

PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv
for the submitted documents by

Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Veselinov Koychev

in connection with a competition for the occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Special Instrument (Pop and Jazz Guitar)” at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts Department, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, announced in State Gazette (Issue 60/29.07.2022)

Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Veselinov Koychev is the only candidate who submitted documents for this competition. The documents and materials presented by him meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Veselinov Koychev was born in the City of Plovdiv. He completed his secondary education in a music class at Sv. Sv. Cyril and Methodius High School in Plovdiv, after which he continued his higher musical education and acquired a Bachelor’s degree at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, majoring in “Jazz and Pop Performance Art” with a special instrument – guitar. He completed his Bachelor’s degree in 2011. As a student, he participated in a number of concerts at the Music Department at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. Dr. Koychev completed his Master’s degree in 2012 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, where his active concert activity did not stop. He participated in concert programs throughout the country and managed to prove himself as a responsible concert instrumentalist and professional. As a result, he qualified for an Erasmus academic exchange and specialized in Jazz Guitar at the Giuseppe Tartini Conservatory in Trieste, Italy.

The candidate’s teaching activity began in 2010, by teaching electric guitar and music theory. From 2014 to 2017, he taught “Special Instrument – Guitar” in the Music Department at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. In parallel with this, since 2014 he has been a part-time lecturer of “Electric Guitar” in the Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts Department of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. During the same period, he was also a guitar lecturer and a music teacher at Sv. Sv. Cyril and Methodius Secondary School in Plovdiv. He defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic “*Guitar Improvisation in Modern Jazz*” in 2019 at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University.

The candidate’s professional biography in the field of artistic-creative and concert activity is highly respectable. He performs as a guitarist-soloist at a number of music

forums in Bulgaria and abroad, and participates as a performer in various projects with a wide range of styles and genres such as: jazz, rock, pop, symphonic jazz, musical.

The candidate's performances in projects with symphony orchestras of the Plovdiv State Opera, Stara Zagora State Opera, Varna State Opera, and the symphony orchestras of the cities of Sliven and Pazardzhik, make an impression. Some of the more notable projects are: "Bohemian Rhapsody", rock symphony concerts – 2008-2009, "Sympho Ethno Jazz" symphony concerts – 2012-2013, the musicals – "Man of La Mancha" – 2015, "Jesus Christ Superstar" – 2016, "Hair" – 2018, "Sting The Opera" – 2021.

Another important part of the candidate's artistic and creative activity is the contribution as a performer and arranger, together with Prof. Veselin Koychev, in the realization of two CDs: "Music Springs" – 2018 and "Supernova" – 2019, with music by Stefan Kostyanev.

A high point in the candidate's work, in which he manifests himself as a composer, arranger and performer, is the release in 2022 of the CD "Notes for Django", including 9 author's compositions.

An essential part of the scientific-theoretical activity of the candidate is the book published on the basis of a defended dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" – *"Theoretical Foundations of Guitar Improvisation in Modern Jazz"*, 2021, ISBN 978-954-2963- 88-2, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. This is a work with a high degree of contribution value, in which the author develops methods for teaching modern jazz guitarists. He expresses an opinion regarding the use of chord symbols in jazz music. He also applies a system of techniques for right- and left-handed guitar playing related to the development of improvisational skills. Basic scales and their modes, chords and building principles, harmonic progressions and structures, are also systematized.

In the competition for "Associate Professor" at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv in the specialty "Special Instrument (Pop and Jazz Guitar)" Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Koychev participates with:

- **3** leading and **16** supporting creative performances in a product in the field of arts;
- **6** peer reviews of realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts;
- **3** guides to a master class, studio or workshop in the field of arts;
- participation in the working team of the artistic and creative project Akademika Youth Guitar Festival, Plovdiv, 2015;
- **1** realized author's product in the field of arts – "Notes for Django";

- 2 articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts;
- 1 citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review;

It is evident that for his participation in the competition for “Associate Professor” Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Koychev, not only meets the national scientometric requirements, but also exceeds them.

Taking into account the presented by Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Koychev materials and the minimum scientometric indicators for the teaching, scientific-theoretical and artistic-creative activities for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”, I consider that his candidacy is fully consistent with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

On the basis of the cited rich, high-level artistic and creative activity, I give my positive assessment and propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury for the competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” to elect Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Koychev for the academic position “Associate Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Special Instrument (Pop and Jazz Guitar)” at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts Department, for the needs of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhan Pehlivanov