

OPINION

by

Yavor Svetozarov Konov, PhD, DSc, Professor,

professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art,

employed at NBU in Sofia and

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

in the competition for Associate Professor of

Violin, Viola and Chamber Music

in professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art,

announced in the State Gazette Issue 63 of 25.07.2023,

with the only candidate being the Assistant Professor at AMDFA

Master EVGENIY VLADIMIROV SHEVKENOV, PhD,

holder of the professional title of R. Austria

‘Honorary Professor’,

awarded to him as a performing violinist and teacher

Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Singing Performing Arts,

Faculty of Music Pedagogy,

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

Plovdiv, 2023

Biographical data about the PhD student

According to the autobiography of my colleague Evgeniy Shevkenov, he was born in 1971 in Plovdiv in the family of the opera singer and vocal pedagogue Elena Baldzhieva and the pianist Vladimir Shevkenov. The family environment has contributed a lot. Shevkenov graduated with violin from the

Plovdiv Music School and then from the State Academy of Music (today *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music) in Sofia (educational level equal to a master's degree), and subsequently - from the 'State University of Music and Performing Arts' in Vienna (in 2002), again with the major 'Violin' and with the academic degree of 'Master of Arts'.

Even as a pupil and student Evgeniy Shevkenov won a number of national and international prizes, and played for 5 seasons in the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Opera Orchestra. Since 2000 he has been awarded Honorary Austrian Citizenship for outstanding achievements and special services to Austria as a musician by the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Mayor's Office of Vienna. From 2000 to 2014 he taught violin at the *Gustav Mahler* Conservatory in Vienna, and from 2014 to date he teaches violin, chamber music and orchestra at the *Richard Wagner* Conservatory in Vienna. Since 2013 he has been teaching at the Vienna Summer Music Seminar, held annually at the State University of Music.

He has performed in about 40 countries, including the most prestigious venues, with many positive reviews.

The fellow colleague violinist Evgeniy Shevkenov has been awarded the honorary Austrian state professional title of 'Professor'.

A year ago (in 2022) Evgeniy Shevkenov, amid his extensive professional experience as a violin performer - soloist, participant in chamber music ensembles and orchestral ensembles (among which he points out those of the Vienna Opera and the Vienna Philharmonic), worked with a variety of conductors (including the specialist in V. A. Mozart Nikolaus Harnoncourt), as well as a conductor himself, living for almost 30 years in Vienna - he wrote and solemnly defended an impressive dissertation thesis (I wrote my positive review) on the genius works of W. A. Mozart, and in particular on his 5 concertos for violin and orchestra. He subsequently published it as a monograph (AMDFA 2023).

Without having set myself a goal, I regularly and often see and watch on Facebook practically countless (you can't really remember them) performances of Evgeniy Shevkenov as a violinist (performer in various formations and genres in different places of the world - cities, countries, continents), conductor, violinist-teacher (master classes, meetings, sharing of his professional experience abroad and at home, such as at the National Academy of Music, national music schools, etc.), a countless number of awarded students... How many more should there be for a post of assistant professorship? These are enough.

He was also awarded the artistic leadership of the International Chamber Music Festival in Plovdiv:

https://issuu.com/amdfa/docs/festival_na_kamernata_muzika_2023.

The candidate meets the legally required scientometric minimum requirements, and in a number of respects exceeds them many times over (e.g. in artistic-creative performances, abroad and in our country, as well as in citations, in Bulgaria, and in masterclass guidance around the world and in Bulgaria).

According to the certificate of teaching load of Asst. Prof. Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD at the AMDFA during the academic year 2022-23, he taught violin, chamber music, orchestral literature, pedagogical practice, and analysis of musical literature: a total of 635.5 (☺) classes. More than enough for an Associate Professor.

IN CONCLUSION: based on the above, I naturally give my positive vote in favour of Master Evgeniy Shevkenov, PhD, Professor Emeritus of the R. Austria, be appointed to the academic position of Associate Professor of Violin and Viola at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv.

Monday 06 November 2023

(Prof. Yavor Konov, PhD, DSc)