

## PEER REVIEW

by

**Veselin Ivanov Koychev**

Doctor, Professor, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv,  
for the documents submitted by **Assistant Dr. Petar Dimitrov Salchev**

in connection with a competition for the occupation of the academic position “**Associate Professor**” under Professional field **8.3. “Music and Dance Arts,” Specialty “Pop and Jazz Singing and its Teaching Methodology”**

for the needs of the Classical and Pop and Jazz Performing Arts Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, announced in State Gazette (Issue 63/25.07.2023)

I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No ПД-27-116/21.09.2023 of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, and Decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy (Protocol No 13 dated 19.09.2023). The only candidate, who has submitted documents for this competition is **Assistant Dr. Petar Dimitrov Salchev**, a member of the academic staff of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. 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 Conditions and Procedures for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Holding of Academic Positions at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

### **General presentation**

Petar Dimitrov Salchev was born in 1969 in the City of Plovdiv. In 1990, his vocal career began, working and collaborating with “White, Green and Red” – an emblematic jazz formation for Bulgaria. In 1994, he won the award for the best young performer from the “Youth Jazz Meeting” in Plovdiv. In 1994, he continued his musical education at the Faculty of Pop and Jazz at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music in Sofia, in the class of Prof. Georgi Kordov. In 1997, Dr. Salchev won a scholarship for a Master’s program at the 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. In 2022, he defended his dissertation on the topic “*Short Vocal Forms in Different Historical Contexts from Opera to Contemporary Popular Music*,” with supervisor: Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, for which he was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor,” under Higher education field 8. “Arts,” Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts.”

He participates with his projects in all prestigious jazz forums in Bulgaria. Dr. Salchev has made a number of recordings for the Bulgarian National Television and the Bulgarian National Radio, and is a soloist of the Big Band of the National Radio and Big Band Plovdiv. In 2009, the Greek company Ano Kato Records released his project with Kostas Maginas – “The Call.” He has also worked with Angel Zaberski-Son, Zhivko Petrov, Hristo Yotsov, Simeon Shterev, Theodosii Spassov, Asen Doykin, Milcho Leviev, Petar Petrov, Kameliya Todorova, Hilda Kazasyan, Kostas Maginas, Craig Bailey, and others. He performs on the stages of all jazz festivals in Bulgaria, and does concerts in England, Germany, Austria, Denmark, USA, Türkiye, Greece, and Romania.

### **Assessment of the compliance with the minimum national requirements**

The activities presented for review in the minimum national requirements table are as follows:

Group of indicators A – minimum: 50 points

1. Dissertation for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” on the topic: *“Short Vocal Forms in Different Historical Contexts from Opera to Contemporary Popular Music,”* 30.05.1996, (Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, Diploma No 081, issued on 16.11.2022 (50 points).

Total for Group A – 50 points

Group of indicators C – minimum: 100 points

Realized author’s product in the field of arts. “Life Lines” – album, CD with original music and lyrics by Petar Salchev, 2023, Publisher © 2023 4900723 Records DK (50 points);

Leading (independent) creative expression in the field of arts:

Solo concert – presentation of the “Life Lines” Project, 02.03.2023, Bee Bop Cafe, Plovdiv (35 points);

Solo concert – “Come Fly with Me”, 27.06.2022, Historical Museum, Pazardzhik (35 points);

Total for Group C – 120 points

Group of indicators D – minimum: 120 points

7. A published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”: *“Short Vocal Forms in Different Historical Contexts from Opera to Contemporary Popular Music,”* issued by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, ISBN978-619-7682-22-9 (print), ISBN 978-619-7682-23-6 (PDF) (75 points);

Leading (or independent) creative expression in the field of arts, which is not the main habilitation work: “Sting The Opera” concert, where Salchev is a soloist of the Stara Zagora Opera Orchestra, with conductor Tsvetomir Vasilev. Summer Scene, Koprinka Dam,

02.09.2021 (35 points);

upporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts:

Holiday concert "We Love You, Pleven!", 21.12.2022 (10 points)

Total for Group D – 120 points

Group of indicators E – minimum: 40 points

17. Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes:

ateva, E., "Danse Makabre – Compositional and Sound Imaging Perspectives." Spring Scientific Readings, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2023 (In print), ISSN 1314-7005 (10 points);

useva, S., "Metrorhythmic Appearance of Kotlen's Humorous Folk Songs." Spring Scientific Readings, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2023 (In print), ISSN 1314-7005 (10 points);

19. Reviews of realized author's products or creative performances in specialized publications in the field of arts:

ikolov, S., "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, April 2023, pp. 26-27 (10 points);

alinova, M. (2015) "Impressions from the Song of the Clown Concert." Art Spectrum Magazine, Issue 35, March 2015, ISBN 1314-0000, p. 2

