

## **PEER REVIEW**

**for the submitted documents by Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov  
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts  
in connection with a competition for occupation of the academic position of “Associate  
Professor”**

**Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”  
specialty “History of Pop and Jazz Music”  
Faculty of Music Pedagogy and Conducting**

**by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ermila Ivanova Schweizer  
Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy**

Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Pehlivanov is a candidate in the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the specialty “History of Pop and Jazz Music” at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy and Conducting. The documentation he has submitted in connection with the competition contains a Reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, accompanied by evidence, a Reference for the scientific contributions of the works and citations, a List of inventions, rationalizations, and other scientific and applied developments and creative achievements, Reference and documents certifying creative achievements in the country and abroad, as well as creative biography of the candidate.

Zhan Pehlivanov completed his secondary education at Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance in Plovdiv with a degree in Piano, Theoretical profile, and then his higher education (Master’s degree) at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, majoring in Pedagogy of Music Education. In 2020 he defended his dissertation on the topic: *“Modern Electronic Music Systems in the Preparation of Students of Pop and Jazz Music”* at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. Chief Assistant Dr. Pehlivanov has 17 years of experience in the Academy as a lecturer in the following disciplines: History of Pop and Jazz Music, Music Computer Compilation, Styles in Jazz and Pop Music, Music Computer Technologies, Specialized Computer Training, Music Software and Synthesizer, Electronic Composition Arrangement, and Synthesizer. In parallel with his teaching activities, he is the artistic director and producer of the Intro Quartet, with which he has performed numerous concerts. The submitted Reference on the minimum required points by group of indicators meets all conditions, covers, and even significantly exceeds the required parameters set by Decree No 122 amending the Regulations for implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, which entered into force 06.07.2018, and is supported by the necessary evidence, which is precisely systematized.

In **group C, item 4:** Realized author's product in the field of arts (film, performance, exhibition, concert, producing, etc.), Zhan Pehivanov presents four performances of the Intro Quartet, in which he is artistic director, arranger, and producer:

1. Artistic director, arranger, and producer of a concert performance "*10 years INTRO & ELIKA*", 17.09.2012, Ancient Theater – Plovdiv;
2. Artistic director, arranger, and producer of a concert performance "*There is Such Country*", Plovdiv, 18.12.2019, Complex-Hall SILA;
3. Artistic director, arranger, and producer of a concert with the Intro Quartet on the occasion of the National Holiday of the Republic of Bulgaria – March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 142<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Liberation, University of Warsaw, Kolumnowa Hall, 03.03.2020;
4. Artistic director, arranger, and producer of a concert with the Intro Quartet, related to the presidency of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Council of the European Union, Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Paris, Large Ballroom, 30.01.2018.

In **group D, item 7:** Published book on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor", Zhan Pehivanov presents the book "*History, Theory and Styles in Pop, Rock and Jazz Music. Digital Sound Technologies. Digital Audio Workstations*", Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, 2021, FastPrintBooks 2021, ISBN: 978-954-2963-73-8, 167 pages, formed as a textbook for students studying the history of pop and jazz music.

I support and confirm the scientific contributions of the book by Zhan Pehivanov, which covers and systematizes the most important periods in the development of pop and jazz music and prepares students as competent music specialists and future music teachers. Combined with introducing students to the use of digital sound technologies and digital audio workstations, I find this textbook particularly relevant and practical, given the past school year, which we were forced to spend in a pandemic environment and in which digital skills and forms of training proved their inevitability.

**Under item 9:** Articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts, the candidate includes three publications:

1. "*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, pp. 88-93;
2. "*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, pp. 389 – 392;

3. *“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, pp. 85 –89.

**Under item 12:** Realized short author’s product in the field of arts, Zhan Pehlivanov presents recording, circulation, and publishing of an audio product – Ave Maria CD, with the participation of two representative groups of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – the Intro Quartet and Lamico Band, co-authored with Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Petkov.

**Under group E, item 17:** Citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (eight citations), **and item 19:** Reviews of realized author’s products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts (one review), Zhan Pehlivanov collects a total of 90 points upon required 40.

**Under group F, item 22:** Participation in a national scientific, educational, or artistic project (one project), **item 24:** Management of a national scientific, educational, or artistic project (three projects), and **item 28:** Management of a master class, atelier, or a workshop in the field of arts (one workshop), Zhan Pehlivanov collects a total of 125 points upon required 50.

In conclusion, taking into account all that has been said so far, the submitted materials, as well as the fact that the candidate significantly exceeds the required points in most of the indicators, I suggest to the respected Scientific Jury in this competition to award Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov the academic position of “Associate Professor” in History of Pop and Jazz Music under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”.

City of Sofia, 26.07.2021

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ermila Schweizer