

PEER REVIEW

by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeri Andonov Dimchev – member of a scientific jury, appointed by Order No ПД – 27 – 037 dated 06.04.2023, on the basis of Art.29, para.1 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography /Protocol No 8/03.04.2023/ of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, in connection with:

Competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”, announced in State Gazette, Issue 13 dated 07.02.2023, under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, Specialty “**Tambourine and Conducting of a Folk Orchestra**” for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

The competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, Specialty “Tambourine and Conducting of a Folk Orchestra” for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv was announced in State Gazette, Issue 13 dated 07.02.2023. The candidate – **Associate Professor Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov**, has submitted all the necessary documents and meets the conditions according to the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. **The biography of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov** undoubtedly speaks of a man truly devoted to his instrument – the tambourine, the conducting of folk ensembles, and his educational work at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Education and pedagogical experience: **1994** – Filip Kutev National School of Folk Arts in Kotel; **2002** – Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (Master degree); **2014** – educational and qualification degree “Doctor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv; **2015** – “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (“Tambourine and its Teaching Methodology”); **2016** – Head of the Musical Folklore Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv; member of the Academic Council and the Scientific Activities Committee, **2018** – leading lecturer with the rank “Associate Professor” at Josip Strossmayer Academy of Art and Culture in Osijek, Croatia. Since 2005, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov has been teaching the following disciplines at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv: special subject “Tambourine”, “Conducting of a National Orchestra from a Piano”, and “Conducting Practice”.

Scientific-research work: Vladimir Vladimirov has published the following research and artistic works: habilitation work for the award of the academic degree “Associate Professor” on the topic “*The Tambourine – Paths to Performing Mastery*” and “*Pieces for the Tambourine and Piano*”, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 2005 (two parts), “Tambourine and its Teaching Methodology”, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 2005, as well as numerous scientific articles devoted to the appearance and development of the tambourine. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimirov’s contribution to the study of the modern Bulgarian tambourine in the research and performance aspect in recent years is indisputable. Along with the works “*Tambourine and its Teaching Methodology*” and “*Pieces for the Tambourine and Piano*” (two parts), Vladimirov explores questions about the spread of the tambourine, performers, construction, and development of this instrument. The conclusions reached by Vladimirov about the spread of the tambourine in recent times, in the context of the all-Balkan development of music and in particular – the tambourine instrument, are of a contributing nature.

Creative performances of the candidate: In the period 1996-2003 he worked as a full-time orchestrator in the orchestra of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts; since 2005, he has been the conductor of the same orchestra with numerous concerts in the country and abroad; in the period 2001-2013 he was part of an accompanying group for the Mystery of Bulgarian Voices Choir (over 80 concerts). The candidate also has two concerts as a guest conductor of the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio in the period 2009-2010; is a soloist and author of music for the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio; is a member of the juries in the folklore contests “Orpheus Spring”, “Saeva Dupka”, “Songs from North-West Bulgaria”, “Strandzha Sings – Gramatikovo”, “Orpheus Talents”, “Dimitar Gaydarov”, and the “International Competition for Tambourines” in Osijek, Croatia. He has released CDs with an instrumental quintet at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (2004), with the Academic National Orchestra (2005); has participated in sound recordings and albums of: “Bulgare” Folklore Ensemble, Darina Slavcheva, “Kaba daalii and Kristina Engerova”, the “Lira” orchestra, the Israeli star Idan Raichel, the group “Bulgara”; is the founder of the “FolkFive+” project (18 concerts in Bulgaria and abroad); actively works with the Swedish violinist Sofia Högstadius (many concerts and workshops in the country and abroad), and with the famous fiddle performer Peyo Peev. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov is also a member of the Union of Bulgarian Music and Dance Performers.

2. Brief presentation of the materials received for review according to the various indicators from the scientometric table in the relevant field of higher education:

The materials submitted for review undoubtedly prove that the activities stated in the scientometric table were performed correctly. The implemented activities on some indicators significantly exceed the minimum national requirements for the position “Professor”.

3. Contributions of the leading creative performances:

With his activity as a conductor of the representative folk orchestra of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov has worthily defended the significance of this institution in the growth of many Bulgarian folk performers in recent decades. Along with the music of classics in the orchestration of a folk composition, such as Kosta Kolev, Stefan Mutafchiev, Milcho Vasilev, Kostadin Buradzhiev, contemporary composers and trends are also performed – Vladimir Vladimirov, Petar Ralchev, Marek Dyakov, Yordan Danev, Angel Dimitrov, Nedko Bogdanov, Peyo Peev, Georgi Andreev, and Kostadin Genchev. Within the framework of the “FolkFive+” project created by Vladimir Vladimirov, one can find a freer treatment of Bulgarian folklore with non-standard solutions – themes, improvisations, and instrumentation (percussion, piano). The presence of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov in the composition of numerous juries in folklore competitions from different regions of the country and in Croatia is testimony to the respect and recognition enjoyed by the candidate.

4. Contributions of the other presented habilitation materials and citations

The candidate presents numerous publications, citations, and reviews, which reflects a fruitful and sustainable scientific activity over time.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

I recommend that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov continue (and expand) his scientific research on the use and spread of tambourine in Bulgaria, and in the context of Balkan music and culture, where there are probably still unexplained dependencies and regularities.

6. Personal impressions

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov is a wonderful colleague and person and is one of the leading specialists in the fields of “Conducting of a Folk Orchestra” and “Performing Art (Tambourine)” in Bulgaria.

7. Conclusion

Based on the materials provided, I believe that the candidate for occupation of the academic position of “Professor” – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov, fully complies with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. My evaluation for the occupation of the academic position thus announced in the competition is POSITIVE.

I strongly recommend to the respected scientific jury to elect the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov as “Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, Specialty “Tambourine and Conducting of a Folk Orchestra” for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

20.05.2023

Reviewer:

City of Blagoevgrad

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valeri Andonov Dimchev)