

OPINION

by Prof. Simo Leonov Lazarov, PhD
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regarding the materials submitted for participation in a competition for occupation of the academic position 'Professor' of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' by Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanov Koychev, PhD 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 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, Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanov Koychev, PhD from the Department of Music, Faculty of Pedagogy, participates as a candidate.

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate and Description 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 8.3. Music and Dance Arts (Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony), announced for the needs of the Department of Music, Faculty of Pedagogy.

The only candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanov Koychev, PhD from the Department of Music, Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

Set of Materials

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:

1. Application form to the Chancellor for admission to the competition;
2. CV in European format;
3. Diploma of Higher Education with acquired academic degree

- ‘Master’ - original with supplement;
4. Diploma for educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’;
 - 5.1. Diploma (Certificate) for academic position ‘Associate Professor’ (copy);
 - 5.2. Certificate from NACID for holding the academic position ‘Associate Professor’ (original);
 6. Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements;
 7. Declaration of originality and authenticity of enclosed documents;
 8. Document (certificate) for work experience;
 9. Annotations of the materials under Article 76 of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ including a self-assessment of contributions; concert programs (in Bulgarian and in English language);
 - 10.1. Teaching work documents; academic disciplines, doctoral students, curricula;
 - 10.2. Teaching work documents; Artistic and creative activity 2017-2019 of students;
 - 10.3. Teaching work documents; Artistic and creative activity of the university student Vladimir Voloshtuk;
 - 10.4. Teaching work documents; Reviews for my students;
 - 10.5. Teaching work documents; Artistic and creative activity of the university student Petar Koychev;
 - 10.6. Teaching work documents; Artistic and creative activity of the doctoral student Vladimir Velichkov;
 - 11.1. Research activity papers; participation in Bulgarian and international projects; F.24-1 National Competition ‘Jazz, Pop and Ethno’ 2016;
 - 11.2. F.24-2 Master Classes in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts ‘Prof. Asen Diamandiev-Plovdiv’ Cycle 2013;
 - 11.3. F.22-3 Academica Youth Guitar Festival;
 - 11.4. F.22-4 ‘Music from the Future’ Concert;
 - 11.5. F.22-5 GuitArt Fest Reference;
 - 11.6. F.22-6 Master Classes in Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts ‘Prof. Asen Diamandiev-Plovdiv’ Cycle 2014;
 - 11.7. F.22-7 Project ‘Development of Key Competencies’;
 - 11.8. F.23-2 International project. Invitation letter musée des Confluences;
 - 12.1. Information for artistic and creative activity of Veselin Koychev;
 - 12.2. Reviews for artistic and creative activity of Veselin Koychev;
 13. Appendices A-D;
 14. Appendices E-F;
 15. Set of paper documents from item 1 to item 14 - 4 sets;
 16. Documents on digital data storage device - 8 CDs;

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD has submitted a total of one scientific work and two teaching aids.

The dissertation for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’ to Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD which is required in the reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position ‘Professor’, entitled ‘Interaction between Jazz and Folklore’, was defended in 2016 at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts ‘Prof. Asen Diamandiev’, Plovdiv.

The artistic and creative activity is described in enclosure 12.1. ‘Information for artistic and creative activity of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD’; The information covers his activities during the period 2010 - 2020. Item 12.1.1 contains a list of concert performances, author’s products, compositions, participation in juries, master classes, awards for artistic and creative activity, etc. described in enclosure 6. ‘Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements’. These

works concern only his participation in the competition. Evidence for this activity is contained in the Appendices A-D and the Appendices E-F.

The artistic and creative activity is described as follows:

1. Released albums - two CDs, described in Appendices C.4.1 - C.4.2.
2. original theatrical music for fifteen theatrical productions, composed for different theaters in the country, described in Appendices C.4.3 - C.4.17.
3. leading (independent) creative performances in the field of arts - four concerts in the country and abroad, described in Appendices C.5.1 - C.5.4
4. a realized short author's product in the field of arts - composing, arranging and sound recording of author's music for the electronic book of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', described in Appendix D.12.
5. four leading creative performances (concerts in the country), described in Appendices D.13-1 - D.13-4.
6. ten supporting creative performances or participations in a collective product (concerts in the country), described in Appendices D.14-1 - D.14-10.
7. fourteen enclosed reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts), described in Appendices E.19 -1 - E.19-14.
8. seven participations in a team of a national scientific, educational or artistic and creative project (of which three participations in a jury and two participations in concerts), described in Appendices F.22-1 - F.22-7.
9. two participations in a team of an international scientific, educational or artistic and creative project (participation in concerts), described in Appendices F.23-1 - F.23-2.
10. twice leader of a national scientific, educational or artistic and creative project, described in Appendices F.24-1 - F.24-2.
11. two published university teaching aids used for educational purposes in the process of teaching jazz and pop guitar, described in Appendices F.27-1 - F.27-2.
12. four times leader of a master class or workshop in the field of arts, described in Appendices F.28-1 - F.28-4.
13. eight prizes from competitions for creativity and performance, given by national professional forums and organizations, described in Appendices F.30-1 - F.30-8.
14. eight prizes in competitions for creativity and performance, given by professional forum and organization abroad, described in Appendix F.30-1.

