

P E E R R E V I E W

BY

Prof. Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov – lecturer in the Music Department at the New Bulgarian University in connection with a competition for occupation of the academic position “*Professor*”, Musical Folklore Department at the Faculty 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 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv

The only candidate for this competition is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Kanchev Vladimirov.

He was born in 1975 in Stara Zagora. He began his tambourine studies from childhood, after which he graduated with honors from the Secondary Music School in Kotel. After that, he also graduated from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Master degree in “Folk Ensembles Conducting”. In 2014, he successfully defended the scientific and educational degree “Doctor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, with a dissertation on the topic “*The Modern Bulgarian Tambourine – Appearance, Influences, and Qualities*” – 2014, Diploma No 0010/15.07.2014.

Since 2015, he has been an Associate Professor of “Tambourine and its Teaching Methodology” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. A year later in 2016 he was elected to the administrative position of Head of the Musical Folklore Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, which he has successfully led until now. He is also a member of the Academic Council and the Academic Activities Committee. For more than 20 years, the pedagogical and creative activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov has been closely connected with Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, while at the same time he has performed an impressive number of concerts at home and abroad, as a tambourine performer and as a conductor of professional and academic folklore ensembles. It must be emphasized that his presence on the concert stages in recent years is impressive. His expert activity is related to judging in many national and international folklore competitions. For his active creative activity, Associate Professor Dr. Vladimirov has been awarded a number of high and prestigious national honors and awards.

The scientific activity of the candidate shows a purposeful deepening, both in the historiographical processes of the Bulgarian tambourine, and in the current issues related to the modern existence of the instrument, not only in Bulgaria, but also in the Balkans. Vladimirov has also gained extensive experience as a leading lecturer of tambourine at the Academy of Art and Culture in Osijek, Croatia for the past five years.

The publications bear the marks of deep knowledge and objective assessment of the processes related to the development of tambourine practice today. They would be a good basis for a fruitful discussion about the pedagogical challenges and artistic trends of our folk instruments in general.

The concert activity is the strong point of the candidate and it is no coincidence that he applied for the current competition precisely with this.

Presented as leading creative performances, the concerts stand out with significance in terms of artistry, repertoire, and creative interpretation. This is undoubtedly noted in the published reviews of the events in question. We see Vladimirov as a creator with two main profiles: a tambourine performer and a conductor. And these two of his professional images mark continuous development and enrichment, as we see from the materials provided in Section D of the scientometric table.

The “Accordion and Folklore” cycle is current and significant, because it focuses on contemporary trends in our folklore instrumental practice. The accordion, which has irreversibly entered our folk music and has become a part of our traditional instrumental-song practices, is presented everywhere. This creative project sets itself a bold task: to gather on one stage our traditional instruments and today’s modern accordion in a quest for more fruitful interaction and frank creative dialogue. We see that the ambitious goal – together to discover new creative fields in which to transfer the tradition in the coming day, is unquestionably achieved.

The concert “*When the Conductor Takes the Instrument*” is the other role of Vladimirov – a virtuoso performer of the tambourine. The practice today is usually for the soloist to perform mostly original pieces. This is what distinguishes the presented concert – Vladimirov not only plays his music masterfully, but also shows high interpretive skills in plays by several different emblematic Bulgarian performers of the tambourine, from different generations and folklore areas. And Petar Ralchev’s play seems to refer us back to the idea of the “Accordion and Folklore” cycle. Thanks to this concert, we see Vladimirov as one of the contemporary artists charting the new directions in this genre.

In the presented Christmas concert of the Academic National Orchestra, Vladimirov appears again as a bright conductor-interpreter, with a clear creative concept. We see an established orchestra conductor with attention to detail, who masters the composition and confidently leads it to the realization of the artistic images of the performed pieces, which gives the concert itself a special value in our modern folk art. I am convinced that Vladimirov is able to pass on these creative and professional skills to his orchestra conducting students. It is no coincidence that Dimitar Hristov in his dissertation unequivocally places him among the contemporary conductors who left a lasting impression on our orchestral art.

The materials submitted by the candidate for the competition are properly documented and provide the necessary information in full. After thoroughly familiarizing myself with all the activities carried out by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov, reflected in the Reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements presented by him and comparing them with the scientometric table recognized, I consider that his application for the announced competition is in full compliance with them. The candidate for the academic position of “Professor” meets the minimum national requirements – and significantly exceeds them in certain areas. The report on the study load of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimirov indicates a significant excess of the minimum requirements of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Conclusion

Based on everything stated above, as well as the conclusions drawn on the presented creative and educational activities of Associate Professor Dr. Vladimir Vladimirov and their high contribution, I give my entirely positive assessment and offer to the respected members of the Scientific Jury for the competition for occupation of the academic position of “Professor” **under**

Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” (“Tambourine and Conducting of a Folk Orchestra”), to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Kanchev Vladimirov for the academic position of “Professor” at the Musical Folklore and Choreography Department, according to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and to propose him for a vote to the respected Academic Council of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

24.05.2023

Prepared by: */Signature: illegible/*
Prof. Dr. Georgi Petkov