

PEER REVIEW

**By Prof. Vencislav Dimov Dimov, Doctor of Sciences
regarding the candidacy of Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev
according to the competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate
Professor” according to 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”
 (“Bagpipe and its Teaching Methodology”)**

**Announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts –
Plovdiv**

About the candidate and the documentation

The only candidate is Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev, who, according to the submitted documents, meets the general conditions for participation in the competition procedure in accordance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. In the autobiographical reference it is stated that Dr. Ivan Georgiev is the Chief Assistant in the Musical Folklore Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (since 2017), where he is a bagpipe lecturer. Before that, he graduated from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv: Bachelor’s degree in “Folk Ensembles Conducting” (1999); acquired a professional qualification in “Pedagogy of Music Education” (2000); graduated with honors with Master’s degree in “Folk Ensembles Conducting” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (2002). The candidate’s autobiography shows an enviable realization – a professional musician since 1996 (orchestrator in the State Folk Orchestra of the Academy; orchestrator in the accompanying instrumental group of the Mystery of Bulgarian Voices Vocal Ensemble; member of the Theodosii Spassov Folk Quintet, etc.) All necessary documents and materials, which the procedure requires, are presented according to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. According to the submitted reference for scientometric indicators, the candidate meets the national minimum requirements for the academic position of “Associate Professor” (minimum number of points according to Table 1 of the Regulations for the application of the L Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria – 360; the candidate reports and proves 445).

In the competition, Dr. Ivan Georgiev applied with the following production: 1 dissertation; 1 monograph (habilitation thesis); 3 articles published in a specialized publication in the field of arts; 10 concerts counted as supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts; 2 participations in a national project; 1 co-authored textbook; 3 master classes. Among the evidence, in addition to the indicated author’s texts, citations (in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes and in non-

refereed peer-reviewed journals) are also attached.

I. Scientific and research activity

The presented scientific production in the competition for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” meets the requirements of the competition as a profile of the developed issues and quantity.

Dr. Ivan Georgiev has submitted for participation in the competition the monograph *“The Unachievable Sound of the Bagpipe”* (Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2022). The monographic work is dedicated to the work, biography, and musical heritage of the bagpiper Nikola Atanasov. The text as a volume (161 pages) and a genre (there are two scientific reviewers – Assoc. Prof. Mariya Stoyanova and Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov, scientific consultant – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rada Slavinska; scientific editor – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska) meets the requirements for academic work in the competition for the award of the academic position “Associate Professor” (habilitation work). The content of the work is structured in three sections (“Prologue”, “Core” and “Epilogue”), which contain 14 chapters. The book includes a foreword by the author and texts by the two reviewers; appendices: unpublished photos and documents from Nikola Atanasov’s archive, and “Deciphered Memories” – transcriptions of 6 pieces for solo bagpipe from Atanasov’s repertoire.

As noted in the preface, the book fills a gap – a serious study of the biography, musical heritage, and work of the famous bagpiper Nikola Atanasov has never been made. Georgiev presents a lot of new information and adds analyzes and interpretations to the facts and descriptions. A valuable contribution is the systematized inheritance of Atanasov in tables, preserved in the archives of the Bulgarian National Radio (76 records). The author offers analyzes of selected works of his and traces the characteristic interpretive skills of the outstanding bagpiper – technique (purity of performance), articulation, metrorhythmic sense, dialect preferences, and personal manner of their performance, intonation purity, phrasing, ornamentation, etc. The conclusions are supported by attached sheet music examples in the text with separate notograms in the appendix with famous plays of Nikola Atanasov deciphered by Georgiev (“Slow Song and Round Dance”, “Karnobatska Rachenitsa”, “Easter Round Dance”, “Bringing Out of the Bride and the Three Times”, “Dyulgersko Horo”, “Rachenitsa”). In a self-reference for the contributions, Georgiev points out that with this work, for the first time, an active bagpipe educator and performer investigates the manner and characteristic features of the performance handwriting of another bagpipe performer. It can be added here that Ivan Georgiev continues a fruitful tradition that has its achievements in the academic board of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – researchers and lecturers of traditional instruments to research and publish books on the biographies, styles, and repertoire of famous instrumentalists (Todor Kirov’s

books on fiddle and fiddle performers, Lyuben Dosev and Vasil Vasilev – for shepherd's pipe, Kostadin Buradzhiev – for tambourine, etc.).

Taking into account the contributions of Ivan Georgiev in this important “personal” type of study, which also has rich pedagogical and scientific-applied resources, some recommendations can be made with which the author could fill gaps and improve his valuable book upon forthcoming reissue with revisions and additions – something I would like to wish him. The work will benefit from possible enrichment and refinement of the bibliography and sources. I recommend searching for and adding other valuable publications on the researched topic. The interesting visuals in the book would be even more informative if they had text with data of the persons, the contexts, and the years.

The attached three articles outline the main focus of the author's interests: the traditional bagpipe instrument, the bagpipe playing, the bagpiper style, and the bagpiper's individual signature.

