

PEER REVIEW

by

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of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for occupation of the academic position of “**Associate Professor**”

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

Higher education field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”

Petar Dimitrov Salchev was born in 1969 in the City of Plovdiv. He is one of the most prominent performers in the field of jazz vocal art in Bulgaria. From a young age he cooperated with “White, Green and Red” – one of the most popular and established jazz formations in our country. In 1994 he won the prize for the best young performer at the “Youth Jazz Meeting” in Plovdiv, and the same year Dr. Salchev continued his musical education at the Faculty of Pop and Jazz at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music, in the class of Prof. Georgi Kordov. Salchev’s great desire to improve led him to win a scholarship for a Master’s program at the prestigious Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Since 2005, he has been an Assistant in Pop and Jazz Singing at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv.

Petar Salchev has made a number of recordings for the Bulgarian National Television and Radio, as a soloist of the Big Band of the National Radio and Big Band Plovdiv, and has worked with Angel Zaberski-Son, Zhivko Petrov, Hristo Yotsov, Simeon Shterev, Theodosii Spassov, Asen Doykin, Milcho Leviev, Petar Petrov, Kameliya Todorova, Hilda Kazasyan, Oliver Yosifovski, Kostas Maginas, Marius Pop, Dorina Markova, Boris Tonkov, Craig Bailey, and Armel Dupas. He performs on the stages of all jazz festivals in Bulgaria, and does concerts in England, Germany, Austria, Denmark, the United States of America, Türkiye, Greece, and Romania.

In 2022, Petar Salchev defended a doctoral dissertation on the topic “*Short Vocal Forms in Different Historical Contexts from Opera to Contemporary Popular Music*”. He still continues with his teaching activity at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, attracting many young talents and training them in pop and jazz singing.

The materials presented by Assistant Dr. Petar Salchev contain specific and comprehensive information about the candidate’s artistic-creative, teaching-pedagogical, and scientific-research activities and are the basis, on which I will build my assessment as a reviewer.

The realized album “Life Lines” – a CD, with music by Petar Salchev, is an author’s product in the field of jazz stylistics. Here, in addition to his unequivocal virtuosity and improvisational talent, he emerges as a very interesting and original composer and poet in

his own specific style. As he shares: *“After more than 7 years of hiatus from recording and publishing activities, filled with a marked focus on live contact with the audience, as a soloist, producer, and organizer of numerous projects, carried out with a galaxy of prominent Bulgarian and foreign artists from the world scene, today, in a natural way, Petar Salchev realizes the original idea of his LIFE LINES Project.”* The album contains 7 songs, in which words are woven into elegant musical lines that, neither more nor less, together weigh with the power that is only possible from the blending of poetry and music. To me, this product is a testament to the candidate’s creative and executive pursuits.

The creativity and desire for contact with the audience is evident in the “Life Lines New Album Presentation” promotion concert. The combination of acoustic sound of piano, double bass, percussion instruments, cello, and flugelhorn, situated in an interesting electronic ambience, is a definite contribution event.

The *“Come Fly with Me” Project*, which took place on 27.06.2022, was an event during the “Art Idea Art Alley” Arts Festival. A modern look at the work of not only the classics, but also the innovators in the genre – Jobim, Sinatra, Federini, Bianchi, etc. This is a concert that carries the spirit and messages of the almost century-old tradition of swing culture.

As a leading or independent creative performance in the field of arts, with which the candidate participates in the announced competition, is the concert “STING THE OPERA.” This was a large-scale event with a symphonic arrangement, carried out together with the orchestra of the Stara Zagora State Opera and the Military Big Band, with conductor Tsvetomir Vasilev. The concert included some of the most popular songs of the British music legend Sting, among which were “Englishman in New York,” “Fields of Gold,” “Shape of My Heart,” “Every Breath You Take,” and others. There were also arrangements by David Hartley, Michel Legrand, Rob Mathis, Vince Mendoza, Stephen Mercurio, Bill Ross, and Nicola Tescari. With this concert, Salchev makes an impression with his versatile talent, not only as a jazz singer, but also as a voice recognizable in both pop and rock sounds.

