

## **PEER REVIEW**

**by Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yasenov**

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

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv under Higher education field 8. “Arts”, professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Bagpipe and Its Teaching Methodology”

By Order No ПД-27-067 dated 05.09.2022 of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for a competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” under Higher education field 8. “Arts”, professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, scientific specialty “Bagpipe and Its Teaching Methodology”, announced for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography. Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition, namely Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The submitted documents and materials, in electronic form, meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Ivan Simeonov Georgiev began studying bagpipe under the guidance of Rusi Yanchev at the age of 11 in the Pioneer Home in the City of Burgas. He completed his secondary education with honors in 1995 at Filip Kutev Secondary Music School in Kotel. In 1999, he graduated with a Bachelor’s degree, majoring in “Folk Ensembles Conducting” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, where in 2000 he acquired a professional qualification in “Pedagogy of Music Education”, and in 2002 graduated with honors with a Master’s degree in the specialty “Folk Ensembles Conducting”. He has been honored with prestigious awards from national and international competitions.

The interest and professional direction of I. Georgiev pushed him to the development of scientific activity, as a result of which in 2014 he defended his dissertation on the topic “*Evolution of Bagpipe Style in Bulgaria*” and was awarded the scientific and educational degree “Doctor”.

The pedagogical activity of the candidate is tied to Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Since 2002 he has been a part-time lecturer of bagpipes, and since 2010 he has been appointed to the academic position of “Assistant”. In 2017, after a competition, he was awarded the academic position of “Chief Assistant” at the Musical Folklore Department with the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography. For five years in a row, he has been a lecturer at the International

Summer Folklore Seminar in Plovdiv. Of great importance in his pedagogical practice is the enrichment of the repertoire studied by his students, helping to build and develop future creative personalities.

Georgiev's artistic activity is extremely active. In the period from 1996 until 2011, he was a full-time orchestra player in the State Folk Orchestra at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. From 2002 to 2014, he participated as an orchestrator in the accompanying instrumental group for the Mystery of Bulgarian Voices Vocal Ensemble, with which he performed more than 100 concerts in Bulgaria and abroad. He also performed dozens of concerts as an accompanying bagpiper with the Nightingale Quartet. From 2008 to the present, he has been a member of the group Theodosii Spassov Folk Quintet, with which he has performed over 200 concerts around the world. Dr. Georgiev also performs as a guest soloist of the Folk Music Orchestra with the Bulgarian National Radio.

Of particular importance in the bagpiper's activity is the presentation of the Bulgarian folk music-performance culture abroad.

The candidate's recording activity is rich and highly professional. He has released CDs with the Instrumental Quintet at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (2004) and with the Academic National Orchestra (2009), as well as a solo CD "The Magic of Bulgarian Bagpipe" (2009). Dr. Georgiev has also participated as a performer in the recordings of music for Bulgare National Folklore Ensemble, Sinan Çelik's album *Mozaik Vol. 2*, the CD "Thracian Gold" by Darina Slavcheva, the CD "Kaba Kabadajlii and Kristina Engerova", the Lira Orchestra, the CD "Orpheus Flowers" (2007), "Orenda" by DJ Balkanski, "Golden Thread" by Todor Kozhuharov, "O'maino Horo" by Theodosii Spassov Folk Quintet, "Theodosii Spassov Sings", and others.

Dr. Georgiev has been a member of juries in a number of folklore contests.

Ivan Georgiev develops scientific and journalistic activity with an indisputable contribution nature. He participates in scientific conferences and is the author of numerous publications in specialized publications, as well as methodical literature.

The dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (indicator A1), *"Evolution of Bagpipe Style in Bulgaria"*, is valuable and of exceptional contribution to the bagpipe art. The depth of research is predetermined by the daring, professional, and critical view of a practicing performer and educator. The contributions are expressed in the following: the Bulgarian organographic literature on bagpipes is systematized, periods are distinguished in the researchers' theoretical approach to the instrument, the specific performing techniques are summarized and qualified, an attempt is made to define all bagpipe dialects, a parallel is made between the development of the instrumental style and the technical means of expression, the evolutionary processes in the main folklore areas are examined, the characteristic phenomena in bagpipe practice are described, a terminology adequately reflecting the problems in the performance art is proposed, the concepts "dialect" and "universal" bagpipe style are defined and distinguished – for the first time.

