

## PEER REVIEW

**by Prof. Dr. Todor Aleksandrov Kirov,  
for the creative activity of  
Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev**  
candidate for participation in a competition  
**for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”**  
scientific specialty: “Bagpipe and its Teaching Methodology”,  
under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”,  
to the Musical Folklore Department,  
Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography,  
at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

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Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev is a candidate in the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty “Bagpipe and its Teaching Methodology” at the Musical Folklore Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography.

Ivan Georgiev started playing the bagpipes at the age of 11 in a music school in the City of Burgas. After that, he turned to professional musical art, passing through the Secondary Music School in the City of Kotel and finishing his professional education at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. He has completed Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees with the specialty “Folk Ensembles Conducting”; acquired a professional qualification in “Pedagogy of Music Education”; and defended a doctoral scientific and educational degree. For a period of 15 years he was an orchestra player in the State Folk Orchestra, and since 2002 he has been a lecturer in Bagpipes at the Academy. His creative path is connected with long-term dedication to performance, teaching, and research in the field of bagpipe art.

For the competition, Georgiev presents a reference with documents in the following areas:

- = Dissertation work
- = Habilitation thesis
- = Articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts
- = Concert activity
- = Citations in scientific publications
- = Participation in an educational project
- = Published university handbook
- = Conducted master classes

The dissertation is on the topic “*Evolution of Bagpipe Style in Bulgaria*” from 2014, for which according to the scientometric table he receives 50 points. This is an

extensive study of the processes related to the development of bagpipe art over time, which clarifies bagpipe terminology and examines and compares the playing manners of famous Bulgarian bagpipe performers.

The habilitation thesis is a monograph with a volume of 160 pages, published in 2022. The topic is *"The Unachievable Sound of the Bagpipe"*, for which the author has realized 100 points. The work, the biography, and the musical heritage of one of the famous bagpipe performers of the second half of the 20th century, Nikola Atanasov, are thoroughly explored. A retrospective of the Bulgarian publications about the bagpipe is made, data of the life and creative biography of Nikola Atanasov are presented, and an analysis of his performing handwriting is made. This is a creative portrait of one of the doyens of bagpipe art, who contributed to its development and popularization in Bulgaria and abroad.

The monographic study fills a gap. It is the first of its kind in the field of bagpipe knowledge and has a scientific and practical effect. It is especially valuable that it is based on theoretical knowledge and accumulated practical experience of an active piper – performer, teacher, and researcher. The biographical information and professional specifics characterizing N. Atanasov's performance techniques and style are presented as simply and comprehensibly as possible for the reader. The sections are titled unconventionally and artistically and shed full light on the issues under consideration.

The developed topic has not been the subject of research until now, which justifies the contributing nature of the habilitation work. In modern conditions, changes occur not only in the social and everyday sphere, but also in the spiritual and aesthetic needs of people. Folk instrumental art and music itself are changing. While half a century ago the melodies were drawn only from the folklore folk song traditions, in more recent times the personal creativity of the performers themselves has appeared. These compositions have completely different technical tasks, requiring new instrumental and performing means. From here follows the topicality of the theme – it is both adequate to the requirements of the time, but at the same time firmly rooted in the old traditions. In this case, it is especially necessary to present the "original", i.e. the work of the old masters and the interpretive styles of iconic bagpipe performers. Such a goal has been achieved through the present study, which contributes to enriching the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills of specialists working in the field of bagpipe art.

To section D – "Articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts", the candidate has submitted three publications: *"The Concept of "Bagpipe Style" in Bulgarian Musicological Journalism"* (2020); *"Diagonal Dissection of the Handwriting of a Bagpipe Performer"* (2021), and *"Problem Aspects of Bagpipe Playing"* (2021). Through them, the author realizes 45 points.

The participation of Ivan Georgiev in the concert life at home and abroad is active. As an asset, he presented nine concerts with Theodosii Spasov as a member of his folk quintet and one concert with the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio. This sector of the scientometric table earns him 100 points.

To sector E – “Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review” Georgiev scores 30 points, and in “Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review” – 20 points.

According to item 22, sector F – “Participation in a national scientific, educational, or artistic-creative project”, the points are 30.

Item 27, sector F – “Published university textbook” gives him 10 points.

The candidate has held three master classes – in Burgas, Varna and Zlatograd, which brings him 60 points towards section F, item 28 of the scientometric table.

Chief Assistant Ivan Georgiev is a well-established professional bagpipe performer, with clearly expressed competence in the field of bagpipe art and with many years of teaching experience. He has the necessary set of materials and number of points according to the scientometric table to meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. All this gives grounds for his candidacy for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

My assessment is positive. I propose to the respected Scientific Jury to award Chief Assistant Dr. Ivan Simeonov Georgiev the scientific title “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty “Bagpipe and its Teaching Methodology”.

*12.10.2022*

*Prof. Dr. TODOR KIROV*