Total for Group E – 40 points

Group of indicators F – minimum: 50 points

anagement of a national scientific, educational, or artistic project. "Chamber Stage Plovdiv" – International festival platform with a series of 10 chamber concerts in 2022. Head of the Project – Petar Salchev, under a contract with Plovdiv Municipality No 22ДГ-105/15.02.2022 (30 points);

anagement of an international scientific, educational, or artistic project. "Sonata 57" – International concert-performance, presentation of music from the last album of maestro Milcho Leviev. An international project with the participation of the orchestra of the Plovdiv Opera, with conductor K. Dobroykov, 15.06.2022, Head of the Project – Petar Salchev, under contract with Plovdiv Municipality No OPTP 13 dated 01.06.2021 (40 points);

30. Creativity and performance competition awards given by national professional forums and organizations: "Best Young Performer" at the Youth Jazz Meeting in Plovdiv, 1994 (10 points)

Total for Group F – 80 points

The reference has been prepared with certain inaccuracies, following which it is evident that: the texts are not grammatically specified and are not accurately formatted; in Group D under indicators 8, 9 and 12, there are points noted, for which no evidentiary material is

presented; in Group F, indicator 30 reads “Plovdiv Jazz Festival” instead of “Youth Jazz Meeting.” Despite these omissions, the reference is consistent with the parameters of the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. In Groups of indicators A, D and E, the requirements for the current competition are covered, and in Groups of indicators C and F, they are covered and exceeded.

The indicated activities are definitely of a contribution value, whereby the assessment of the candidate’s achievements exceeds the minimum national requirements and thus covers the requirements for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts,” Specialty “Pop and Jazz Singing and its Teaching Methodology”.

### **Assessment of the scientific and scientific-applied activity**

The relevance of the dissertation work on the topic: *“Short Vocal Forms in Different Historical Contexts from Opera to Contemporary Popular Music,”* consists primarily in the realized ambition for a macrostructural analysis of the considered phenomena. The short musical form is positioned in the context of classical and modern, regional and global. Discussion-provoking and interesting aspects of the issue are the questions about the formal and informal in the short musical form, the norm, improvisation, and interpretation.

Of particular importance is the study of the development and dissemination of the short vocal form over a long historical period, daring and tracing it through the various styles, from Renaissance, Baroque, Classicism, and Romanticism, to contemporary music art. I believe that sharing one’s own experience is an important contribution point in the dissertation work. The proposal of the author’s method with seven steps in the methodology for training vocal performers represents a contribution with applied and practical value. The tracking of the new trends of fusing styles, between ethnic and classical music, and the emergence of jazz standards, as an evolutionary level of the short vocal form in modern music, also has a contribution value.

In the current competition, Assistant Dr. Petar Salchev has presented and published a book based on a defended dissertation work, which is a great opportunity to share his scientific ideas, achievements, and practical contributions with a wider range of readers, as well as to apply for membership to the Bulgarian scientific community.

### **Personal impressions**

I have known Petar Salchev since 1990, from his school days, when he attended the concerts and jazz studios of the “White, Green and Red” Formation in Plovdiv. Even then, his highly professional vocal performance level, accurate intonation, request for a built performance style, and enviable vocal skills, made an impression. His intelligent

interpretation and artistic presence on stage was the reason why he was awarded the “Best Young Performer” award at the Youth Jazz Meeting in Plovdiv in 1994. Then he received an invitation to participate in concerts of the “White, Green and Red” Jazz Formation, in which his presence was impressive.

Petar Salchev’s artistic and creative activity and concerts are not just performances, but always have a specific theme and a special idea. He seeks collaborations with popular musicians and has created exciting collaborations with names, such as Milcho Leviev, Kameliya Todorova, Hilda Kazasyan, Oliver Yosifovski, Kostas Maginas, Craig Bailey, and others.

Since 2005, Petar Salchev has been an Assistant in the specialty “Pop and Jazz Performing Arts” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts and has proven himself as a respected pedagogue and lecturer of the discipline “Pop and Jazz Singing.”

On the other hand, his magnificent organizational qualities are also impressive. He is the author of time-resistant projects, such as “Chamber Stage Plovdiv,” presenting Bulgarian and foreign artists, prominent names in jazz, as well as interesting and innovative musical projects. An important project of his is “The Way to the Stars,” which has already had three editions and is part of the cultural calendar of Plovdiv. In this attractive event every year many interesting groups and musicians perform different styles of music, aimed at different audience age groups, from children to adults. Petar Salchev is one of the initiators, creators, and chairman of the Milcho Leviev Association for Culture and Education, which aims to develop and strengthen spiritual values and civil society in the field of culture, science, and education, by presenting proven examples in the field of Bulgarian culture and art.

## **Conclusion**

I define the active pedagogical and creative activity of Assistant Dr. Petar Salchev as contributing. The practical results achieved by him are highly valuable, and his professional experience as an academic educator is a valuable basis for his future fruitful pedagogical activity for the benefit of students. Assistant Dr. Petar Salchev is a member of the academic staff and a long-time lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv and therefore I would like to recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to award him the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the Specialty “Pop and Jazz Singing and its Teaching Methodology”, under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts.”

21.11.2023

Prof. Dr. Veselin Koychev