Georgiev is the author of the monographic work *"The Unachievable Sound of the Bagpipe"*, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2022

(indicator B2), in which for the first time a thorough study of the creativity, biography, and musical heritage of Nikola Atanasov is carried out, the manner and characteristic features of the interpretation style of the famous bagpiper and his performance practice are investigated and thoroughly analyzed, his repertoire is systematized, musical-aesthetic and interpretive analyzes of some of the works are made, and methodological guidelines are given. A creative artist profile is created.

The relevance of the topic of the monographic work is determined by the need for adequacy to the requirements of the time, as well as the preservation of authentic folklore traditions, leading to examination, analysis, and familiarization with interpretive styles and techniques from the work of emblematic Bulgarian performers, as well as renewal of the repertoire, the approaches in the methodology of teaching their works, and their application in the performing practice.

All this will contribute to the enrichment of the professional aesthetic worldview and the construction and development of the performing-creative model among the emerging instrumentalists. This will also lead to the improvement of the theoretical-practical skills of the bagpipers and will expand the competences of music educators. The above determines the contribution nature of the study.

Under indicator D9, articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts are described, the contributions of which are generally stated as follows:

- in *“Diagonal Dissection of the Handwriting of a Bagpipe Performer”*, Spring Scientific Readings, 2021, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts: Georgiev summarizes the performance manner of Nikola Atanasov, his supra-regional determination, his deep knowledge of dialectal specifics, and his technical and improvisational qualities, making it the first of its kind study of the style of the famous bagpiper.

- in *“Problem Aspects of Bagpipe Playing”*, published report from the international scientific conference “Knowledge International Journal”, Serbia, 2021: specific performance problems are considered and methodical guidelines for their resolution are given. For the first time, the evolutionary processes in bagpipe performance, which occurred as a result of the professional attitude towards folk music in the 20th century, were clarified in technical terms.

- *“The Concept of “Bagpipe Style” in Bulgarian Musicological Journalism”*, published report from the international scientific conference “Knowledge International Journal”, Serbia, 2020” the concept of “style” in folklore-performance practice is analyzed, leading to the correct use of the term in music-theoretical and pedagogical literature concerning folklore.

Under indicator D14 – Supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts, 10 concerts are described, 8 of which with Theodosii Spasov Folk Quintet in Canada (Ottawa, Toronto), USA, (New York, Los Angeles), Bulgaria (Plovdiv, Burgas, Balchik, Kavarna), as well as at A to Jazz Festival and a concert with the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio – “The Art of the Bagpipe”, Sofia, First Studio of the Bulgarian National Radio.

Indicator D17 – Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, 3 are presented, and in item 18 – in non-refereed journals with scientific review, the candidate is cited 4 times.

I. Georgiev participated in “The Strangers” project with supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zoya Mikova in 2016 and 2018 (indicator F22).

He is the co-author of a published textbook - *“Pieces for Bagpipes with Piano Accompaniment”* – Mariya Stoyanova (author), Ivan Georgiev (author), ISBN 978-954-8824-80-4, 2008 (F27).

Master classes (E28) were implemented at Dobri Hristov National School of Arts – Varna (2022) and at Dobri Chintulov Secondary School – Burgas (2022), XV Summer Art Academy “The Fire of Orpheus” in Zlatograd (2021).

The indicators of the minimum national requirements are covered, to a greater extent than necessary.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the high achievements and the contributing nature of the overall active and rich pedagogical, artistic and scientific research activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev. The theoretical developments of the candidate have practical applicability, both in executive activity and in pedagogical work. The achieved results fully correspond to the specific requirements of the specialty “Bagpipe and Its Teaching Methodology”, announced for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography, adopted in connection with the Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv for the application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After familiarizing myself with the materials presented in the competition and analyzing their significance, scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment to the respected Scientific Jury in support of the candidacy of Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, scientific specialty “Bagpipe and Its Teaching Methodology”.

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Peer review prepared by:

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(Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov)