

OPINION

by

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professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art

of the materials
submitted for participation in the competition
to occupy an academic position ‘**Associate Professor**’
at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv
in professional field 8.3 *Music and Dance Art*
Major: ‘*Music Stage Production and Classical Singing*’

By Order No. PD27-117 of 21.09.2023 of the Rector of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts* I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’ at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts* in the professional field 8.3 *Music and Dance Art*, major: ‘*Music Stage Production and Classical Singing*’, announced for the needs of the *Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts* at the *Faculty of Music Pedagogy*.

In the competition for ‘Associate Professor’, announced in the State Gazette, issue 63 of 25.07.2023 and on the website of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA*, as the only candidate **Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov** - Asst. Prof. at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA*, Plovdiv.

The submitted by Asst. Prof. Ivaylo Mihaylov, PhD set of materials on paper and electronic media includes the following documents:

creative curriculum vitae; certificate of experience in the major; certificate of teaching load; table-reference for the performance of the scientometric indicators and their compliance with the minimum national requirements accompanied by supporting material; author’s reference for the scientific contributions of the works and citations.

1. Presentation of the candidate

Ivaylo Mihaylov is one of the leading names in Bulgarian vocal art. An outstanding tenor with a number of prestigious appearances, his field of expertise is musical theatre, in which, in addition to his work as a performer and teacher, he also appears as a director and arts manager.

His professional path in the musical arts began after he was awarded his Bachelor of Music degree in 1997 from *Prof. P. Vladigerov State Academy of Music* (today NMA), Sofia in the class of Valeri Popova. In 2002 he graduated with a Master’s degree in Vocal Pedagogy from the NBU, Sofia in the class of Prof. Rusko Ruskov. At the same time he studied at *Boris Hristov Academy* in Rome (Italy) under the guidance of Giuseppe Taddei with a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture. Ivaylo Mihaylov further mastered his vocal skills at the Opera Baroque Academy in Osimo (Italy). In 2010, he decided to gain skills in the field of musical

theatre and successfully obtained two more diplomas from the AMDFA (today *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA) for ‘Master’ with the major ‘Art Management’ (2010) and ‘Music Stage Production’ (2013), as a student in the class of Prof. Pavel Gerdzhikov.

Between 2000 and 2022, Ivaylo Mihaylov performed solo roles at the Baltic State Opera Gdansk (Poland), National Symphony Orchestra Yerevan (Armenia), Experimental Opera Theatre Spoleto (Italy), National Opera Bucharest (Romania), etc. He has toured successfully in Portugal, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan, Vietnam, North Korea, Romania, Malta, Palma de Mallorca, etc. His strongest roles are those of Ernani, Don José, Rodolfo, Fenton, Pinkerton, Alfred Germont, Radames, Faust, Cavaradossi, Vakula, etc. A prestigious performance was his participation in the title role of Vakula in the fairy-tale opera *Cherevichki* by P. I. Tchaikovsky in Cagliari (Italy), which was broadcast on RAI television in January 2015.

His debut as a director was in 2013 with the opera *Bastien und Bastienne*, staged with the Academic Opera Theater at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA, with which he also realized the opera performances: *The Player* (2019), *Ba-ta-clan* (2020), *Rita* (2021), *The Elixir of Love* (2022).

Ivaylo Mihaylov is currently a soloist of the Stara Zagora State Opera and a lecturer of opera singing at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA.

2. Scientific research activity and its results in accordance with scientometric indicators and their compliance with the national minimum requirements

Group A indicators

Minimum required: 50 points/ Fulfilled: **50** points

According to indicator 1, diploma No. 074, issued on 27.04.2022 for the awarded educational and scientific degree ‘PhD’ based on a defended dissertation work on topic: ‘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’.

Group B indicators

Minimum required: 100 points/ Fulfilled: **155** points

Equal to the habilitation work and valuable are the international concert performances specified *under indicators 4 and 5*: Concert-performance ‘The Songs of Puccini’ (scriptwriter, director, translation and performance) and three premier solo opera roles - Faus from *Faust* opera by Gounod (Stara Zagora); Vakula from *Cherevichki* Opera by Tchaikovsky (Italy) and Don José from *Carmen* opera by Bizet (Portugal). The fact that Ivaylo Mihaylov is the first tenor performer of Puccini’s song work, which is little popular in Bulgaria, is impressive. An artist with an extremely rich repertoire, he explores the relationship between the composer’s vocal and operatic work. The premiere solo roles reveal an interpreter with exceptional experience in dramatic and comic-fantasy opera performances. Undoubtedly, they testify to the international scale of his performance and enviable artistic mastery.

Group Γ indicators

Minimum required: 100 points/ Fulfilled: **215** points

In this group of indicators, the research and creative activity of I. Mihaylov is combined. According to *indicator 7*, a published book is presented based on a defended dissertation thesis with the title ‘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' with practical-applied significance for the introduction of French phonetic transcription in the work of singers with texts in French. For the first time in Bulgarian musicology, an analysis and classification of Reynaldo Hahn's song works has been made. To this valuable research *under indicator 9*, 3 reports are indicated, which are related to the research field of opera art. The two opera productions Ba-ta-clan and Batien und Bastienne according to *indicator 12* prove the skills and competences of I. Mihaylov as a director-producer. The performances have been presented many times on the stage of Plovdiv and Sofia.

Group D indicators

Minimum required: 40 points/ Fulfilled: **100** points

The large volume of reviews under *indicator 19* for realized author's products and creative performances gives a clear and accurate idea of the qualities and achievements of I. Mihaylov, as a 'tenor who affects with voice and posture' (B. Arnaudova) and as a director with 'creative ideas and stage layout' (G. Shamliiev, PhD), which causes thunderous applause. It is not by chance that Prof. S. Raychev, PhD notes: 'Ivaylo Mihailov, who with skill and knowledge of the specifics and canons of the genre, led and guided the singers and artists during the creation of both the integral performance and each of the roles and ensemble scenes'.

Group E indicators

Minimum required: 50 points/ Fulfilled: **80** points

Strongly present in this group of indicators is the draft work that is provoked by the pedagogical and directorial work of I. Mihaylov. *Under indicator 22*, two projects linked to the Academic Opera Theatre are presented, as follows: 'The Player' (Il Giocatore) by Cherubini and Rita by Donizetti. In addition to these is an opera with fragments of Donizetti's The Elixir of Love - *under indicator 24*, the premiere of which I had the pleasure of attending in person. A performance that sets supreme challenges and meets high standards in the art of opera in terms of vocal interpretation, stage design and realization, and acting presence. This performance left a lasting memory in the audience and elicited thunderous applause. *Under indicator 28* I. Mihaylov was the leader of a workshop in which he presented the opera Cherevichki by P. I. Tchaikovsky broadcast on the Italian RAI 5 television with his participation in the main role, and he co-interviewed and acted out situations from the process.

3. Personal impressions

I know Ivaylo Mihaylov as one of the most outstanding tenors on the Bulgarian stage with a number of international appearances and achievements. His professional image is reinforced with prestigious awards, including the 2022 Plovdiv Prize in the Music section. Always friendly, extremely positive, dedicated to artistic activity, as: performer, teacher and director-stage producer, with his professional competence and contemporary outlook of a manager, he is an indispensable part of the creative team of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA.

4. Conclusion

The materials and documents submitted under the procedure fully comply with the specific requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Rules on the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the relevant Regulations of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

The submitted reference with scientific and artistic scientometric indicators contains *scientific research and artistic creativity and shows results* that I assess as valuable and professional. Asst. Prof. Ivaylo Mihaylov, PhD meets the numerical indicators of the national minimum requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor, which in most groups he significantly exceeds.

On the basis of the above-mentioned analysis and research, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I give my positive assessment with full conviction and justification and I propose the Scientific Jury to support the candidature of Asst. Prof. Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov, PhD for the academic position of Associate Professor at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA in the 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.

November 20, 2023

Opinion drafted by:.....

/Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova/