

R E V I E W

by

Prof. Lyudmil Borisov Petkov, PhD

In connection with a competition for the
academic position of ‘ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR’

Announced in State Gazette Issue 63/25.07.2023

in professional field **8.3. Music and Dance Art**

Major ‘**Music Stage Production and Classical Singing**’

for the needs of the Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts

at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy

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

I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury by the order of the Rector No. RD-27-117 Plovdiv / 21.09.2023 and the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Music Pedagogy (protocol No. 13 of 19.09.2023).

The only candidate for the competition is Asst. Prof. **Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov, PhD.**

The documentation submitted to me is in order and has all accompanying requisites in accordance with the requirements of:

- Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act;
- Rules on the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act;
- The Regulations on the Structure and Activities of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Ivaylo Mihaylov was born on 22.08.1973 in the town of Stara Zagora. His fields of activity include musical theatre - directing, vocal pedagogy, art management and opera singing. He graduated from the French Language School and has a Bachelor’s degree in classical singing (*Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music - Sofia). Subsequently he defended three master’s degrees: in music stage production, in art management and in classical music (opera singing). Ivaylo Mihaylov has also three specializations as a vocal pedagogue at the NBU in Sofia, at the Opera Academy in Osimo, Italy and at *Boris Hristov* Opera Academy in Rome, Italy. His personal competences include the knowledge of four foreign languages - Italian, English, Russian and French. He is actively working on numerous projects in the field of music

management and opera directing.

Ivaylo Mihaylov has worked in the state operas of Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Stara Zagora, in the Academic Opera Theatre at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts– Plovdiv, at the Experimental Opera Theatre - Spoleto (Italy), with the orchestra of the city of Padua, Italy, the National Symphony Orchestra of Armenia (Yerevan) and the Baltic State Opera. His overseas tours include Armenia, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan, Vietnam, North Korea, Romania, Malta, Palma de Mallorca and Poland. TV and radio appearances of Iv. Mihaylov's performances have been noted by RAI 5 Clasica - Italy, BNT1, BNT2, Armenian National Television, Saigon TV (Vietnam), Darik Radio, BNR, etc. He participates in the most renowned music festivals in the country.

Brief presentation of the materials received for review on the various indicators of the Table of Scientometric Indicators

Indicators A Group

A dissertation entitled 'The Vocal Songs of Reynaldo Hahn and the Application of French Phonetic Transcription to the Interpretation of French, Compared to the Practical Transcription and Transliteration into Bulgarian' was submitted (Diploma No. 074/27.04.22)

Indicators B Group

Presented as appropriate in weight to the habilitation work:

1. Concert performance 'The Songs of Puccini' - Sofia, Bulgaria Chamber Hall (script, direction, soloist, translations, concept)
2. Premiere of Gounod's Faust, in the role of Faust - 18.11.2022, Stara Zagora State Opera House
3. Premiere of Cherevichki by P. I. Tchaikovsky, in the role of Vakula, Opera Theatre, Cagliari, Italy - 20.12.2014, recorded by RAI TV
4. Premiere Carmen, Bizet, role of Don José - 24.05.2014, Porto, Portugal, Porto Coliseum

Indicators F Group

A published book based on the PhD Thesis with the same title, ISBN: 978-236-420-5, is presented.

Then follow:

- Co-authored paper 'On Some Issues in Opera Performance Practice in the

Context of COVID 19', Third International Scientific Conference on Science, Education and Innovation in the Arts, Vol. 1, ISSN-2378-8956, AMDFA, 2021, pp. 130-141

- Article 'The premiere of BA-TA-CLAN by J. Offenbach in the tenth jubilee year of the Academic Opera Theatre 'AOT' at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA-Plovdiv, ISSN: 1313-6526, Plovdiv, 2020, AMDFA Yearbook, pp. 95-97
- The Songs of Giacomo Puccini - Chronology, Performance and History of Their Creation' - Spring Scientific Readings Plovdiv, ISSN: 1314-7005, Plovdiv, 2022, pp. 27-37

The candidate presents two realized author's products PREMIERE (for Bulgaria) 'BA-TA-CLAN', as stage director, the Hall of AMDFA, 12.10.2020.

- PREMIERE – 'Bastien und Bastienne', as stage director, the Hall of AMDFA, 03.05.2017.
- The PREMIERE of 'Thais', in the role of Nisias, Baltic Opera, is highlighted as the leading creative performance, Gdansk, Poland - 01.03.2119.

Indicators D Group

The candidate presents two quotations from his writings - in a book by Dr. Edward Sarafian, ISBN: 978-619-7682-24-3, p. 38 and p. 39

The submitted reviews for the performances of Ivaylo Mihaylov are by the authors Lili Drumeva (BNR) (Art Spectrum magazine, issue 54/2021), Boyanka Arnaudova (Kultura newspaper, issue 40/2012), Maria Boyadzhieva-Luizova (Kultura newspaper, issue 6/2008), Rumyana Karakostova (Kultura newspaper, issue 10/2002), Boyanka Arnaudova (Kultura daily, issue 39/2015), Lili Nikolova (Kultura newspaper, issue 25/2014), G. Shamliiev, PhD (Art Spectrum magazine, issue 49/2019), prof. Svilen Raychev (Art Spectrum magazine, issue 50/2019)

Indicators E Group

Ivaylo Mihaylov participated in two national artistic and creative projects:

1. 'From concerts to opera on the path of professionalism in the development of students' - contract No. 1/19 of 21.03.2019.
2. 'Beginning of a second creative decade for the Academic Opera Theatre Plovdiv' - contract No. 9/21 of 17.03.2021.
3. He is the head of the project 'Stage realization of fragments from the opera 'The Elixir of Love' by G. Donizetti' for a successful professional debut in a role - contract No. 3/2023.

4. Conducts a workshop with a presentation of the 'Cherevichki' opera - 24.03.2023.

Contributions and personal impressions

The tenor Ivaylo Mihaylov is one of the phenomena in the Bulgarian musical firmament. Having received recognition in the Mecca of opera art - Italy, he continues to follow and enforce the canons of high performance. I fully accept his premieres in the roles of Faust, Vakula, Don José and the concert-performance of 'Puccini's Songs' as contributing to a high and meaningful degree. The enigma of great art emerges in the level that he demonstrates in these extremely complex as a singing challenge and artistic and dramaturgical essence. As a director-producer, the candidate realizes meaningful and multi-layered concepts that, while corresponding to the core of the main conception, interweave it with the intriguing counterpoint of a personal, vivid and creatively individual view of the overall construction of the performance.

Ivaylo Mihaylov has a definite contribution, he approaches and impresses with his extremely responsible position towards the overall life and representative events of the Academy. A pillar of classical art, he is a role model and a benchmark of academic teaching for his students.

In the scholarly field, the candidate stands out for his clear thinking and precise structuring of his research goals, deep analysis of the issues involved, and, above all, for the construction of the right package of solutions related to the questions arising in the course of his research interest. Framing the context of the topics under consideration, with intelligent measure, impressive erudition and energy, Ivaylo Mihaylov enriches the scientific discourse in the direction of the most acute accents in their current state.

The substantive level of his overall activity definitely exceeds the specific purpose of this competition. The prestigious 2022 Plovdiv Prize in the Music section is yet another recognition of the spiritual essence and architectonics of his personality.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the materials presented in the Report and examined in detail by me, I believe that the candidacy of Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov is defended in a brilliant manner, at an exceptionally high academic level. His overall work is extensive and respectable.

Therefore, I confidently and without reservation propose to the esteemed

scientific jury to award the academic position of ‘ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR’ in the professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, major ‘Music Stage Production and Classical Singing’ to Asst. Prof. Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov, PhD.

16.11.2023
Plovdiv

Review written by:
Prof. Lyudmil Petkov, PhD /signed/