I definitely consider the publication of a book, based on a defended dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor,” with the title *“Short Vocal Forms in Different Historical Contexts from Opera to Contemporary Popular Music,”* with publisher the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2023, to be a contribution to the candidate’s *research activity*. The contributions cited are six in number, which are precisely specific and well arranged. I will mention only a few of them: *One of the main contributions of the present edition is that serious conclusions are drawn about the way, in which socio-economic changes and the technical revolution are reflected as major evolutionary factors in the development of musical genres and the dissemination of the short vocal form. Socio-cultural changes are shown as a natural result, which creates conditions and financial opportunities for the appearance of an audience for entertainment forms. An important conclusion is that copyright compliance and other regulatory circumstances also play a role in the development of some of the specific processes of this evolution. Another important contribution is the description and analysis of bilateral influences between European and diverse American*

musical cultures.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Petar Salchev has published a serious and valuable work, which unequivocally shows his analytical qualities and his ability to systematize in a historical, cultural, and functional aspect.

Proof of the quality of Salchev's research work are two citations, namely:

From: **Salchev, P.** (2018) "Seven Steps from Music." Collection of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – 2018. ISSN 1313-6526, pp. 150.

Cited by: **Mateva, E.** (2023) "Danse Makabre – Compositional and Sound Imaging Perspectives." Spring Scientific Readings, 2023. In print.

"Seven Steps from Music." Collection of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – 2018. ISSN 1313-6526, pp. 150.

Cited by: **Ruseva, S.** (2023) "Metrorhythmic Appearance of Kotlen's Humorous Folk Songs." Spring Scientific Readings, 2023. In print.

Of particular interest are the reviews of realized author's products or creative performances in specialized publications in the field of arts:

Nikolov, S. (2023) "The Strengthening Connections with Life are in the Songs from the Life Lines Album by Petar Salchev," ART Spectrum Magazine, Issue 60, ISSN 1314-0000, 13.07.2023, pp. 26-2.

Malinova, M. (2015) "Impressions from the Song of the Clown Concert." Art Spectrum Academic Cultural and Information Publication, Issue 35, March 2015. ISBN 1314-0000, p. 2.

These reviews outline the diverse talent of Petar Salchev and his ability to collaborate with different musicians.

The overall picture of the candidate's activity is complemented by the management of two artistic and creative projects:

"**Sonata 57**" (15.06.2022) – a concert performance with the presentation of music from the last album of maestro M. Leviev, with the participation of the orchestra of Opera Plovdiv and with conductor K. Dobroykov.

"**Chamber Stage Plovdiv**" International festival platform with a series of 10 chamber concerts in 2022.

According to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the minimum national requirements for points by groups of indicators related to scientific, educational, and artistic-creative activities, which are defined in the appendix on scientific fields and professional areas for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**," are **360**. For the candidate Assistant Dr. Petar Salchev the total number of points is **410**. Distributed by activities, they are as follows:

Group **A**: Dissertation for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" – **50** points.

Group **C**: Leading (independent) creative expression in the field of arts – **120** points.

Group **D**: Leading (or independent) creative expression in the field of arts, which is not a major habilitation thesis – **75** points.

Group **E**: Reviews of realized author's products or creative appearances in specialized publications in the field of arts – **40** points.

Group **F**: Participation in a national scientific, educational, or artistic project – **80** points.

The summation of the contributions can be defined as a diversity of creative efforts with the aim of achieving high artistic-creative and executive mastery, combined with a pedagogical focus.

The materials for the announced competition have a definite scientific and practical value, meet the requirements of the announced competition and the corresponding minimum national requirements for scientific, educational, and artistic activities, defined in the appendix by professional fields and areas for the academic position "Associate Professor."

Based on what has been said so far, I would like to recommend to the honorable Scientific Jury to award Assistant Dr. Petar Salchev the academic position of "Associate Professor."

21.11.2023

Prepared by:

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