

OPINION

by Prof. Ivan Stoyanov Dimitrov, 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 No. 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 Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is among the most prominent guitarists in Bulgaria. At the same time, he is a composer who works on connecting different musical genres. He mixes jazz with elements of rock, ethno and Bulgarian music. He creates orchestrations for soloists, rock groups, choir and symphony orchestra. His name is associated with the legendary jazz band 'White, Green, Reds' - the longest-running jazz band in Bulgaria and the ethno-jazz band 'Jazz Line', which is considered a benchmark of the Bulgarian ethno-jazz. He is the author of pop, jazz, symphonic and theatrical music, arrangements of folk music, arrangements and orchestrations.

His recording activity is impressive. In his discography he has realized 10 albums, and as a performer he has over 1000 concerts from the podiums of all jazz forums in the country and presents Bulgarian jazz music at the most prestigious jazz festivals in the world.

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD teaches guitar at Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' and at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv as he brilliantly combines his performing activity with his pedagogical practice. This is confirmed by the achievements of his students, who give concerts at the highest technical mastery and artistic level.

Veselin Koychev presented a detailed reference with the scientific contributions to his artistic, creative and pedagogical activities.

The presented materials cover the entire creative career of the candidate, relating only to his participation in the competition and are structured in several sections.

- Sound recording activities;
- Composition and arrangements of original music;
- Concert performances;
- Scientific and pedagogical activity;
- Awards for artistic and creative activity;

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD covers the minimum national requirements for points by groups of indicators related to scientific, teaching, artistic and creative activities, which are defined in the appendix by scientific fields and professional fields for the academic position 'Professor', based on indicators from the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), as follows:

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 **1895**.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity by number of indicators

Indicator A - required number of points 50

A-1 Dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree '**Doctor**'

Topic: '**Interaction between Jazz and Folklore**' defended in 2016 at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 'Prof. Asen Diamandiev', Plovdiv.

Total number of points collected 50

Indicator C required number of points 100

Total number of points collected 990

C.4 - Realized author's product in the field of arts

In this indicator Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD presents **two** released albums on CD: 2010 '**Yo-Ho**' Acoustic Trio 3000 and 2014 '**Folklore and Jazz**' described in appendices (**C.4.1** and **C.4.2**)

Veselin Koychev's name is emblematic in the Bulgarian Puppet Theatre. He has written music for more than fifty theatrical productions. He is a standing out author who spreads his musical ideas responsibly and professionally, caressing the children's audience with them, and his compositions are characterized by perfect melody.

The reference presents original theatrical music for **fifteen** theatrical productions: '**The Bremen Town Musicians**' based on Grimms' Fairy Tales; '**War in Times of Love**' by Jeton Neziraj; '**The Magic Shop**', based on ideas from Donald Bisset fairy tales; '**Веселата Коледна чакалня**' /**The Merry Christmas Waiting Room**/ - by Stefan Stoyanov; '**Carlson and the Little Dog**' - Astrid Lindgren; '**Зъбчо в света на усмивките**' /**Tooth in the World of Smiles**/ - directed by Yanko Mitev; '**Копче за сън**' /**Sleep Button**/ - Valeri Petrov; '**The Snail Dzhuro**' - Milanka Miloslavlevic; '**Приказна Вселена**' /**Fairy Universe**/ - Petar Vanchev; '**Меко Казано**' /**To Say the Least**/ - Valeri Petrov; '**Бабина приказка**' /**Grandma's Tale**/, text and direction Yanko Mitev; '**Добрите Бобри**' /**The Good Beavers**/ by Yanko Mitev; '**Winnie the Pooh**' dramatization Yanko Mitev; '**Как се лекува лъвски страх**' /**How to Cure Lion Fear**/ - Yanko Mitev and Maya Dalgacheva; '**Twelfth Night**' - Shakespeare - described in appendices (**C.4.3** to **C.4.17**)

Collected points 850

17 contributions, each one with 50 points

C.5 - Leading (independent) creative performance in the field of arts.

In this indicator Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD presents **four** creative performances: 'Veselin Koychev Ethno **Project**', Plovdiv Jazz Evenings, Plovdiv, 10.10.2009; 'Veselin Koychev Trio' - **concert** Plovdiv, 14.06.2011; Participation in 'STRUMIN' concerts at the University of Malta 9-10.10.2015; **Concert** of Veselin Koychev 'Hot Strings', Jazz Forum Stara Zagora, 9.06.2016 - described in appendices (**C.5.1** to **C.5.4**)

*Collected points 140
4 contributions each one with 35 points.*

Indicator D - required number of points 150

Total number of points collected 270

D.12 - Realized short author's product in the field of arts

In this indicator Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD presents **one** author's product:
10.09.2015 **Composition, arrangement and sound recording of original music** for the e-book of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', university scientific seminar 'Together we can do more'.

*Collected points 30
1 contribution with 30 points*

D.13 - Leading (or independent) creative performance in the field of arts, which is not the main habilitation work.

The candidate offers **four** leading creative performances in this group of indicators: **Concert** of Teodosii Spasov and Veselin Koychev, Exposition Center 'Flora', Burgas, 07.04.2014; **Concert** of 'Veselin Koychev Quintet', 'July Jazz Thursdays' in The King's Stables, Plovdiv, 05.07.2012; Multimedia Art **Project** of NBU, Club Studio 5 with the participation of Teodosii Spasov, Veselin Koychev and students from different departments of NBU. 17.01.2015; **Concert** of Veselin Koychev - Ricardo Kiarion Quartet, Drama Theatre Hall, Plovdiv, 25.10.2012 described in appendices (**D 13.1** to **D.13.4**)

*Collected points 140
4 contributions each one with 35 points.*

D.14 - Supportive creative performance or participation in a collective product in the field of arts

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD presents **ten** creative performances as a soloist in various concerts, which I consider to be contribution related to the competition:

1. Concert 'Improvisations' Veselin Koychev, Tsvetan Nedyalkov - duo, Studio 5, 04.12.2012
2. Apollonia Arts Festival, PlaYIS Trio, Jes Psaila from Malta, Elvis Stanić from Croatia and Veselin Koychev /Bulgaria/, Apollonia Club, Sozopol 03.09.2018
3. Jubilee concert in honor of the 70th birthday of 'Detska kitka' Choir, House of Culture 'Boris Hristov', Plovdiv, 12.11.2017.
4. Concert 'Koychev-Nedyalkov Project', at the jazz festival 'Holidays in the valley of the Thracian Kings', Kazanlak, 28.08.2016.
5. French gypsy swing with Para Hot Jazz and Hot Club de Plovdiv, Special guest V. Koychev, Ancient Theatre, Plovdiv 06.07.2019
6. Concert of 'Acoustic Trio 3000' at the International Guitar Festival, Pleven, 02.12.2016
7. Concert of Veselin Koychev and Tsvetan Nedyalkov - duo, Veliko Tarnovo, Flamenco Project, at the Guitart Fest Festival, 10.06.2017 .
8. KOKARLEK Concert, Veselin Koychev - Vladimir Karparov - Aleksandar Lekov, Chamber Stage, Studio 1 of Radio Plovdiv, 07.03.2017.
9. 'TWO GUITARS JAZZ LIVE' Concert - Veselin and Petar Koychevi, 'Autumn Salon of Arts', concert studio of Radio Varna, 10.11.2018.

10. 'Jazz Panorama Blagoevgrad 2011' Concert of Marina Gospodinova, Veselin Koychev, Aleksandar Lekov, Dimitar Dimitrov, Viktor Benev, 13.11.2011 described in appendices (**D.14.1 to C.14.10**)

*Collected points***100**
10 performances each one with 10 points

Indicator E required number of points 80

Total number of points collected 110

E.19 - Reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts.

In this indicator Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD attaches **eleven** reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts:

1. Review of 'Guitar Festival in Ancient Plovdiv', by Aleksandar Markov, in 'Guitar' - a quarterly guitar magazine, issue 2, June 2010, p. 19-22, **ISSN 1311-820X**
2. Review of the Third International Festival of Guitar Ensembles (2011), by Petya Kolintsova, in the academic cultural and information publication 'Art Spectrum', issue 21, June 2011, p. 4-5, **ISSN 1314-0000**
3. Review of 'Sympho - Jazz and More', by Prof. Panayot Panayotov, PhD, in the magazine for music and dance 'Musical Horizons', June 5, 2012, issue. 4, p. 14, **ISSN 1310-0076**,
4. Review of the International Youth Festival 'New Bulgarian Music for Guitar' (2013), by Diana Racheva, III year, specialty Performing Arts (Classical Guitar), issue 30, December 2013, p. 5-6, **ISSN 1314-0000, (Appendix E.19-4)**
Review of the International Youth Festival 'New Bulgarian Music for Guitar' (2013), by Diana Racheva in 'Guitar' - a quarterly guitar magazine, issue 4, June 2013, p. 21, **ISSN 1311-820X, (Appendix E.19-4-2)**
5. Review of the concert 'Folklore and Jazz Accents' (2014), by Assoc. Prof. Stela Miteva-Dinkova, PhD, 'Musical Horizons' Music and Dance Magazine, issue 7, 2014, p. 6-7, **ISSN 1310-0076**,
6. Review of the International Youth Festival 'Crossroad', by Hari Nigohosyan, in the academic cultural and information publication 'Art Spectrum', issue 43, 2017, p. 14, **ISSN 1314-0000**,
7. 'Jazz is an integral part of my essence' - an interview of Zhelyazka Belchilova with Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD in 'Musical Horizons' Music and Dance Magazine, 2018, No.4, p. 14 -17, **ISSN 1310-0076**,
8. Review of 'Guitar Master Class' with Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD, within the 'Danube Strings' Guitar Festival Silistra 2019 on the topic: 'Improvisation for Guitar in Pop and Jazz Music', by Prof. Tsvetan Nedyalkov, PhD, published on the specialized site 'Gallery of Words' /galerianadumite.bg/, 03.07.2019, Publishing Studio Ab, **ISSN 2534-8973**,
9. Portrait 'About Veselin Koychev's music in the puppet theatre', by Yanko Mitev, in the 'Musical Horizons' Music and Dance Magazine, 2020, No. 3, p. 20 -21, **ISSN 1310-0076**,
10. Article 'Infected by This Love - White, Green, Reds', a conversation between Vladislav Hristov and 'White, Green, Reds', published in the magazine 'Nula32', issue 19, 23 April 2020, p. 32,
11. Applause. For the new album of Veselin Koychev and Petar Koychev 'Supernova', music Stefan Kostyanev, by Prof. Stela Miteva - Dinkova, PhD, published in the academic cultural and information publication 'Art Spectrum', issue 51, July 2020, p. 8 and 9, **ISSN 1314-0000**,

*Collected points 110
11 reviews each one with 10 points.*

Indicator F required number of points 120

Total number of points collected 425

F.22 - Participation in a national scientific, educational or artistic and creative project

In this indicator Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD presents **seven** participations in a team of a national scientific, educational or artistic and creative project (of which **3** participations in a jury, **2** participations in concerts and **two** scientific projects):

1. Participation in 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
2. Participation in the jury for the competition program of the International Guitar Festival, Pleven, 02.12.2017
3. Youth Guitar Festival Plovdiv, 2015
4. 'Bagpipe Fusion: Music From The Future', Sofia, City Art Gallery, 15.12.2017
5. Concert of Acoustic Trio 3000, Sofia Live Club, 30.05.2017
6. Project Series 'Guitar Master Classes at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts'
7. Project 'Development of key competencies through the application of electronic educational resources' – No. FP21-PF-007 to the Science Research Fund at Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' 2021-2022 described in appendices (**F.22.1 to F.22.7**).

*Collected points 105
7 participations each one with 15 points*

F.23 - Participation in an international scientific, educational or artistic and creative project

The candidate presents **two** participations in a team of an international scientific, educational or artistic and creative project (participation in concerts):

1. PLOVDIV GUITART FEST, Concert of Yes Psayla - Veselin Koychev duo - Bee Bop café, 28.10. 2017
2. Concert of the Academic Folk Choir within the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, conductor Kostadin Buradzhiev, Musée des Confluences, Lion, France, 27.04.2018 described in the appendices (**F.23.1 to F.23.2**)

*Collected points 40
2 participations each one with 20 points*

F.24 - Management of a national scientific, educational or artistic and creative project

In this indicator Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD indicates **two times** project management of a national scientific, educational or artistic and creative project:

1. Project Management - National Competition for Guitar and String Instruments ‘Pop, Jazz, Ethno’, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 15.05.2016
2. Project Management - Series ‘Guitar Master Classes at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts’, Plovdiv 2013, described in appendices (**F.24.1 to F.24.2**)

Collected points 60
2 participations as a manager each one with 30 points

F.27 - Published university teaching aid or a teaching aid used in the school network

In this part of the reference the candidate presents **two** published university teaching aids, which are used for educational purposes in the teaching of jazz and pop guitar, giving an idea of **the contribution** of the creative and pedagogical activity in the practical work.

