

## PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova, New Bulgarian University  
Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”  
for the contributions of the proposed as habilitation work  
artistic and creative activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov  
Lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv,  
Faculty of Music Pedagogy, for participation in a competition for occupation of the  
academic position “Associate Professor” (“History of Pop and Jazz Music”)  
under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”,  
(announced in State Gazette, Issue 26/30.03.2021)

### Biographical data

**Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov** graduated from Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance in Plovdiv with a degree in Piano and Theoretical profile, and then from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv with a Bachelor’s degree (1997) and a Master’s degree in Music Pedagogy and Piano Teacher. He also defended his doctoral dissertation at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts on the topic: “*Modern Electronic Music Systems in the Preparation of Students of Pop and Jazz Music*” (2020). He is a Chief Assistant at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department, where he teaches students, masters, and graduates. The courses he teaches are in the fields of: History and Theory of Jazz and Pop Music, Modern Electronic Music Systems – Synthesizer, Computer Music Technologies, Preparation, Management and Realization of Audio and Visual Projects, etc. Dr. Pehlivanov works with specialized equipment for sound recording and sound reproduction, audio synchronization, computer work, as well as Internet capabilities. His interests are focused on sound recording and sound processing, arrangement, sound directing and sound design, mixing, as well as mastering and management of audio projects. Zhan Pehlivanov is the artistic director of the Intro Quartet. He is also a concert performer.

### Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements

**Group of indicators A – minimum required points: 50; REAL for A – 50.**

**Defended doctoral dissertation on the topic:** “*Modern Electronic Music Systems in the Preparation of Students of Pop and Jazz Music*” (07.10.2020)

**Group of indicators C – minimum required points: 100; REAL for C – 200.**

As a habilitation work in Indicator 4 Zhan Pehlivanov presents 4 of his own musical projects (products):

1. Artistic director, arranger, and **producer** of a concert-performance “*10 years of INTRO & ELIKA*” (17.09.2012, Ancient Theater – Plovdiv) (50 points);
2. Artistic director, arranger, and **producer** of a concert-performance “*There is Such Country*” – Plovdiv, Complex-Hall SILA (18.12.2019), with the participation of: the Intro Quartet, Elika Representative Dance Ensemble, Tsvetana Maneva, Boyko Krastanov, Ivaylo Gyurov, and others (50 points);

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 142 years since the Liberation. University of Warsaw, Kolumnowa Hall – organized by the Embassy of Bulgaria in Poland and the Bulgarian Cultural Institute (03.03.2020) (50 points);
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 at the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Paris (30.01.2018) and before the Bulgarian community in Paris (31.12.2018) (50 points)

**Group of indicators D – minimum required points: 120; REAL for D – 135.**

In this group Pehlivanov presents:

**Indicator 7 – published book**, based on his dissertation: **(75 points)**

Pehlivanov, Zhan. *“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. Print: FastPrintBooks 2021, ISBN: 978-954-2963-73-8, 167 p.

**Indicator 9 – 3 articles from scientific conferences in the period 2012 – 2019: (45 points)**

- *“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 (15 points);
- *“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 (15 points);
- *“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 (15 points)

**Indicator 12: (1/2 of 30 points = 15 points)**

**Release of an original audio CD** with the participation of two representative groups of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Intro Quartet and Lamico Band. The project is co-authored with Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Petkov. Zhan Pehlivanov is the arranger and producer of the 5 pieces performed by the Intro Quartet.

**Group of indicators E – minimum required points: 40; REAL for E – 90.**

**Indicator 17 – Presented 8 citations (80 points);**

**Indicator 19** – Review of Zhan Pehlivanov. *“Pop, Jazz and Rock Music in the Era of Digital Sound Effects and Digital and Audio Working Systems”* by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska on the monographic study *“History, Theory and Styles in Pop, Rock and Jazz Music. Digital Sound Technologies. Digital Audio Workstations”* by Zhan Pehlivanov in Art Spectrum Magazine – Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Issue 54, ISSN: 1314-0000, p. 33 (10 points).

**Group of indicators F – minimum required points:50; REAL for F – 125.**

**Indicator 22.** Presented Project No 3/21 dated 17.03.2021: *“Children’s Song Festival”*: Edition of the holiday, which will include a concert and a national academic competition for writing children’s and school songs (15 points).

