

Review

by Prof. Tsvetan Nedyalkov, PhD

National Academy of Music 'Prof. Pancho Vladigerov'

regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for occupation of the academic position **'Professor'**
in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'

in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts
Professional Field 8. 3 Music and Dance Arts

(Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony)

In the competition for 'Professor', announced in State Gazette 40 /15.05 2021
and on the web page of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for the needs of the
Department
of Music within the Faculty of Pedagogy, Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD
participates as a candidate.

1. General Presentation of the Received Materials

Subject

By Order No. P33-4300/10.08.2021 of the Chancellor of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury of the competition for occupation of the academic position **'Professor' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'** in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts, Professional Field Music and Dance Arts. (Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony), **announced for the needs of the Department of Music within the Faculty of Pedagogy.**

Documents for participation in the announced competition have been submitted by the only candidate

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD from Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

The set of materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD in paper format complies with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' and includes the following papers:

Application form to the Chancellor, Curriculum Vitae, Diploma for Bachelor's-Master's degree, Diploma for Doctoral degree, Certificate for Associate Professor, Certificate from NACID for holding an academic position, Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements, declaration of originality and authenticity, certificate for work experience, reference with annotations and programs of the concerts, reference for educational activity, reference for artistic and creative activity and appendices.

The presented materials contain specific and comprehensive information about the artistic, creative, educational and research activities of the candidate and are the basis on which I will build my assessment as a reviewer.

Brief Biographical Data

My creative contact with Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev has existed for more than fifteen years, during which I have had the pleasure to participate with him in many joint music projects. The performance activity of Assoc. Prof. Koychev contains a huge number of events with some of the most emblematic musicians in Bulgarian jazz and ethno-jazz such as Teodosi Spasov, Mario Stanchev, Antoni Donchev, Simeon Shterev, Stoyan Yankulov and many others.

In 1983 he created the band 'JAZZ LINE', in which he participated as a guitarist and arranger, together with Docho Panov - bass, Teodosii Spasov - wooden flute, Radul Nachkov - drums and singer Yaldaz Ibrahimova. He was nominated for the Crystal Lyre Award of the Union of Bulgarian Music and Dance Figures in the Jazz category in 1998. In 2006 he won three awards: second prize, audience award and orchestra award at the VI National Competition 'Symphonic Piece in 7/8' in Plovdiv for the symphonic piece 'Bulgarian Jazz'.

Associate Professor Koychev writes music for over forty theatrical productions for the 'Sofia' Youth Theatre, Drama and Puppet Theatre 'Dimitar Dimov' - Kardzhali, 'Lyubomir Kabakchiev' Theatre - Kazanlak, Drama and Puppet Theatre 'Dimitar Dimov' - Plovdiv, Anfas Theatre Society - Plovdiv, Small Theatre Plovdiv, Drama Theatre - Pazardzhik, National Theatre - Subotici, Serbia and others.

Since 2009 Assoc. Prof. Koychev teaches at Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', Plovdiv, in the disciplines pop and jazz guitar, jazz harmony, arranging for pop and jazz formations, jazz theory and composition. The candidate has a successfully defended doctoral degree in a Professional Field 8. 3 Music and Dance Arts on topic: '*Interaction between Jazz and Folklore*'.

He participates in the guitar project 'Acoustic Trio 3000' (Veselin Koychev, Tsvetan Nedyalkov, Ivan Lechev) and he is one of the authors of the debut album of the trio 'Yo-ho', released in 2011. The following year, 'Acoustic Trio 3000' won the international award of the independent American label 'Indi acoustic' for best instrumental album of the year.

General Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity

The candidate has divided his artistic and creative activity as follows: *concert activity, sound recording activity, participation in master classes, music composition, reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts and pedagogical activity.*

The direction of his performing and creative intentions is clear in the way of structuring, both stylistically and thematically:

- *Concerts related to the integration of Bulgarian folklore and jazz.*

'Veselin Koychev Ethno Project', Plovdiv Jazz Evenings 2009 - Plovdiv Jazz Nights 2009, with the participation of: Antoni Donchev - piano, Stoyan Yankulov - drums, Vladimir Velichkov - wooden flute, Aleksandar Lekov - bass guitar and Veselin Koychev - guitar.

As Assoc. Prof. Koychev reveals himself this is original music with Bulgarian ethno elements and arranged with the jazz techniques. The concerts presented in this style are a total of seven, which shows the great love and dedication of Associate Professor Koychev to Bulgarian folklore and jazz music, as well as his professionalism.

- *Concerts with contemporary original music for guitar.*

Concert of 'Acoustic Trio 3000' and Concert 'Koychev-Nedyalkov Project'.

- *Jazz concerts:*

Concert 'Veselin Koychev - Riccardo Chiarion Quartet', Concert 'Improvisations' Veselin Koychev and Tsvetan Nedyalkov, Concert 'Two Guitars Jazz Live' of Veselin and Petar Koychevi, 'Jazz Panorama Blagoevgrad 2011', Concert of Jes Psaila - Veselin Koychev Duo.

- *Gypsy Jazz Concerts:* Veselin Koychev Hot Strings, French Gypsy Swing with Para Hot Jazz and Hot Club de Plovdiv.

- *Flamenco concerts:*

'Flamenco Concert of Veselin Koychev and Tsvetan Nedyalkov Duo',

The repertoire performed during these concerts consists of world models, guitar transcriptions of works created for other instruments, as well as author's pieces, which are a symbiosis between Bulgarian folklore, fusion, flamenco, jazz and classical music.

The presented concert activity shows a scale, diversity, virtuosity and creative cooperation with many performers.

I consider as a contribution *the recording activity* of the candidate, which includes participation in sound recording of his albums, as well as participation in sound recording for albums of other performers.

