by the method of prof. Peter Feuchtwanger*, as well as in the work of S. Chaplikov on the emblematic piano work ‘*Goldberg Variations*’ by J. S. Bach. We also find a quotation from Shevkenov used in the work of S. Ruseva, ‘*The Metre-Rhythmic Aspect of the Kotlen Humorous Folk Songs*’, obviously related to folk traditions. From the connections thus indicated, I draw the conclusion of polyvalence and applicability from Shevkenov’s conclusions.

Under indicator 19, ‘*Reviews of realised author’s products or creative performances in specialised publications in the field of arts*’ are indicated with the corresponding links:

- A review in the ‘Classical Music’ section of the Washington Post, December 10, 2004, The review is by Grace Jean and is in reference to the solo recital by Evgeniy Shevkenov given days before in Washington.

- Review in the Austrian ‘Die Presse’ - the column is ‘Classics’ and the occasion is the premiere of ‘Triptychon’ by G. Schedl, the author is Gerhard Kramer. The publication is dated 10.07.2007.

A total of 60 out of the required 40 points for Section D have been collected.

GROUP E:

Under indicator 25 – ‘*Leadership of an international scientific, educational or artistic project*’, Shevkenov, PhD indicates his activity as *Artistic Director* of the International Chamber Music Festival in Plovdiv, and **under indicator 28**, called ‘*Leadership of a master class, seminar or workshop in the field of arts*’, 4 master classes in violin are indicated, respectively - in Seoul, South Korea (2012).); Vienna, Austria (2021); Plovdiv (2022) and at *Lyubomir Pipkov National Music School - Sofia*, held in the spring of this year.

Under indicator 29 – *‘Creative performance in a master class, seminar, workshop in the field of arts’* is indicated a soloist participation in a concert of the faculty of the Vienna Music Seminar, held at the Antonio Vivaldi Hall of the University of Music in Vienna, Austria on 24.07.2020.

Under indicator 31 – *‘Awards of competitions for creativity and performance given by professional forums and organizations abroad’*, the candidate offers a diploma and an award for international excellence as a violinist and conductor of the ‘2010 International Music Award - Venusto music society Seoul’.

A total of 145 out of the required 50 points for Group E.

As a summary of the groups of indicators A - E according to the table for the Scientometric minimum requirements, the points are as follows:

Group A	Minimum number of points – 50	50 points collected
Group B	Minimum number of points – 100	190 points collected
Group Г	Minimum number of points – 120	230 points collected
Group Д	Minimum number of points – 40	60 points collected
Group E	Minimum number of points – 50	145 points collected

It is absolutely indisputable that according to the table of scientometric indicators, Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD meets, and according to some indicators far exceeds, the minimum national requirements for holding the specific academic position, but writing an opinion about an *Artist* like Evgeniy Shevkenov, I could in no way stay in the realm of pallid statistics. The evidence of Shevkenov’s undeniably successful professional career is overwhelming. His career as a soloist and conductor, acclaimed in many and prestigious music centres around the world, as a successful teacher and administrator is a fact and therefore, in conclusion, I would like to summarise that this is an indisputable candidacy, fully compliant with the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and its implementing regulations.

With his creative activity, the candidate for the competition, Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD, **fully fulfils the minimum national requirements** for teaching and artistic activity for acquiring the academic position ‘Associate Professor’ in professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art.

Based on everything stated above, I am fully convinced to give my **positive vote** for the candidacy of Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art.

Sofia, 17.11.2023

Prof. Borislava Taneva, PhD