

OPINION

by

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

professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art

of the materials,

submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of **Associate Professor**

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

in professional field 8.3 *Music and Dance Art*

Major: ***Violin, Viola and Chamber Music***

By order No. PD 27-118 of 21.09.2023 of the Rector of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’ at ***Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv*** in professional field 8.3 *Music and dance art*, major: ***Violin, viola and chamber music***, announced for the needs of the *Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts* Department at the ‘*Music Pedagogy*’ faculty.

In the competition for ‘Associate Professor’, announced in the State Gazette, issue 63 of 25.07.2023 and in the website of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, as the only candidate participates **Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov** – Asst. Prof. and PhD at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA, Plovdiv.

The submitted by Asst. Prof. Shevkenov, PhD set of materials on paper and electronic media includes the following documents:

creative curriculum vitae; certificate of experience in the major; certificate of academic workload; completed table for the Scientometric indicators and their compliance with the minimum national requirements accompanied by supporting material; author’s reference for the scientific contributions of the works and citations and author’s reference for artistic and creative achievements (Appendix to point 10).

1. Presentation of the candidate

A personality with a vivid and rich professional biography, Evgeniy Shevkenov is a hereditary musician and a graduate of *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music and Dance Art - Plovdiv. He graduated with two master’s degrees from *Prof. P. Vladigerov* National Academy of Music, Sofia and from the University of Music and Theatre Arts in Vienna.

His artistic career started in his student years as a performer in the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Opera Orchestra. After successfully completing his studies, he began a long teaching career, as follows: he was the head of the violin class at the *Gustav Mahler* Conservatory in the Austrian capital (where he held the post of vice-rector for one term); from 2013 to date he has been teaching at *Richard Wagner* Conservatory; and in 2021 he was appointed Assistant Professor at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. He successfully defended his dissertation under the scientific supervision of Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, PhD and was awarded the academic degree of PhD. Proof of his high pedagogical and creative achievements is the award of the state title of 'Professor' in Vienna (Austria) in 2022.

The artistic activity of Evgeniy Shevkenov is impressive and versatile. He has toured over 40 countries as a performer and conductor, and has performed in some of the most prestigious venues: the Musikverein and Konzerthaus (Vienna), Carnegie Hall (New York), Conway Hall (London), The Palacio de Bellas Artes (Mexico City), Seoul Art Center, Metropolitan Center (Tokyo), Osaka Symphony Hall, Zorlu Concert Hall (Istanbul), etc.

Currently, Evgeniy Shevkenov is a teacher, performer and conductor who possesses remarkable organizational skills and is active in the community, as: co-founder of the 'European Cultural Society' in Vienna and its chairman since 2008, as well as artistic director of one of the oldest classical and chamber music festivals in Europe - the International Chamber Music Festival, which is held in his hometown.

2. Scientific research activities and results according to the scientific metrics and their compliance with the national minimum requirements

Indicators Group A

Minimum required: 50 points/ Fulfilled: **50** points

For Indicator 1: Diploma No. 083 issued on 15.12.2022 for the awarded academic degree of PhD on the basis of a defended dissertation thesis entitled: 'Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart's Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219'.

Group of indicators B

Minimum required: 100 points/ Fulfilled: **190** points

Equivalent to a habilitation thesis and of value are the solo concertos listed under the indicator 5, as follows: the Concert Recital in New York (USA); the 250th Anniversary Mozart Concerto in Tokyo (Japan); the Concert Recital in Washington (USA) and the Chamber Concert in London (UK). Exceeding the national minimum requirements, the creative performances of E. Shevkenov stand out with international significance and wide-spectrum repertoire: Sonatas for violin and piano by Mozart and Beethoven, Piano trio by Haydn, Quintet by Schubert, String trio by Dobrinka Tabakova, etc. The colourful spectrum of styles that conceptually shapes Shevkenov's performance style as an instrumentalist of high interpretative and instrumental skill is evident.

Indicators Group F

Minimum required: 100 points/ Fulfilled: **230** points

For indicator 7, a published book (based on a defended dissertation thesis) entitled 'Contextual Analysis of Mozart's Violin Concertos KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219' is presented in which, using an innovative analytical method (based on syncretism, semantics and semiotics in the musical language and stylistics of W. A. Mozart) the thesis of the

theatrical-opera genesis of the instrumental music created by the Austrian artist is argued. The work is of proven scientific-research value, but also has a practical-applied contribution with the proposed alternative innovative method, which leads to a qualitative interpretative artistic result in the performance of the composer's instrumental works. The two publications described *under indicator 9* illustrate a researcher who, in his scholarly work, seeks and uncovers the deep layers of the creative process through the functionality and natural creative state of the creative personality (Homo creator) and the advantage of musical content over widespread first-signal speed pseudo-virtuosity. It is also necessary to note the contributory character of E. Shevkenov *under indicator 13* with. Concert on the occasion of the 330th anniversary of the birth of J.S. Bach with the Alba Regia Orchestra (Hungary); Concert of Şefika Kutluer and 'Barenboim-Said' Orchestra (Turkey) and New Year's Concert of the Vienna State Orchestra (Austria).

Indicators Group D

Minimum required: 40 points/ Fulfilled: **100** points

Indicated *under indicator 17* are 4 citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes, as follows: two citations from N. Kuzmanova, one by S. Chaplikov and one by S. Ruseva. *Under indicator 19*, two articles from the international press (in Washington Post Newspaper, Classical Music Section and in Die Presse, Classics Section) comment favourably on the candidate's artistic performances and attest to documented international recognition.

Indicators Group E

Minimum required: 50 points/ Fulfilled: **80** points

The professional portrait of E. Shevkenov is complemented by the stated *under indicator 28* Master Classes in Seoul (South Korea), Vienna (Austria), Plovdiv and Sofia. Sharing accumulated pedagogical experience in front of a diverse audience is a skill that is a consequence of intellect, knowledge and intuition, which the candidate undoubtedly possesses.

3. Personal impressions

I have known Evgeniy Shevkenov for a relatively short time, but it is not difficult to notice his love for his profession, his dedication to his students, and his wide range of creative activities (performer, conductor, teacher, organizer, public figure, researcher), which shape an artist who is versatile and open to innovation. In a short time he managed to 'revive' the violin class at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts and gradually adapted to the academic standards of the university. I am confident that in the future he will continue to give his best to build on the prestige of the Academy.

4. Conclusion

The materials and documents submitted under the procedure fully comply with the specific requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Implementing Rules of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the relevant Regulations of AMDFA.

Assoc. Prof. Evgeniy Shevkenov not only meets the numerical indicators of the national minimum requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor, but in most groups significantly exceeds them. The submitted reference with scientometric minimum

requirements contains *scientific research and artistic-creative activity and shows results* that I assess as valuable and highly professional.

The overall activity of the candidate contains significant research, scientific-applied and artistic achievements and contributions, which show that Evgeniy Shevkenov is a worthy candidate in the announced competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’. Therefore, I give a high evaluation and, fully convinced, propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ to Asst. Prof. Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD in the professional field 8.3 *Music and Dance Art*, major ‘*Violin, Viola and Chamber Music*’.

21.11 2023

Opinion made by:.....
/ Prof. Stela Miteva-Dinkova/