

OPINION

by

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**Professor in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts ‘Prof. Asen
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Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Art
regarding the materials

submitted for participation in a 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*

By order 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*, Scientific Speciality *Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony*, ***announced for the needs of the Department of Music within the Faculty of Pedagogy.***

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’, the only candidate is **Veselin Ivanov Koychev** - associate professor (PhD) at Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’.

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

CV in European format; certificate of scientific title ‘Associate Professor’ (awarded in 2009) and diploma for educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’ (awarded in 2016); declaration of originality and reliability of the results and contributions in the scientific production; reference table for the individual scientometric indicators and their compliance with the national minimum requirements; reference with annotations and programs of the presented concert performances, certificate for work experience, reference for the educational activity of the candidate, references for the artistic and creative activity of distinguished students from the guitar class of Assoc. Prof. Koychev, PhD.

Veselin Koychev is undoubtedly an emblematic name in the field of cultural life in Plovdiv. A versatile person, he is a popular jazz performer, a composer, an arranger and a pedagogue.

He graduated his professional music education with a master's degree in Higher Institute of Music and Pedagogy (now Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 'Prof. Asen Diamandiev'), Plovdiv. In 2016 he was awarded the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' in 'Musicology and Music Art' from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 'Prof. Asen Diamandiev' for defended dissertation entitled 'Interaction between Jazz and Folklore'.

The beginning of his creative path was the position of an 'artist-member of an orchestra' at the Concert and Art Centre, Sofia (1988-1989). In the period 1990-1999 he worked in the Municipality of Plovdiv, Department of Culture. He created the famous band 'Jazz Line' and led the jazz band 'White, Green, Reds', with which he gained popularity as a concert jazz guitarist. He performs impressive international concert activities in England, France, Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Cyprus, Serbia, Italy, Hungary. His pedagogical realization is connected with two universities in Plovdiv. He was appointed as a lecturer in the disciplines 'Pop and Jazz Guitar' and 'Jazz Harmony' at Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', where he was awarded the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in 2009. Two years later he opened the 'Electric Guitar' class (today 'Pop and Jazz Guitar') at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. His extensive knowledge in the field of jazz, instrumental performance art and rich creative invention naturally find their expression in the teaching of the disciplines 'Arranging for Jazz and Pop Formations', 'Theory of Jazz' and 'Composition'.

Last but not least, the rich compositional and arranging activity of Assoc. Prof. Koychev should also be mentioned. He created music for over 40 theatrical productions, symphonic works, a number of arrangements of Bulgarian folklore, as well as original pieces in folklore style. The basis of his creative credo is the mixing of jazz with elements of pop music and Bulgarian folklore.

An established iconic musician, he has won prestigious awards: for 'Original Music' from IV International Theatre Festival 'Pierrot'; for 'Best Composer' from the national festival 'Mihail Lakatnik' in Yambol; three awards from the VI National Competition 'Symphonic Piece in 7/8' with the piece 'Bulgarian Jazz' and others. (see page 5 for details)

The documents and evidence presented by the candidate Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev not only fully comply with the requirements for *scientific and research activity and its results according to the scientometric indicators and their compliance with the national minimum*

requirements, but also significantly exceed them - the total number of points by groups of indicators is 1895, the required is - 500.

In expressing my opinion, I will focus on some of the more important groups of indicators.

❖ **Group of indicators C:**

In indicator 4: Realized author's product in the field of arts as a habilitation work , are indicated: 2 albums and original music to 15 theatrical productions presented in Kardzhali, Plovdiv, Pazardzhik, Haskovo, Yambol, Burgas.

I know in detail the album 'Yo-Ho' of 'Acoustic Trio 3000' consisting of Tsvetan Nedyalkov, Ivan Lechev and Veselin Koychev. It is the first of its kind in Bulgaria. Musical language is an aesthetic compilation of flamenco, jazz and fusion. Its first performance at the Plovdiv Concert Hall (which I personally attended) caused a real furor. Koychev's original works ('Podzim sam male' and 'Bubolechki') and the incredible improvisational skills of the three musicians stand out in the CD. It is important to note that this album won the international award 'Indi acoustic' for 'Best instrumental album' in 2011, in a competition of over 600 participants (the award is cited in indicators **Group F, indicator 31**).

An extremely original project is the presented second CD 'Folklore and Jazz' with the participation of Mario Stanchev (piano), Academic Folk Choir with conductor Prof. Kostadin Buradzhev, PhD, Veselin Koychev and Vasil Vasilev (wooden flute). I have described all the wonderful impressions from the concert, which took place in Studio 1 of BNR Plovdiv, in a review published in the magazine 'Musical Horizons' and placed in the present reference in **Group E, indicator 19, No. 5**.