1. Teaching aid - Book with a collection of sheet music to the album ‘Yo-ho’ of ‘Acoustic Trio 3000’ - authors Veselin Koychev and Tsvetan Nedyalkov, BALKANOTA publishing house, 2011, No. BNBG0151-007, ISMN979-0-707680-92-6.
2. Teaching aid – ‘Guitar Impressions’, sheet music edition with pieces from the albums ‘Music Springs’ and ‘Super Nova’. Composed by Veselin Koychev, ISMN 979-0-707670-28-6, MU Plovdiv, 2019, described in appendices (**F.27.1 to F.27.2**)

Collected points 40
2 published teaching aids each one with 20 points

F.28 - Management of master class or workshop in the field of arts

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD participated **four** times in the management of master classes or workshops in the field of arts:

1. Fusion and Improvisation Workshop, Veliko Tarnovo, within the Guitart Fest, 11.06.2017.
2. ‘Improvisation in Pop and Jazz Music’ - master class of Veselin Koychev within the ‘Danube Strings’ Guitar Festival, Silistra, 23.06.2019
3. Veselin Koychev - Yes Psayla Guitar Workshop, PLOVDIV GUITART FEST, Trakart Gallery, Plovdiv, 29.10.2017
4. Jazz Guitar Workshop, with Veselin Koychev, Kapana E!, Club VOID (2 Atanas Samokovetsa Str.), 01.04.2017 described in appendices (**F.28.1 to F.28.4**)

Collected points 80
4 times management each one with 20 points

F.30 - Awards from competitions for creativity and performance, given by national professional forums and organizations

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is the winner of **eight** awards from competitions for creativity and performance, given by national professional forums and organizations:

1. 2005 IV International Theatre Festival 'PIERROT 2005', Stara Zagora. Award for original music, by Veselin Koychev, for the music to the performance 'Sylvester's Treasure', dir. Prof. Rumen Rachev, 'D. Dimov' Theatre - Kardzhali.
2. 2006 VI National Competition 'Symphonic Piece in 7/8' in Plovdiv (he received three awards) Second Prize for Veselin Koychev, for the composition of the Symphonic Piece 'Bulgarian Jazz'.
3. 2006 VI National Competition 'Symphonic Piece in 7/8' in Plovdiv (he received three awards) Audience Award for Veselin Koychev, for the composition of the Symphonic Piece 'Bulgarian Jazz'.
4. 2006 VI National Competition 'Symphonic Piece in 7/8' in Plovdiv (he received three awards) Orchestra Award for Veselin Koychev, for the composition of the Symphonic Piece 'Bulgarian Jazz'.
5. 2009 National Puppet Theatre Festival 'Mihail Lakatnik, Yambol. Award for original music, by Veselin Koychev, for the music to the performance 'Как се лекува лъвски страх' /How to Cure Lion Fear/ - Yanko Mitev and Maya Dalgacheva.
6. 2014 National Puppet Theatre Festival 'Mihail Lakatnik, Yambol. Award for original music, by Veselin Koychev, for the music to the performance 'The Snail Dzhuro' - Milanka Miloslavlevic, dir. Yanko Mitev, Drama and Puppet Theatre Haskovo
7. 2016 Fourth European Children's Song Festival 'Golden Sparks', Varna. First prize for children's song 'Song for the teeth'
8. 2018. Award of the Plovdiv Jazz Evenings Festival. 'Award for overall contribution to jazz' of the jazz formation 'White, Green, Reds' with leader Veselin Koychev. described in appendices (**F.30.1** to **F.30.8**)

Collected points 80

8 awards each one with 10 points

F.31 - Awards from competitions for creativity and performance, given by professional forums and organizations abroad

The candidate has **one** prize from a competition for creativity and performance, given by professional forum and organization abroad:

F.31-1 2010 The Indie Acoustic Project Competition, USA, Instrumental Music Section. Award for Best Instrumental Album of 2011 for the album 'Yo-Ho' by 'Acoustic Trio 3000' - Veselin Koychev, Ivan Lechev, Tsvetan Nedyalkov.

Collected points 20

1 award with 20 points

3. Critical notes and recommendations: - none

CONCLUSION

From the detailed reference it is evident that the documents and materials submitted by the candidate meet the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and cover the minimum national requirements. Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD has a significant contribution to the pedagogical, artistic, creative and scientific activities as a specialist in the field of music art. Based on the above, I give my positive assessment and recommend Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD to be elected for the academic position 'Professor' in Professional Field 8. 3 Music and Dance Arts.

01.10.2021

This opinion is prepared by:

Prof. Ivan Stoyanov Dimitrov, PhD