

PEER REVIEW

By Prof. Ventsislav Dimov Dimov, Doctor of Science
regarding the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Kanchev Vladimirov

under a competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” under
Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” (“Tambourine and Conducting of a Folk
Orchestra”)

announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv,
in State Gazette, Issue 13 dated 07.02.2023

For the candidate and the documentation

The only candidate for the announced competition is Associate Professor Dr. Vladimir Kanchev Vladimirov. I know him as one of the great masters in the performing art of the tambourine; as a musician with virtuoso technique, individual style and authority in Bulgaria and around the world; as a lecturer with pedagogical contributions; and as a researcher who successfully defended a dissertation and habilitation on the Bulgarian tambourine. By referring to the attached creative resume, I will indicate the main touches to the professional portrait of the candidate. Born in Stara Zagora (1975), he went through the school of Zagorche Children’s and Youth Ensemble – Stara Zagora, graduated with honors from Filip Kutev Secondary Music School in Kotel (1994), Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (1998: Bachelor degree – Performer and Teacher of Tambourine; 1999: Pedagogy of Music Education; 2002: Master degree – Folk Ensembles Conductor). He also worked as an orchestrator in the Staff Folk Orchestra at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (1996-2003); full-time tambourine assistant at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (since 2004); conductor of the Academic National Orchestra with over 70 concerts (since 2005); Associate Professor of Tambourine and Teaching Methodology at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (since 2015); Head of the Musical Folklore Department; member of the Academic Council of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (since 2016). Among the top achievements in his creative activity are: solo concerts as a guest conductor and soloist of the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio (2009-2010); leading tambourine and methodology lecturer at the Academy of Art and Culture in Osijek, Croatia (since 2018); member of the juries of national and international folklore competitions; laureate of many awards and distinctions, among which the Crystal Lyre Award with the Academic National Orchestra (2013).

The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents and materials required by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations that the procedure requires (curriculum vitae, diplomas for completed higher education and for acquisition of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, certificates – medical and criminal records, certificates of internship in the specialty and for educational activity, study workload reference, scientometric table, author reference for scientific contributions – works and citations). The materials for the competition

include attached evidence according to the table with the minimum requirements: group of indicators A, C, D, E, F. According to the submitted reference for scientometric indicators, the candidate meets the national minimum requirements for the academic position “Professor”, and his numerical indicators significantly exceed the required number of points, as follows: Indicator A (dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” – *“The Modern Bulgarian Tambourine – Appearance, Influences, and Qualities”*, Diploma No 0010/15.07.2014) – 50 points; Indicator C with the required 100 points, he has 175; Indicator D with the required 150 points, he has 465 points; Indicator E – with the required 80 points, he has 100 points; Indicator F – with the required 120 points, he has 240 points.

In the competition, Associate Professor Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov applied with the following production: 10 posters and programs for creative performances (Indicator C); 4 scientific works (articles and reports in specialized publications) and 7 citations, published after the competition for occupation of the position “Associate Professor” in 2015 (Indicator D); 3 scanned publications with citations of his works (Indicator E); 5 documents for the management of a doctoral candidate, participation and management of national scientific, educational, and artistic projects, management of master classes and awards (indicator F).

The following analytical part of the peer review has been developed according to the order of Chapter Three, Section III of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

A. Scientific and research activity

The texts submitted for review can be divided into two groups: 1). Scientific publications; and 2). Citations.

1. Scientific publications

The scientific production presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov in the competition for the academic position “Professor” meets the requirements as a profile of the issues being developed and quantity. The proposed four articles have been published in collections of national and international scientific conferences (in the period 2017-2022). The research interest is in the fields of: performance art, educational methodology and modern trends in tambourine training, as well as ethnomusicology.

In *“Guardians of the Tradition”*, an article published in a collection of reports from the cultural seminar “The Strangers” (Plovdiv: Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2017), Vladimirov explores the *bulgarina* – an ancient and understudied instrument that has its modern uses among the Alian community of the village of Yablanovo in the Kotlen Balkan.

The article *“The Nightingale from Chernogorovo”* (Collection of Scientific Reports from the Spring Scientific Readings National Scientific Conference, Plovdiv, Academy of

Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2021) is dedicated to one of the masters of the tambourine art, Ignat Kukov, with a focus on his individual performing style.

Vladimirov also shows skill in comparative studies. *“Balkan Tambourine Parallels at the Beginning of the 21st Century”* – publication of a report presented at the Third International Scientific Conference “Science, Education and Innovations in the Arts – Plovdiv” (Collection “Science, Education and Innovations in the Arts”, item 2, Plovdiv: Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2021) – is an ethnomusicological reading of the mutual penetration and enrichment of two related instrumental practices in the Balkans: the Croatian tambourine and the Bulgarian tambourine.

Vladimir Vladimirov’s scientific interests also include the problems of the relationship between tradition and modernity. The article *“Tambourine vs Guitar in our Contemporary Folk Instrumental Practice”*, published in a collection of scientific reports from the 50 Years of Traditions and Development of Bulgarian Folklore Jubilee International Scientific Conference (Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2022) explores the motivation of tambourine players to play electric guitar and the influence of wedding bands in this ambiguously perceived practice.

2. Citations

Among the candidate’s most cited author’s texts are his monograph “The Tambourine – Paths to Performance Mastery” (Plovdiv, 2015); his article “The Thracian Tambourine – Emergence and Influence” (Reports of the Thracian Scientific Institute – Sofia, 2015); the article “Several Myths about the Tambourine” (Yearbook of the Academy of Dance, Music and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2011). They are cited by Bulgarian authors who explore the transformation processes in Bulgarian musical folklore, traditional instruments and instrumental music, the evolution of folk instruments and the role of joint music making, as well as the place and the role of educational institutions in achieving performance mastery among folk musicians, and some educational methods.

B. Educational (pedagogical and teaching-methodical) activity

The candidate, Associate Professor Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov has provided for review materials that show the connection of the research scientific-folkloristic work with its educational applications in practice. The curriculum vitae and the study load report indicate that in the last three years he has twice exceeded the requirements in terms of hours of involvement in the educational process of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in the disciplines “Conducting of an Orchestra”, “Conducting Practice”, as well as “Tambourine and its Teaching Methodology”. The last discipline he also teaches as a visiting Associate Professor in Croatia. Under his scientific guidance, there is a successfully defended doctoral dissertation: Paolina Vasileva – “Folklore

Instrumental Practices in Varna and Some Settlements in the Region”, 2022, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Vladimirov’s pedagogical and teaching-methodical activity as a participant or leader of national and international scientific, educational or artistic projects is impressive (Section F, items 22, 24), as well as as a leader of master classes, atelier or a workshop in the field of arts (Section F, item 28), is impressive.

C. Creative and artistic activity

The attached materials for the competition and my personal observations indicate that the artistic and creative activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov is leading in his multifaceted creative activities. It is organically connected with both his educational (pedagogical and teaching-methodical) activity, as well as with his research and scientific interests and achievements. Highlighting the candidate’s creative activities in the competition for Professor of Tambourine and Orchestra Conducting is in the spirit of the Act and the Regulations and follows Art.15, para.(4) of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (“In the higher schools and faculties of arts and sports, the occupation of academic positions may be applied for with artistic and sports achievements specific to the relevant field”) and Art.27, paragraph (5) of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (“In the case of scientific specialties (in the field of arts, artistic activity can be evaluated instead of research activity”).

The attached scientometric table of the candidate and the evidence to it (Indicators C: Leading (independent) creative expression in the field of arts) highlight the contributions of Assoc. Prof. Vladimirov as a conductor and performer-instrumentalist with a leading role in five public concerts, which have the role and place of habilitation thesis. In addition, the candidate reports “Realized short author’s product in the field of arts” – his play “*Memory of Vesko*” (with Vladimir Vladimirov as composer and performer) was performed in 2016 and then recorded in the Jubilee Disc of the Musical Folklore Department (Indicator D, item 12). Attached are materials testifying to seven concerts as “Leading (or independent) creative performance in the field of arts, which is not a major habilitation work” (Indicator D, item 13). Among Vladimirov’s rich arguments in the section on artistic and creative achievements are also included ten concerts performed in Bulgaria, Belgium, Croatia, and Greece in the period from 2018 until 2023 (See the column “Supporting creative performance or participation in a collective product in the field of the arts” – Indicator D, item 14).

D. Conclusion

The overall activity of the candidate, his scientific and applied, teaching and artistic-creative achievements and contributions, presented in the competition documentation, show that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov is a proven researcher with his own

contribution to the study of Bulgarian traditional instrumental music and instruments and especially the tambourine; as well as a practitioner – a master musician, lecturer and methodologist with significant pedagogical experience as a university lecturer and author of teaching aids, participant or leader of national and international scientific, educational and artistic projects, and leader of tambourine master classes. A scientist and lecturer with established pedagogical experience and highly valued artistic performances, he is a worthy candidate in the announced competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor”. The evidentiary materials meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. This gives me reasons to give a high assessment to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimirov as a candidate in the competition and to suggest to the scientific jury to vote positively for his selection to occupy the academic position of “Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” (“Tambourine and Conducting of a Folk Orchestra”) at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Sofia, 02.06.2023.

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Prof. Ventsislav Dimov, Doctor of Sciences