

OPINION

by

Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, PhD,

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts- Plovdiv
on the artistic activity and activities of

Asst. Prof. Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD

and in connection with his participation in a competition for the
academic position of Associate Professor in professional field

8.3. Music and Dance Art,

major 'Violin, Viola and Chamber Music'

1. General presentation of the candidate

By order of the Rector and the Chairman of the General Assembly (No. RD-27-118/21.09.2023 - decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Music Pedagogy (Record No. 13 of 19.09.2023) of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education 8. Arts; professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art for the needs of the Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts, Faculty of Music Pedagogy. Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD has submitted documents as the only candidate for participation in the announced competition for Associate Professor of Violin, Viola and Chamber Music.

I have been provided with a set of materials on electronic media, which is in accordance with the Higher Education Act, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the relevant Regulations of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, and contains documents and references regarding education, educational level, teaching, research employment, administrative activity, as well as all research and scientific-applied production of the candidate.

2. Brief biographical data

Evgeniy Shevkenov was born in Plovdiv. He grew up in the family of two famous musicians - the wonderful opera singer and vocal teacher Assoc. Prof. Elena Baldzhieva and the pianist Vladimir Shevkenov. He started his musical education at *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music and Dance Art, in the class of the brilliant violin teacher Darina Dankova. He graduated his higher education from *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music and at the University of Music and

Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria.

His rich concert life is marked by many valuable concert performances as well as by his participation in the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he has performed in over 30 countries around the world, in many prestigious halls such as Carnegie Hall, Wiener Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Osaka Symphony Hall and many others. In 2000, Shevkenov, PhD was awarded honorary Austrian citizenship for his outstanding achievements in the arts. 2022 was the year in which he was awarded the state professional title of ‘Professor’ of Austria by decree of the President of Austria.

3. General characteristics of the activity

Evgeniy Shevkenov co-founded the European Cultural Society - Vienna in 2006 and was elected its President in 2008. From 2014 to date he is also the chairman of the cultural committee of the Vienna Economic Forum. He founded the Concertante Ensemble Wien, with which he gained international recognition as a soloist and conductor. Since 2013, the candidate has been giving masterclasses annually at the ‘Vienna Music Seminar’ at the State University of Music - Vienna. Shevkenov, PhD was a professor of violin at *Gustav Mahler* Conservatory - Vienna from 2000 to 2014. Since 2018 he has been the *Artistic Director* of the International Chamber Music Festival in Plovdiv, and since 2021 he has been a professor of violin, viola, chamber music, methodology and pedagogical practice at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. In 2022 he defended his doctoral dissertation on subject: ‘*Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart’s Violin Concertos KV207, 211, 216, 218 and 219*’.

A very outstanding and talented Bulgarian musician, with intensive concert activity, but also with fruitful and effective pedagogical activity, Evgeniy Shevkenov impresses with the submitted for review report on the fulfillment of the minimum national scientometric requirements, according to the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Implementing Rules of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. His stage performances in over 40 countries, performed in the most prestigious concert halls of Vienna, Munich, Budapest, London, New York, Mexico City, Seoul, Tokyo, Osaka, Taipei, Istanbul, etc., confirm this opinion of mine. This is the moment to quote the words of Sir Neville Mariner, who called him ‘an artist of extraordinary gift’, and the Viennese newspaper *Die Presse* on 17 July 2007 said of him ‘a brilliant Shevkenov’.

Group A (50 points): dissertation thesis for the award of the academic degree of PhD

on subject: *‘Historical Context and Analysis of Mozart’s Violin Concertos KV207, 211, 216, 218 and 219’* (Diploma No. 83 / 15.12. 2022 (AMDFA). An extremely worthy dissertation topic, awaiting just the right author who establishes ‘that the key to reaching the cherished ideal lies in a logically grounded and thorough examination of the semantics of the musical codes embedded in the works of the greatest masters, one of whom is undoubtedly Wolfgang Amadeus’ (E. Shevkenov).

In the indicators of group **B (190 points)**, Shevkenov presents the International Music Project *‘Pontubis artis - Bridges of Art London - Vienna - Plovdiv 2023’*, realized from 26 to 29 June 2023 at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA*, which includes concerts, master classes and a presentation of the book *‘Contextual Analysis of Mozart Violin Concertos KV207, 211, 216, 218 and 219’* by E. Shevkenov.

Under Indicator B5, the candidate presents four leading performances in 2004/2016 in concert halls in the USA, Great Britain, Japan, and Austria, with outstanding programs including examples of world violin classics.

Indicators of Group **Г (230 points)** – the book *‘Contextual Analysis of Mozart’s Violin Concertos KV207,211,216,218 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).

- ‘Articles and reports published in specialized journals in the field of arts’ two reports.

- ‘Leading (or solo) artistic performance in the field of arts that is not a major habilitation work’ - three performances as conductor: Hungary, Székesfehérvár, St. Stephen’s Basilica, where on 18.12. 2015, he conducted the Alba Regia Orchestra; 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 conducted the Wiener Staatsorchester.

‘Supporting creative performance in the field of arts’:

- Orchestrator in a concert of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra held on 3 March 2004 at the National Concert Hall, Taipei, Taiwan.

- The performance of ‘Triptychon’ by Gerhard Schedl, of the Vienna New Opera, in July 2007, in which he performed the role of Moses the Violinist.

Indicators Group **Д** includes indicator 17 and 19, which represent **60** points, out of a required 40. This includes four citations in publications, three of which are in the Yearbook of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts -*

Plovdiv, and one in the 'Spring Scientific Readings' of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv 2023. Under indicator 19 the candidate has indicated two significant reviews in the Washington Post and Die Presse.

Indicators 25, 28, 29 and 31 are presented in indicator group **E**, which represent **145** points out of the required 50 points. These indicators include 4 violin masterclasses in Seoul, Vienna, Plovdiv and Sofia, soloist participation in a concert by the teachers of the Vienna Music Seminar in Vienna in 2020, a diploma and an award for international excellence as a violinist and conductor at the '2010 International Music Award - Venusto music society Seoul'. In his pedagogical work, Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD seeks to build a solid system of technical skills and to impart in-depth knowledge for the most comprehensive mastery of the instrument, as a basis for the maximum development of students' creative and interpretive potential. His achievements are there and we see them reflected in the successful careers of his students.

I have known Evgeniy since his earliest years, I have followed his entire creative, pedagogical and personal life with particular satisfaction and I know that 'Those Two Above' are happy with what they have achieved and with what they have mapped out for the future!

In conclusion, I believe that Asst. Prof. Evgeniy Vladimirov Shevkenov, PhD meets the requirements for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in professional field 8.3 'Music and Dance Art' in the competition announced by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, 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' and I give my positive vote.

21.11.2023

Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva Novak, PhD