The article *“The Concept of “Bagpipe Style” in Bulgarian Musicological Journalism”* (Knowledge International Journal, Skopje, 2020, Vol. 38.6, pp. 1487-1492) explores the concept of “style” in folklore-performance practice and argues the conclusions that style is the generalized musical expression of the concrete and dialectic. The publication has terminological contributions and possible applications in music-theoretical and pedagogical practice related to folklore.

The article *“Problem Aspects of Bagpipe Playing”* (Knowledge International Journal, 2021, vol. 45.6, pp. 1403-1409) examines some specific performance problems in bagpipe playing, with the author applying his experience from his many years of performance and pedagogical practice for their resolution. The conclusions are verified empirically and clarify the evolutionary processes in bagpipe performance art in the contexts of modernization and professionalization of folk music in Bulgaria in the 20th century.

The article *“Diagonal Dissection of the Handwriting of a Bagpipe Performer”* (Spring Scientific Readings, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2021, pp. 219-226) is a published report from the Spring Scientific Readings in 2021, which presents the performing handwriting of Nikola Atanasov and summarizes his inner knowledge of the dialectal specifics of bagpipe art and its technical and improvisational qualities.

Dr. Ivan Georgiev's scientific contributions are also reflected in the impact factor of his publications. In his scientometric table, he indicates 7 citations: 3 in scientific monographs published in Bulgaria, 1 in a Bulgarian scientific collection with materials from a conference, and 3 in an international scientific publication.

II. Educational (pedagogical and educational-methodical) and project activities

Dr. Ivan Georgiev's scientific, musical-theoretical and applied-practical research finds various applications in his pedagogical, teaching-methodical, and project activities.

The reference shows that Georgiev has 20 years of experience as a bagpipe lecturer at the Plovdiv Academy: from 2002 as a part-time lecturer, and since 2010 – as a full-time Bagpipe Assistant. The official certificate from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts indicates that as of August 2022 Dr. Ivan Georgiev has had an internship in the specialty of the competition as a full-time lecturer for 11 years and 9 months. For five years in a row, he was also a lecturer at the International Summer Folklore Seminar at the Academy. Among the activities proposed for review in this section is his participation in the national scientific, educational and artistic project – “The Strangers”, with head Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zoya Mikova, at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, in 2016 and 2018.

The candidate's materials also include a published university textbook, which he co-authored with Mariya Stoyanova: *“Pieces for Bagpipes with Piano Accompaniment”* (2008, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv).

As a prominent instrumentalist and bagpipe lecturer Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Georgiev includes in his portfolio three master class in the field of arts: Master class in bagpipe of Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Georgiev at Dobri Hristov National School of Arts – Varna (28.03.2022); Master class in bagpipes by Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Georgiev at and at Dobri Chintulov Secondary School – Burgas (15.04.2022) and Master class in bagpipes by Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Georgiev at the XV Summer Art Academy “The Fire of Orpheus” in Zlatograd (10.08.2021 – 17.08.2021). I also have impressions of another similar activity, which Georgiev did not include in the materials: in 2014, he participated as a master-trainer in the national folklore meeting “Bridge between Generations” in the City of Targovishte.

III. Creative and artistic activity in the field of arts

The applied-practical activity of Dr. Ivan Georgiev finds a vivid expression in his artistic work as a musician. The table of materials for the competition includes 4 concerts in the USA and Canada with Theodosii Spassov Folk Quintet (2018), 4 concerts with Theodosii Spassov Folk Quintet in Bulgaria (2019), 1 concert during the “Faith” project led by Theodosii Spassov (Sofia, A to Jazz Festival, 2019), 1 concert with the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio – “The Art of the Bagpipe” (Sofia, First Studio of the Bulgarian National Radio, 10.03.2022).

A number of artistic and creative participations of the candidate, which I have

witnessed, remained outside the table. The reference in the documents for creative achievements in the country and abroad of Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Georgiev points out some of them, probably not included in the materials for the competition because of the earlier period: Second prize from the Second Academic All-Bulgarian Competition for Instrumental Performance and Artistic Creativity (Plovdiv, 1996); First prize as a solo instrumentalist and First prize as a participant in the Instrumental Quintet at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts from the Fourth International Youth Festival-Competition "Folklore Without Borders" (Dobrich-Albena, 2004); Diploma for active participation in the charity campaign of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts to raise funds for the restoration of the Yellow School in Old Plovdiv (Plovdiv, 2011); "With Bagpipes at Noon – Bagpipe Operetta", student production with the participation of a reciter and soloists from the bagpipe class of Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Georgiev and Head Assistant Dr. Rada Slavinska (04.05.2017, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) – there is a review of the production by Assoc. Prof. Ivan Deliradev.

Conclusion

The activity of the candidate and his scientific-applied, teaching and artistic achievements show that Dr. Ivan Georgiev is a researcher with established pedagogical experience and highly valued artistic performances. His candidacy meets the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. This gives me reasons to give a high and positive assessment to Dr. Georgiev as a candidate in the competition and to propose to the Scientific Jury to select him for the academic position of "Associate Professor" under 8.3. "Music and Dance Arts" ("Bagpipe and its Teaching Methodology") at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

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