The presented albums are a total of seven, two of which are folk jazz, and the rest are with theatrical music:

- 2010 - CD 'Yo-Ho' Acoustic Trio 3000 - Veselin Koychev, Ivan Lechev, Tsvetan Nedyalkov 'Yo Ho', RSCD3153,
- 2014 - CD 'Folklore and Jazz' - Mario Stanchev and Veselin Koychev with Academic Folk Choir at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, conductor Kostadin Buradzhiev and Vasil Vasilev, released by Riva Sound
- 'The Bremen Town Musicians' based on Grimms' Fairy Tales, dramatization by Leo Kapon, music by Veselin Koychev
- 'War in Times of Love' by Jeton Neziraj, director Leo Kapon, music Veselin Koychev, University Theatre of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', Plovdiv
- 'The Magic Shop', based on ideas from Donald Bisset fairy tales, directed by Leonard Kapon, music and arrangement V. Koychev
- 'Веселата Коледна чакалня' /The Merry Christmas Waiting Room/ by Stefan Stoyanov, directed by Yanko Mitev, music and arrangement V. Koychev
- 'Веселата Коледна чакалня' /The Merry Christmas Waiting Room/ by Stefan Stoyanov, directed by Yanko Mitev, music and arrangement V. Koychev

In addition to the work on the recording of the guitar parts and the participation in arrangements Assoc. Prof. Koychev is also a composer. Not small parts of the works in these albums are his author's products.

In the period after 2010, Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD was invited to be a *member of the jury* for the competition program of the National Competition for Guitar and String Instruments 'Pop, Jazz, Ethno', Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv (15.05.2016), International Guitar Festival, Pleven (02.12.2017), Academica Youth Guitar Festival, Plovdiv (2015) as an impartial professional. He leads also four *master classes*: Fusion and Improvisation Workshop, Veliko Tarnovo, 'Improvisation in Pop and Jazz Music', within the 'Danube Strings' Guitar Festival, Silistra (2019), Veselin Koychev - Jes Psaila Guitar Workshop, PLOVDIV GUITART FEST and Jazz Guitar Workshop with Veselin Koychev, Plovdiv, Kapana. Undisputable is his contribution in passing on his knowledge and stimulating young guitarists.

A large part of the candidate's creative pursuits is his *composing and arranging activity*. This is music composed by Assoc. Prof. Koychev, PhD in the period from 2009 to 2019, which includes fifteen theatre productions for various theatres in the country. Some of these productions have won awards for original music at various theatre forums. Some of them are: *'The Snail Dzhuro'- Milanka Miloslavlevic directed by Yanko Mitev, Drama and Puppet Theatre 'Dimitar Dimov', Haskovo, award for original music at the National Puppet Theatre Festival 'Mihail Lakatnik', Yambol 24.04.2015, 'Kak ce leкува лъвски страх' /How to Cure Lion Fear/ - Yanko Mitev and Maya Dalgacheva award for original music and children's jury award at the National Puppet Theatre Festival 'Mihail Lakatnik', Yambol.*

He has made numerous arrangements and jazz arrangements of folk songs, in relation to almost all concerts from his performing activities.

Undisputed and numerous are the evidences noted in *reviews of the realized author's products*, which outline Veselin Koychev's bright and diverse talent.

For example, a review of 'Guitar Festival in Ancient Plovdiv' by Aleksandar Markov, newspaper 'Guitar', issue No.2, June 2010, Review of 'Sympho - Jazz and More', by Prof. Panayot Panayotov, PhD, in the magazine for music and dance 'Musical Horizons', 5 June 2012, issue. 4, p.14, etc.

The work of Assoc. Prof. Koychev on the large number of practical and applied projects (a number of which have both research and creative character) testify to his contribution as a successful *teacher and musician*, who, combining theoretical and practical activities, provides his students and the audience a wide range of knowledge and creative attitude to the tasks. As a lecturer in the Department of Music within the Faculty of Pedagogy at Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', Koychev strives to improve the quality of education of students in theoretical and practical disciplines in various specialties. Increasing participation of students in artistic performances and their more frequent appearance on big stages is also his merit.

Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements

Pursuant to the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) the minimum national requirements for points by groups of indicators related to scientific, teaching and artistic activity, which are defined in the appendix by scientific fields and professional fields for the academic position '**Professor**', the required number of points by groups of indicators for the academic position 'Professor' is **500**. The total number of points of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is **1795**.

They are divided by activities as follows:

Group **A**: Dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' - **50** points.

Group **C**: Leading (independent) creative performance in the field of arts – **990** points.

Group **D**: Leading (or independent) creative performance in the field of arts, which is not the main habilitation work – **270** points.

Group **E**: Reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts - **110** points.

Group **F**: Participation in a national scientific, educational or artistic and creative project – **425** points

Assessment of the Applicant's Personal Contribution

Undoubtedly, the essence of the huge creative activity of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD, both as a volume and as an achievement, is a guarantee that his students have the opportunity to be dedicated to the secrets of real art and as his supporters to be provoked to show the best of them.

The summary of the contributions can be defined as a scale and diversity of creative efforts, but with one goal - achieving high artistic, creative and performance mastery, combined with pedagogical orientation.

CONCLUSION

The materials submitted for the announced competition have a high scientific and practical value, they cover all requirements of the announced competition and meet the relevant minimum national requirements for scientific, teaching, artistic and creative activities, defined in the Appendix on professional fields for the academic position 'Professor' based on the indicators under Article 2b, paragraph 2 of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA). Therefore, I confidently suggest to the honorable Scientific Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD the academic position 'Professor'.

02.10.2021

Reviewer:

Prof. Tsvetan Nedyalkov, PhD