In indicator 5: Leading (independent) performance in the field of arts 4 concerts with the value of habilitation work are mentioned as follows: 'Veselin Koychev Ethno Project' (2009); 'Veselin Koychev Trio' (2011); Participation in 'STRUMIN' concerts at the University of Malta, at the invitation of 'Yamaha Music' (2015); 'Veselin Koychev Hot String' (2016). In the concert performances the candidate partners with prominent musicians (Antoni Donchev, Stoyan Yankulov), but also lends a hand to young performers (Aleksandar Lekov, Nacho Gospodinov, Petar Koychev, Dimitar Blagoev). The participation at the invitation of 'Yamaha' at the University of Malta, where Veselin Koychev plays music with foreign colleagues, students and shares performing and pedagogical experience at the international level, should be emphasized and highlighted.

I define the activity of Assoc. Prof. Koychev described above as habilitation work with high contribution value.

In indicator C, he collects a total of 900 points where the required points are 100 .

❖ **Group of indicators D:**

In indicator 12: Realized short author's product in the field of arts a short single with original music to an e-book from the scientific seminar 'Together we can do more', published by Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', is attached. In the arrangement of Assoc. Prof. Koychev the electronic instruments complement the successfully used folklore intonations.

In indicator 13: Leading (or independent) creative performance in the field of arts, which is not the main habilitation work, three concerts and one multimedia art project with Teodosii Spasov and students from NBU realized in Sofia, are indicated.

In indicator 14: Supporting creative performance or collective product in the field of arts, 10 extremely diverse performances at prestigious festivals are mentioned, such as 'Apollonia' (Sozopol), 'Holidays in the valley of the Thracian Kings' (Kazanlak), International Guitar Festival (Pleven), 'GuitArt Fest' (Veliko Tarnovo), 'Autumn Salon of Arts' (Varna), Jazz Panorama (Blagoevgrad) and others.

The described performances are indisputably valuable and they enrich the artistic practice.

In indicator D, there is a total of 270 points where the required points are 150 .

❖ **Group of indicators E:**

In indicator 19: Reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts in the scientometric table Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev indicates 11 reviews. They have been published in music periodicals, such as the magazine 'Musical Horizons', magazine 'Guitar', academic cultural and information edition 'Art Spectrum', specialized site 'Gallery of Words' /galerianadumite.bg/ and others.

In indicator E, there is a total of 110 points where the required points are 100 .

❖ **Group of indicators F:**

The specific section indicates activity in indicators *22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31* .

Among these indicators I highlight:

Management of the project National Competition for Guitar and String Instruments 'Pop, Jazz, Ethno' at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (now Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 'Prof. Asen Diamandiev'), which was the first event of its kind with great importance for the development and expression of talented instrumentalists who combine in their work intonations from popular, jazz and folk music. To date, there is no such forum in the competition practice of Bulgaria (*indicator 24, No.1*).

The two teaching aids issued by Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev : Book with a collection of sheet music to the album ‘Yo-ho’ of ‘Acoustic Trio 3000’ and ‘Guitar Impressions’ (musical edition with pieces from the albums ‘Music Springs’ and ‘Super Nova’, music by Stefan Kostyanev), which are a direct result of his work, as a performer and are used in the university pedagogical practice of a number of teachers in the discipline ‘Pop and Jazz Guitar’ (*indicator 27, No.1,2*).

The master classes and guitar workshops held within the framework of prestigious international guitar events (*indicator 28, No.1,2,3,4*), prove the professional competence of the candidate.

Awards from national competitions for: ‘Original music’ (Stara Zagora - 2005, Yambol - 2009, 2014); Second prize, ‘Audience Award’ and ‘Orchestra Award’ from the VI National Competition ‘Symphonic Piece in 7/8’ in Plovdiv (2006) for the symphonic play ‘Bulgarian Jazz’; First prize for children’s song ‘Song for the teeth’ from Fourth European Children’s Song Festival ‘Golden Sparks’(Varna - 2016); ‘Award for Overall Contribution to Jazz’ of the jazz formation ‘White, Green, Reds’ from the festival ‘Plovdiv Jazz Evenings’ (2018).

The overall activity of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Koychev has original scientific and applied contributions, which have been recognized by specialists in the field of music art. To all of the above I can add my personal impressions of the candidate. Veselin Koychev is a musician with an extremely fruitful and diverse creative invention, with competencies in the field of instrumental mastery, sound directing, contemporary jazz harmony and improvisation. He is hardworking and consistent in his pedagogical work, he maintains correct and friendly relations with his colleagues.

The presented materials and documents on the procedure, as well as the results achieved in the educational, artistic and creative activity, fully comply with the specific requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Rules for Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the relevant Rules of Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’.

Based on the above analysis and established scientific and applied contributions, I fully justifiably and confidently 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 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*, Scientific Speciality *Musicology and Music Art - Jazz Harmony*).

28.09. 2021

This opinion is prepared by:.....

/Prof. Stela Miteva-Dinkova, PhD/