

# PEER REVIEW

by

**Prof. Stela Blagoeva Miteva-Dinkova, Ph.D.**

in concern with the awarding of the academic position of “**Professor**”

announced in State Gazette No 13 of 07.02.2023

for professional direction code 8.3. “*Music and Dance Arts,*”

major “*Tambura and Folklore Orchestra Conducting,*”

*Musical Folklore Department*

with *Musical Folklore and Choreography Faculty,*

AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv

I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the awarding of the academic position of “**Professor**” in AMDFA “**Prof. Asen Diamandiev**” – Plovdiv, higher education field 8. *Arts*, professional direction code 8.3 *Music and Dance Art*, major “*Tambura and Folklore Orchestra Conducting*”, announced for the needs of the *Musical Folklore Department* with the *Musical Folklore and Choreography Faculty* under Order No ПД 27-037 of 06.04.2023 by Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, Ph.D., Rector of the AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv.

Assoc. Prof. **Vladimir Kanchev Vladimirov**, Ph.D., of AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv was the only candidate in the competition for awarding the “Professor” position, announced in the State Gazette No 13 of 07.02.2023 and on the website of AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv.

## ***1. Candidate’s background:***

Vladimir Vladimirov began learning the tambura at the age of 9 with Dimitar Kolev (chief conductor of the Zagore Ensemble in the city of Stara Zagora). After just two years, he joined the Zagorche Children and Youth Folklore Ensemble as an orchestra player. This predetermined the connection of his creative path with Bulgarian folklore. In 1994, he graduated from SEMU (today NSFA) “Filip Kutev” – Kotel with a secondary education diploma with honors, majoring in tambura, and four years later, he graduated with Bachelor’s degree from AMDFA (today named after Prof. Asen Diamandiev), Plovdiv. In 2002, he successfully graduated with a Master’s degree in major Folklore Ensembles Conducting.

His beginning as a tutor was in 2002 when he was appointed as a part-time tambura tutor, becoming a full-time assistant two years later. Immediately after that, in 2005, he became the conductor of the Academic Folklore Orchestra (where he played as a student), with which he developed an extremely successful domestic and international concert activity (over 70 concerts).

From that moment on, Vladimir Vladimirov masterfully combines the performance of a tambura player with conducting and the performances of the folklore orchestra he conducts. He works with iconic ensembles, such as the legendary vocal The Mystery of Bulgarian Voices ensemble (over 80 domestic and international concerts), the Folklore Music Orchestra of the BNR, the Bulgara group, the NFE Bulgare, the Detelini Orchestra, etc., Winner of the Grand Prix of the Folklore Without Borders competitions (Dobrich-Albena, 2004), Arts Week (Borovets, 2018). Vladimir Vladimirov has recorded 4 CDs with different chamber formations and orchestras. His latest ethno-projects are as follows: Folk Five+, a duet with Sofia Högstadius (violin), and a duet with Peyo Peev (gadulka).

In 2014, he defended his dissertation on the topic “Modern Bulgarian tambura – Origin, Influences, and Qualities,” and a year later, he received the academic position of Associate Professor. Since 2018, he has been appointed as a leading tambourine tutor at the Academy of Arts and Culture at Josip Strossmeyer University, Osijek (Croatia).

His active work as a tutor and conductor has been awarded with the following prestigious awards: Rector's Award (2012), Crystal Lira of UBMD (2013), Diploma for Excellence in Pedagogical Practice from the Minister of Education (Croatia, 2021), etc.

All of the above presents Vladimir Vladimirov as a dedicated tutor, a prominent conductor with high expertise, and a distinguished performer with impressive and varied concerts.

## 2. Presentation of materials

The candidate submits the following documents and materials for this competition for the academic position of a “**Professor**”:

*creative biography, internship certificate in the major, tutoring and workload certificate; reference table for the achievement of the scientometric indicators and their compliance with the minimum national requirements accompanied by supporting material; author reference for the scientific contributions of the works and citation metrics.*

## 3. Contributions by leading performances

Five concerts are indicated in **parameters group “C”**, index 5. *Leading (solo) creative performance in the field of arts*, which demonstrate the diverse aspects of the creative activity of Vladimir Vladimirov – an instrumentalist-virtuoso, conductor, and composer. The three Accordion and Folklore concerts are impressive, bringing together established accordionist soloists and rising talents. The selected works included in the programs of this concert cycle are a guide to the broad stylistic framework to which Vladimir Vladimirov adheres and evidence of his contribution to the expansion of the repertoire for accordion and folklore orchestra. More than 3 hours of a balanced amalgam of music, intertwining: Severnyasho Zapleteno (*fokllore dance music*), Plovdivsko Horo (*fokllore dance music*), Miniature in 7/8, and Mechtanie (*Dreaming*). July balad in 7/8, Libertango, etc. From pure folklore through the romantic and to the contemporary. The accomplished balance between soloist and orchestra

combined with a diverse dynamic and emotional range, the extraordinary atmosphere and applause from the audience define these artistic performances as worthwhile. Of important and contributing importance is the presented recital “When the Conductor Picks Up the Instrument” – an innovative form of performance in which Vladimirov abruptly changes roles, standing in front of his orchestra as a soloist. The iconic names of the pioneers, Rumen Sirakov and Ignat Kukov, in the program are complemented by works of some contemporary virtuosos such as Angel Dimitrov and Petar Ralchev, and last but not least, the conductor-soloist performs his Suite for Tambura work.

I would like to pay special attention to the **4 articles** indicated in **parameters group “D”** under index 9 *Articles and Reports in Specialized Publications in the Field of Arts*, the last one with the title “Tambura vs Guitar in our Modern Folklore Instrumental Practice.” In this article, the author formulates, objectively investigates, and points out in detail the problem related to the decline of adolescent interest in tambura. A problem that has its weight and importance. After the comprehensive overview, Vladimirov skillfully offers, at the end of the article, adequate solutions for overcoming this “crisis” through: changing the tambura tunes, and instrument audio equipment, introducing by celebrities, and modern performers, who will be a motivating factor for teenagers. Such is Vladimir Vladimirov himself, who stands in front of his orchestra in defense of the native, the traditional, the very thing that identifies us in the world.

The candidate's academic and research work is related to tambura and ethnomusicology. Its value, importance, and contribution are testified not only by the 4 articles specified above, but also by the 5 citations indicated in **parameters group “E”** under index 17 *Citations in Monographs and Collective Volumes with Peer Review*, by Ivan Georgiev, Vasil Vasilev, Polina Vasileva, and Nadezhda Petrova, to which 2 more citations are added in *non-refedrenced journals* according to index 18 and 4 *Peer Reviews for Creative Performances in the Field of Arts* under index 19.

They exceed the minimum national requirements and the score in **parameters group “F”**, where Vladimirov is the scientific supervisor of a successfully defended doctoral student (under index 21); participant in the Nepoznatite (*Strangers*) project team (2016 and 2018) – under index 22; project manager of: “50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Musical Folklore Department” and “Workshop with Prominent Folklore Performers” under index 24, and leads 4 workshops in the period 2016-2019 plus a master class on tambura in 2022, under index 28.

Overall, the reference table for the performance of the scientometric parameters shows that Vladimir Vladimirov significantly exceeds the required score in almost all parameter groups. Instead of **550** points, it achieved a result of **1030** points.

#### 4. Personal impressions

I have known Vladimir Vladimirov since his student years. I had the pleasure of being a soloist of the Academic Folklore Orchestra under his direction and playing music on the same stage with him in the creative project “Broy do 3” (*Count to 3*). Extremely creative, a person open to anything original and different, and a musician with remarkable instrumental, organizational, and leadership qualities. A fair, always responsive, and responsible person, he has had success not only in his artistic and academic life, but also in his administrative work – as the successful head of the Musical Folklore Department, from 2016 onwards. He is dedicated to folklore and Bulgarian art, which he strives to preserve, modernize, and spread in every way. He easily includes students and colleges to his credo.

#### 5. Conclusion

The materials and documents submitted under the procedure, as well as the results achieved in the overall scientific, artistic, and tutoring activities, fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA, and the relevant Rules and Regulations of the AMDFA.

Based on the analysis and the established scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions above, I am fully convinced and consider it justified to give my **positive** assessment and propose to the scientific jury to support the candidacy of Vladimir Kanchev Vladimirov for the academic position of a Professor in AMDFA “Prof. Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv, professional direction code 8.3 *Music and Dance Art*, major “*Tambura and Folklore Orchestra Conducting*”, announced for the needs of the *Musical Folklore Department* with the *Musical Folklore and Choreography Faculty*.

04.06.2023

Peer Review Author:.....  
(Prof. Stela Blagoeva Miteva-Dinkova, Ph.D.)