

## **PEER REVIEW**

**for the scientific works and educational activities of Chief Assistant Dr. Vasil Milchev Vasilev, presented for participation in a competition for the academic position**

**“Associate Professor”**

**under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” (“Shepherd’s Pipe and Chamber Instrumental Ensembles”), announced in State Gazette, Issue 18 of 04.03.2022 for the needs of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv**

**Prepared by: Prof. Dr. Daniela Kirilova Dzheneva, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv**

The present peer review was prepared on the basis of documents received with regards to a competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv /State Gazette, Issue 18 of 04.03.2022/ and on the website of the higher institution for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography. The documents presented in the competition correspond to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The competition procedure has been followed correctly.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation, namely Chief Assistant Dr. Vasil Vasilev. The materials he presented are comprehensive and are in accordance with the order and conditions for holding academic positions published by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts under Art.45 and Art 46. They also meet the minimum national requirements under Art.24 and Art.26 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The materials include titles of a monograph, of a book issued on the basis of a defended dissertation, and of a published article. The required number of citations in refereed publications, creative performances and a certificate for conducting master classes are attached.

Vasil Vasilev is a hereditary musician. He graduated from the National School of Folk Arts in the village of Shiroka Laka with a specialty “Shepherd’s Pipe”. In 2005, Dr. Vasilev obtained Master’s degree in “Performing Arts – Shepherd’s Pipe” at the Academy, and at the same time, was a part-time teacher and soloist of the State Folk Orchestra at the Academy. In 2015, he obtained the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” with a dissertation on the topic: “Characteristic Features of the Contemporary Shepherd’s Pipe Performance Art”. Since 2017, Dr. Vasil Vasilev has held the academic position of Chief Assistant for Shepherd’s Pipe and Chamber Instrumental Ensembles at the Musical Folklore Department. Simultaneously with the academic realization, he is also a teacher at Lyuben Karavelov Secondary School in Plovdiv. Chief

Assistant Dr. Vasil Vasilev has participated in numerous concerts at home and abroad and has won awards from competitions and festivals.

A leading emphasis in the documentation for the current competition for “Associate Professor” is the monograph “The Shepherd’s Pipe in Bulgarian Musical Practice”. It is structured in an introduction, four sections and a conclusion. The author has included in the bibliography 51 titles of famous Bulgarian musicians – composers and theorists. Vasil Vasilev set himself the goal of revealing the characteristic features of Bulgarian instrumental music for the shepherd’s pipe from the 1960s to the present day. In this regard, he collected and deciphered 42 highly original examples from the repertoire of prominent folk performers. The relevance of the present edition is based on the thorough and multi-component study of these instrumental works. A certain contribution to Bulgarian musical theory and practice is the analytical examination of the shepherd’s pipe in the modern folk music orchestra. The participation of this instrument in chamber groups and its role in the accompaniment of a vocal performance is analyzed in great detail.

The conclusion formulated by the author is that the shepherd’s pipe masters are essential to the appearance of contemporary folk instrumental groups, orchestras and ensembles. They *“enrich and develop Bulgarian folk instrumental music with their repertoire – authentic, processed, original”*.

In sync with this thesis is the topic of the published scientific report: “Usage of Shepherd’s Pipe and Bagpipes in Chamber-Instrumental and Vocal Folklore Ensembles”.

I appreciate the current habilitation not only as a professional growth of the candidate, but also as an empathy with the activities of the Musical Folklore Department of at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts” and the specialists dealing with the folklore performing art.

In conclusion, I will summarize that the monograph “The Shepherd’s Pipe in Bulgarian Musical Practice”, as well as the publications and quotations attached to the competition, deserve a high rating and are definitely of a contributing nature.

I recommend the respected Scientific Jury to award to Chief Assistant Dr. Vasil Vasilev the academic position “Associate Professor” under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” (“Shepherd’s Pipe and Chamber Instrumental Ensembles”).

22.06.2022

Peer review prepared by: .....

/Prof. Dr. D. Dzheneva/