**Indicator 24. Presented 3 projects as a director (90 points):**

- Project No 02/2010 dated 03.05.2010: “*Highly Professional Sound Recording Equipment, Meeting the Modern Standards for Sound Recording According to the Typical Training Activity and the Specifics of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts*” (30 points);
- Project No 08/2012 dated 08.03.2012: “*Professional Sound Recording Software and Information Technologies – A Means of Activating the Practical and Applied Activities of Students of Music Pedagogy According to the Specifics of Their Education at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts*” (30 points);
- Project No 24/2013 dated 01.03.2013: “*Software, Hardware, and Information Technology – The Basis of the Lecture Course in Sound Engineering in Accordance with the Specifics of Training at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts*” (30 points)

**Indicator 28. Presented “Online Atelier – Workshop” in the field of arts (05.05.2020 – 10.05.2020) – (20 points)**

**In summary, the minimum requirements are as follows:**

Group A	Minimum required points – 50 points	<b>Presented points - 50 points</b>
Group C	Minimum required points – 100 points	<b>Presented points – 200 points</b>
Group D	Minimum required points – 120 points	<b>Presented points – 135 points</b>
Group E	Minimum required points – 40 points	<b>Presented points – 90 points</b>
Group F	Minimum required points – 50 points	<b>Presented points – 125 points</b>

**From the presented data it is evident that Dr. Zhan Pehlivanov meets the necessary scientometric requirements and even exceeds them with his activity.**

**Research (creative) activity and results. Teaching and learning activities.**

**Scientific contributions of the papers and citations**

Zhan Pehlivanov’s artistic and teaching activity is in the field of contemporary pop and jazz music culture. He is popular among students and in the respective public environment in Plovdiv, in Bulgaria, and as it is evident from his reference, in Europe, Asia, and Africa. I would like to highlight the following advantages, which are enough to defend his candidacy for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts:

- The book, based on a defended dissertation “*History, Theory and Styles in Pop, Rock and Jazz Music. Digital Sound Technologies. Digital Audio Workstations*”, as well as all scientific publications and citations of Zhan Pehlivanov, show that his field is quite relevant and has touched on issues of interest to the professional, pedagogical, and performing music guild.
- The curriculum in the course “*History of Pop and Jazz Music*” is important in the development and preparation of students of music specialties and future music teachers. For the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts this is the first time of presenting a complete chronological course for “*History of Pop and Jazz Music*” with a corresponding analysis of its content and development.
- The good knowledge of music software and various techniques related to the use of music and computer technology will help students in their future professional realization. These are the modern ways (especially in the pop and jazz space) for creating and editing a musical score, as well as for making multimedia products.

- The use of digital sound technologies and digital audio workstations introduces students to the application of skills and activities in their future work, because it proved to be absolutely necessary (especially in the development of our lives in the last 1-2 years). Zhan Pehlivanov’s professional and teaching work completes exactly this part of the overall puzzle of the learning process.
- Working with sound recording and processing of finished audio and video products, destructive and non-destructive editing, mixing, mastering, conversion, transfer to digital media: these are important processes in the modern music design, which are now mandatory for both pop and jazz musicians, as well as for classical musicians and educators. When you have the knowledge and skills, and in the presence of modern technology, even with one computer and several programs – these processes can, to a large extent, be implemented from home.

**The presented activity is contributing and qualitative, which is sufficient for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.**

### **Administrative and public activities**

As artistic director and producer of the Intro Quartet, Zhan Pehlivanov began this activity in 2001 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, when looking for a modern idea for interpreting classical music in a contemporary context. He experiments in styles, sound, and presence on stage, trying to avoid analogies with similar formations in the world. Since 2005, he has included a brass section and vocals in his plays. Pehlivanov takes care of the musical ideas, arrangements, orchestrations, and realization. So far, the Intro Quartet has performed in Europe – Warsaw (2020), Barcelona (2019), Berlin (2018), Paris (2018), Rome (2014), Edirne (2011), Vienna (2007), and in the period 2003-2006 – in Germany, the Netherlands, Dubai (Asia), and Djibouti (Africa). During this period, the band recorded two singles in the Noculan Studio – Rotterdam, the Netherlands, commissioned by Universal Music – Berlin (<http://www.intro-quartet.com/index.html>).

**In this I see sufficient public and administrative activity for Zhan Pehlivanov.**

### **Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)**

I do not know Zhan Pehlivanov personally.

### **Opinions, recommendations, and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate**

I do not have any.

### The peer review may end with the following assessment:

Based on all of the above, as well as the conclusions made on the proposed creative and teaching activities of **Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov**, given his activity, as well as the contribution of the proposed creative performances and projects, I give my **firm positive assessment** and offer the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury in the competition for occupation of the position “Associate Professor” (“History of Pop and Jazz Music”) under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Faculty of Music Pedagogy, to propose to the esteemed Academic Council of the Academy of

Music, Dance and Fine Arts to elect **Chief Assistant Dr. Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov** for the academic position of “Associate Professor”, according to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Date: 06.07.2021

Signature:

Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova