

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. **Metodiy Ivanov Angelov, PhD**

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*,
(Scientific Speciality: Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony)

In the competition for the academic position ‘Professor’, announced in State Gazette No. 40/14.05.2021 and on the web page of Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ for the needs of the Department of Music within the Faculty of Pedagogy, **Veselin Ivanov Koychev** from Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’, participates as a candidate.

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

Procedure

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 8.3. *Music and Dance Arts* (Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony), announced for the needs of the Department of Music within the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The only candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is Assoc. Prof. **Veselin Ivanov Koychev, PhD** from Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’. The presented set of materials, in paper and electronic format, comply with the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ and includes all necessary documents provided by law for participation in the competition, plus documents certifying his artistic activity and creative success required for competition for Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts. The candidate has covered and significantly exceeds the national minimum requirements for holding the academic position ‘Professor’ in the professional field.

Veselin Koychev has attached rich in quantitative and qualitative terms evidence for his diverse musical and creative activities in the period from 2010 to 2020 - as an instrumental ensembles leader, a composer, a creator of arrangements, solo and joint concerts, etc. As evidence for the pedagogical activity the candidate has attached two teaching aids and materials for his realized students. There are attached 14 reviews from leading experts and reviews in specialized publications about his musical, creative and pedagogical activities. Documents for participation in 9 scientific, educational or artistic and creative projects are presented.

Brief Biographical Data

Veselin Koychev was born in 1960. He holds the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor of Musicology and Music Art'. In 2009 he acquired the scientific title 'Associate Professor' and since then he holds the relevant academic position. The biography of the candidate shows that he has gained a variety of theoretical and practical experience in the field of music art as an artist-member of an orchestra and artistic director of jazz formations. He has more than 10 years teaching activity as an associate professor. In the process of his creative and work activity Veselin Koychev has acquired various organizational, as well as specific professional skills and competencies. He is the winner of 9 awards in the field of music art. The diverse preparation and the rich pedagogical experience of the candidate and his personal qualities favor the success of his academic activity.

Personal Impressions

I have known Veselin Koychev since 1993 from our participation in the board of directors of the Culture, Art, Children Foundation (CACF) and from the children's music show at the Little Big Stars Foundation, and later as a colleague at the Faculty of Pedagogy. He impresses me as a person with a fine soul and heightened sensitivity. Correct and loyal as a colleague, attentive in relations, ready to work in a team, and thanks to his modesty, fitting unobtrusively into the academic environment. An excellent professional with versatile knowledge in the professional field. He regularly participates in the public initiatives of the Faculty of Pedagogy, supporting them with his professional skills.

2. General Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity

In the reporting period the musical and creative activity of Veselin Koychev is active and rich - leading of musical ensembles, concert activity, composition and arrangement of theatrical, pop, jazz and symphonic music, work in recording studios, organization of national and international music festivals, etc. As a music pedagogue he teaches various music disciplines at Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' and at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 'Prof. Asen Diamandiev', he organizes seminars and master classes.

The creative performances, pedagogical success and contributions of Veselin Koychev can be grouped and outlined in the following fields:

Author's composition and arrangement activities: he has albums with original music released in two CDs; music written for 15 theatrical productions; one realized short author's product (composing, arranging and recording of author's music); he has created numerous arrangements and jazz arrangements of folk songs;

Active concert activity: as independent performances Veselin Koychev has prepared and performed 4 concerts in the country and abroad and 4 more concerts with his creative participation; he has 10 supporting creative performances in concerts in different cities of the country; he organizes and participates in concerts related to the integration of Bulgarian folklore and jazz, participates in concerts with contemporary original music for guitar, in jazz concerts, such in the style 'Gypsy Jazz' and 'Flamenco'. He is a member of the jury of several music competitions and festivals.

Recording activity: through his own recording studio Koychev has released 7 albums; has recorded theatrical music (for over 50 theatrical productions), has performed concerts, etc.; he has a recorded realized author's product.

The pedagogical activity of the candidate is intensive, aimed at improving the quality of the students' education and realization of their concert activity: the guitar students of Assoc. Prof. Koychev annually give concerts in Plovdiv and in other cities of the country, which makes his teaching activity popular and nationally significant; he actively applies information technology in education; leads guitar master classes in Plovdiv, Pleven, Silistra and Veliko Tarnovo; supervises two doctoral students, one of whom has successfully defended; ten successfully realized students of Assoc. Prof. Koychev work as music teachers in secondary schools and universities, some of whom are prominent musicians and music pedagogues; he has created curricula for 21 disciplines.

From 2010-2020 V. Koychev has 9 participations in scientific, educational, artistic and creative projects, two of which are international, and he has been a director two times.

The awards (9 in number), the presented 14 reviews by leading specialists, as well as the reviews in specialized publications testify to the recognition of the high qualification and achievements in the professional field of the candidate and to the positive public response.

3. Critical Notes and Recommendations

I have no critical remarks, but my recommendation to Veselin Koychev is to educate students, on the base of his rich professional experience and refined taste, in the spirit of aesthetic values, through which to positively influence their future audience.

CONCLUSION

The papers and materials submitted by Veselin Koychev **meet all the** requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Rules for its implementation, and the relevant Rules of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

The candidate in the competition **has** presented **a significant** amount of evidence for his active musical artistic and pedagogical activity after the defense of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' and after the competition for the academic position 'Associate Professor'. In the artistic and creative activity of the candidate there are original artistic and practical applied contributions of national importance, and some of them have received international recognition. Some of them are directly oriented to the practical pedagogical work. The artistic, creative and teaching qualification of Veselin Ivanov Koychev is not in doubt. The materials presented for the competition prove that the achievements and contributions outlined in them, *are a personal merit of the candidate*.

The results achieved by Veselin Koychev in the educational and musical artistic and creative activity *are fully in line* with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Rules of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for the implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA).

After studying the documents presented for the competition, and after analyzing their significance and artistic, creative and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my *positive assessment* and *recommend* to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for *the election of Veselin Ivanov Koychev for the academic position ‘Professor’* in Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts, (*Scientific Speciality: Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony*).

10.10.2021

This opinion is prepared by:

/Associate Professor Metodiy Angelov, PhD/