The information on the creative and performing activity for this period is focused on the creative performances in the field of arts and the preparation and development of young musicians, who are given the opportunity for more active entry into practice through their stage performances before the general public.

The minimum total number of points in groups of indicators related to the scientific, teaching, artistic and creative activity, defined in the appendix of scientific and professional fields for the academic position 'Professor', based on the indicators from the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), entered into force on 06.07.2018 for the academic position 'Professor' is 500. The total number of points of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is 1895.

2. Brief Biographical Data

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is a famous musician and lecturer, who on the one hand combines the contemporary view as a musician on the stage and on the other - as a university lecturer in the educational process. Immersed in the performance and the practical application of these activities Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD skillfully updates the changing sound and educational environment. Building a new vision of guitar mastery is the fundamental approach to this theme.

The practical realization of the performing mastery, the artistic and creative activity, the composing activity, as well as the methodology of teaching require a qualitatively new approach, which, supported by his comprehensive activities, create favorable conditions for the development of his creative potential.

The activity-filled biography of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is a proof of his creative, organizational and eternally searching nature, bringing innovations in the music and performance art, which innovations he presents to his students in a natural way.

3. General Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity

The teaching and pedagogical activity of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is presented with his participation as a lecturer in master's and bachelor's programs in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'. Combined with the creative expression, the teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is noticeable, with a pronounced pedagogical orientation. Within the modern requirements, it is a guarantee also for a new kind of stimulation of students' creative performances.

In the period under review, his main activity as a lecturer is huge and it is related to the improvement and development of courses and programs. As a lecturer in the academic disciplines he teaches and as the creator of the 21 curricula he draws the line of the contemporary performer. In the work with students and doctoral students the specific approach is a top priority, which leads to top results. Requiring good logistics and skills in his capacity as project manager for artistic and creative activities, as well as in their realization, Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD defends the position of a good organizer and administrator.

4. Assessment of the Applicant's Personal Contribution

The variety and diversity of the activities performed, as well as the work done for their implementation, prove the viability of such musicians and pedagogues as Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD who, proving themselves at any time as professional musicians and pedagogues are able to captivate students on the way to the professional mastery of the profession of a musician and a future music teacher.

The work on projects with different degrees of participation of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD is shown in the reference with many positions. The positions listed in the reference of activities for the considered period claim entirely for the contributing character of the achieved and give an idea for the construction of his overall profile.

Important contributing elements are the creative efforts in the active teaching and professional work with the students, combined with high artistic, creative and musical mastery. I take into account the contributing nature of the artistic and creative activity, and the huge comprehensive activity of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD.

These assessments of the contributing nature given in the reference for the artistic and creative activity of this production are confirmed by the fact that the music that Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD creates and performs, as well as the theoretical courses he teaches in the field of jazz art, are a guarantee for its popularization in an indisputable way.

5. Critical Notes and Recommendations

I believe that the projects in which Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD participates and the projects he manages are fully completed and I define this activity as extremely valuable, wishing the results of these projects in the future to be used by a wide range of professionals.

My recommendations regarding his activity include wishes for development towards the establishment of scientific, teaching and concert activities. I would confidently offer my knowledge and skills to support each of his new projects.

6. Personal Impressions

I know Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD as a name and as a performer from the years when 'White, Green, Reds' became a phenomenon on the jazz stage. Relevant at the time, entering new sound spaces with this band, he has shown a contemporary guitar look in these jazz dimensions since then. Judging from the achieved creative results, I come to the conclusion that he is an absolute professional, a musician who is able to pass on his experience to his students in the most accessible and focused in the future performance technique.

CONCLUSION

The papers and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD 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 submitted a significant number of materials for his work, which show original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition. They have the necessary practical applicability, and many of them are directly oriented to the academic work. The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev, PhD fully comply with the specific requirements adopted in connection with the Rules of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for application of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA).

Given all the above, as well as the availability of all necessary qualities and contributions of the candidate, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal for the election of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanov Koychev, PhD for 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).

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This opinion is prepared by:

/Prof. Simo Lazarov, PhD /