

PEER REVIEW

**in a competition for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor”
under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”
specialty “History of Pop and Jazz Music”**

by

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By Order No ПД-27-029 dated 27.05.2021 of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, on the grounds of Art.25 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and a decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy (Minutes No 12/20.05.2021) I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury in relation to a competition for occupation of the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv under Higher Education field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, announced for the needs of the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy. The competition was announced in State Gazette, Issue 26/30.03.2021 and on the website of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv is the only candidate who participates in this competition.

The set of electronic materials presented by the candidate Zhan Pehlivanov is in accordance with the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts and includes all necessary documents.

The attached reference for the scientometric indicators and the respective evidence certify the fulfillment of the uniform state requirements for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor”. Both in quantitative and qualitative terms, Pehlivanov’s artistic and scientific production is indicative of the high professionalism in his work.

In Group of indicators A the candidate has successfully defended a dissertation (07.10.2020) for obtaining an educational and scientific degree “Doctor” on the topic: “*Modern Electronic Music Systems in the Preparation of Students of Pop and Jazz Music*”.

In Group of indicators C an impressive creative and artistic activity, the result of rich professional experience – academic and creative, is presented. The realized creative products in the field of art include production, concerts, and performances. In this regard, the rich evidence for the activity of Zhan Pehlivanov as a producer, arranger, and artistic director of the Intro Quartet created by him respects with valuable creative performances at national and international level.

Group of indicators D presents the scientific production of the candidate, in which the central place is occupied by his research interest in modern digital sound technologies, supporting the preparation and professional realization of student musicians. The monograph “*History, Theory and Styles in Pop, Rock and Jazz Music. Digital Sound Technologies. Digital Audio Workstations*” (2021,

167 pages, ISBN: 978-954-2963-73-8) is based on a defended dissertation. The contribution of the work is clearly highlighted in its theoretical and applied aspects. The roots of pop and jazz music to the latest trends and musical phenomena in the 21st century are presented in depth, analytically and systematically. Such a study has not been present in the literature for the last more than 10 years, moreover, in the work of Pehlivanov a well-deserved tribute to the contribution of leading names in the field is given. A comprehensive and systematic idea of the presence of pop, rock, and jazz music in the field of specialized student education is offered. Based on the in-depth theoretical analysis, the author justifiably offers new, modern models in pedagogical communication with students and the generation of artistic and pedagogical ideas through the application of digital sound technologies.

I assess the three publications proposed for review as contributing in many ways. They are a research result of the scientific, teaching, and artistic activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Pehlivanov: the article *“Music Software for Sound Recording and Processing – A New Tool That Complements and Improves the Skills of the Modern Music Teacher In High School”*, Yearbook of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 2012 ISSN: 1313-6526, and 2 scientific reports from participation in conferences – *“Creation of Interest in Classical Music Through the Perception of Musical Works Arranged with the Musical Means of Expression of Popular Music”* – Science, Education, and Innovation in the Field of Art Second International Scientific Conference, 24.10.2019 – 26.10.2019, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, ISBN: 978-954-2963-56-1; and *“Multimedia and Contemporary Music Pedagogy”* – The Teacher of the Future – Ninth International Scientific Conference, 17.06.2016 – 19.06.2016, Durres, Republic of Albania, ISBN: 1857-92. All three publications have been published in specialized publications in the field of art.

I personally know the candidate from the time of my admission as a lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. During all the years of our joint work, official and informal activities, I have been convinced of his perseverance in terms of his connection to music – as a way of expression and of existence. There are not often musicians who, on a theoretical level, are as well prepared and informed as they are brilliant in their creative and artistic performances.

I would like to pay special attention to my direct impressions of the educational and pedagogical work of Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Pehlivanov. The interactivity and attractiveness of the approaches and methods in the learning process are highly appreciated by the students, as evidenced by the joint creative projects on the ideas of Pehlivanov with the participation of students, realized as commercials on the website of the Academy, *“Online Atelier – Workshop”* in the field of arts, participation in representative concerts, etc. Pehlivanov works on updating curricula and lecture courses, which he teaches in all levels of education at the Academy – bachelor, master, doctoral students, postgraduates. He is active as a member of examination commissions, is a scientific supervisor of graduates, and is engaged as a reviewer of theses.

Zhan Pehlivanov has included 8 citations of his scientific works. All of them are in representative editions with scientific review and reflect scientific production from different periods of the professional development of the candidate. The citations are extensive, by Bulgarian authors in the field of musical art – 4 citations in publications from international scientific conferences, 3 citations in publications from an online journal, and 1 citation from a publication from an article in a series.

CONCLUSION

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of materials certifying his creative and artistic performances and scientific works after the defense of the educational and scientific degree of “Doctor”. All of them meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation, and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition as a representative part of them are covered in various media, published in scientific journals issued by academic publishers. His creative and artistic activity, as well as his theoretical developments, have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Zhan Pehlivanov is indisputable.

After getting acquainted with the materials presented in the competition from the creative and artistic activity and the scientific works, the analysis of their significance, and the scientific and applied contributions contained therein, **I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to elect Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov for the academic position “Associate Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “History of Pop and Jazz Music”.**

05.07.2021

Reviewer: */Signature: illegible/*
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska