

## 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 “Special Instrument (Pop and Jazz Guitar)”

By Order No ПД-27-078 dated 29.09.2022 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 “Special Instrument (Pop and Jazz Guitar)”, announced for the needs of the Classical and Pop and Jazz Performance Art Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy. Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition, namely Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Veselinov Koychev 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.

In 2011, Petar Koychev graduated from Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, where he studied guitar in the specialty “Jazz and Pop Performance Arts” and received Bachelor educational qualification. He graduated with a Master’s degree from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv in 2012. From 2015 to 2018, he was a full-time doctoral student in the doctoral program “Musicology and Musical Art” at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, where in 2019 he defended his dissertation on the topic “*Guitar Improvisation in Modern Jazz*” and acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”. He specialized in Jazz Guitar at the Giuseppe Tartini Conservatory in Trieste, Italy (Erasmus+ program). Dr. Koychev also participated in the Student Practices project in 2014 as a mentor.

The candidate is extremely active in his pedagogical, artistic, and scientific activities.

From 2010 to the present moment, P. Koychev has been teaching students Electric and Classical Guitar, Music Theory and Solfeggio at the Music Space Music School in Plovdiv. Since 2014, he has been a part-time, and since 2018, a full-time lecturer of Electric Guitar in the specialty “Pop and Jazz Performance Art” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, where he reached the academic position of Chief Assistant. In the period 2014-2017, he was a part-time lecturer of Special Instrument – Guitar at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, and from

2015 to 2017 he was a music teacher in Guitar at Sv. Sv. Cyril and Methodius High School in Plovdiv.

The artistic activity of P. Koychev is extremely active and rich. He works with the symphony orchestras of: Plovdiv State Opera, Stara Zagora State Opera, Varna State Opera, Sliven, Pazardzhik, under the direction of Kr. Kushev, D. Karaminkov, K. Chaplikov, Hr. Mihalev, K. Ilievski and K. Dobroykov.

Chief Assistant P. Koychev participates in a number of creative projects:

- with a symphony orchestra (symphonic concerts): “Bohemian Rhapsody” (2008-2009), “Sympho Ethno Jazz” (2012-2013), “Abba In Sinfonie” presented in Germany (2013); “Bulgarian Folklore and Jazz” (2014);
- musicals with Plovdiv State Opera: “Man of La Mancha” (2015), “Jesus Christ Superstar” (2016), “Hair” (2018);
- “Sting The Opera” with Stara Zagora State Opera (2021);
- Jazz formations – “Hot Club de Plovdiv” (from 2013 to the present moment), “Paris Night” (2015), “Jazz Manouche, Chanson and Swing” (2016) Veselin Koychev Hot Strings (2016), “Two Guitars Jazz Live” (2018);
- “Night of the Senses” – literary and musical meetings at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University (2015).

Sound recording activity (CDs): “Black Coffee Nadya Toncheva” (2017), “Music Springs” (2018) and “Supernova” (2019) – to music by Prof. Stefan Kostyaney, arrangements and performance by Veselin and Petar Koychevi; “Notes for Django” – with compositions by Petar Koychev (2022).

The candidate actively performs at jazz and guitar festivals. He has played with famous musicians of various genres: D. Peychinovski, O. Goranov, Nasko from BTR, Hr. Loizo, V. Blagoev, Tsv. Nedyalkov, I. Lechev, V. Koychev, D. Rusev, A. Lekov, T. Koychinov, M. Yonchev, E. Pavlova, M. Bachev, N. Toncheva, “White, Green and Red” band, Ricardo Kieron.

Petar Koychev has developed scientific and journalistic activities of an indisputable contribution nature.

The dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (Indicator A1), *“Guitar Improvisation in Modern Jazz”*, is a valuable and outstanding contribution to the guitar art in the field of jazz.

A book was published on the basis of the mentioned work with the title *“Theoretical Foundations of Guitar Improvisation in Modern Jazz”* (Indicator D7).

The contributions are expressed in: systematization of stylistic features and improvisation techniques in modern jazz music, construction of a concept of the theoretical foundations of jazz improvisation for guitar, presentation of the main scales and their modes, chords, as well as the principles of their construction, a system of technical techniques for playing instruments with the right and left hand (related to the development of improvisational skills), and methodical guidelines for jazz guitar.

Combining the improvisational characteristics of modern jazz with the methodology of guitar training will contribute to the construction and development of a performance-creative model among jazz guitarists. All this is a prerequisite for enriching

the theoretical and practical skills of guitarists-performers and expanding the competences of music educators. The above determines the contribution nature of the study.

The topicality of the discussed issues is predetermined by the dynamics in the development of modern musical art and the need to analyze and renew the approaches in the teaching methodology for each musical instrument, in particular the pop and jazz guitar, as well as their practical application.

For Indicator C4, P. Koychev presents a published CD with his author's compositions "Notes for Django", 2022.

In point 5 of the same group of indicators – Leading (independent) creative performance in the field of arts, 3 concerts are indicated: "Petar Koychev Gypsy Jazz Trio", in Bebop Cafe – Plovdiv (2022); "PETAR KOYCHEV PROJECT CONTINUITY", in Sofia Live Club (2022); "Petar Koychev Quartet", at the Youth Jazz Festival – Dimitrovgrad (2012).

2 articles published in the Yearbook of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (Indicator D9):

- "Guitar as Part of Blues Music in the 20th century", ISSN 1313-6526, 2021, pp. 91-99. Aspects of the development of the blues guitar in the 20th century are presented, as well as the author's personal interpretation experience in the blues style. Analyzes of audio and video recordings of popular blues guitarists are made;
- "The Harmonic Minor in Jazz Music", ISSN 1313-6526, Plovdiv, 2021, pp. 114-119, the contribution of which is expressed in the systematization of information about the scale of the harmonic minor and the resulting modes, chords, as well as the principles of their construction (chord progressions and structures). An analysis is made of the differences in the concepts related to the harmonic minor in jazz and classical theory.

In indicator D14 – Supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts, 16 concerts of different nature, rich stylistic palette, in various formations of festivals and other cultural events, are described.

The candidate is cited once (Indicator E17); for this purpose his book "*Theoretical Foundations of Guitar Improvisation in Modern Jazz*", Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2021, is used.

For indicator E19, 6 reviews are presented for a realized author's product (the author's album of P. Koychev) and creative performances, in <http://www.musicology-bg.com/>, reviews section, and in the Art Spectrum Magazine of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

P. Koychev also participated in the Akademika Youth Guitar Festival project in Plovdiv in 2015, the leader of which was Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova (Indicator F22).

In item 28 of the same group of indicators, 2 master classes are indicated – Lyuben Karavelov High School – Plovdiv (2022) and Hristina Morfova National School of Music and Performing Arts – Stara Zagora (2022), as well as a workshop – "Gypsy Jazz Guitar" at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University (2022).

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. Petar Veselinov Koychev. 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 “Special Instrument (Pop and Jazz Guitar)”, announced for the needs of the Classical and Pop and Jazz Performance Art Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, 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.

Bearing in mind the above, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment to the respected Scientific Jury in support of the candidacy of Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Veselinov Koychev 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 “Special Instrument (Pop and Jazz Guitar)”.

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**Prepared by:** .....

(Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov)