

REVIEW

of the documents submitted by **Senior Asst. Prof. Aliya Sahl Hanse, PhD**

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts

in connection with the competition for the academic position of

Associate Professor

Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Art -

Major: Vocal Ensembles and Academic Opera Theatre

Faculty of Music Pedagogy

by Prof. Ermila Schweizer, PhD

Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music

Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Sahl Hanse, PhD is a candidate in the competition announced by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts* for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in the major ‘Vocal Ensembles and Academic Opera Theatre’ within the Faculty of Music Pedagogy. The documentation submitted by the candidate for the purposes of the competition includes a report demonstrating compliance with the minimum national requirements, a statement outlining the scholarly contributions of her publications and their citations, as well as the candidate’s artistic and academic curriculum vitae.

Aliya Hanse has held the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor since 2020 and has been teaching the courses Vocal Ensembles, Academic Opera Theatre, and Conductor’s Interpretation at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts*. She was born in 1993 in Razgrad. In 2012, she graduated from the *Panayot Pipkov National School of Arts* in Pleven. She subsequently earned a Master’s degree in Folk Ensembles Conducting from *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts* in Plovdiv in 2017. In 2021, she was awarded the

educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD) with a dissertation entitled *Theoretical and Analytical Aspects of the Unity between Poetry and Music in Ivan Spasov's Solo Art Songs* at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv. In the same year, she also obtained the professional qualification 'Symphonic and Opera Conducting' from the Department of Language and Specialized Training at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. In 2022, she acquired an additional professional qualification, 'Teacher of Music in Kindergartens and Schools', from the same department. Ms. Hanse's research interests are focused on the fields of choral and opera conducting. She has participated extensively as a conductor in concerts, competitions, and stage productions. The candidate presents an impressive record of diplomas and awards from numerous competitions, attesting to her sustained commitment and outstanding achievements in the fields of choral and opera conducting.

The submitted Statement of Compliance with the Minimum Required Points by Indicator Group satisfies all applicable requirements, meeting and, indeed, significantly exceeding the criteria established by Decree No. 122 amending and supplementing the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, which entered into force on 6 July 2018. The statement is supported by the required documentary evidence, which has been meticulously compiled and systematically organized.

Under **Group B, Indicator 5 - Leading Artistic Achievement in the Field of Arts**, Aliya Hanse presents seven major artistic achievements, comprising stage productions and concerts held in Plovdiv and Sofia, in which she participated as the conductor.

Ms. Hanse's concert activity represents an undisputed artistic contribution to the fields of opera and choral conducting. The production of *Blue Monday*, based on George Gershwin's jazz opera, was presented under the title *Blue Monday* by the Academic Opera Theatre in three prestigious venues: the Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, the Roman Stadium in Plovdiv, and *Lumière* Hall at the National Palace of Culture in Sofia. Her conducting portfolio

further includes productions of *L'elisir d'amore* by Gaetano Donizetti, a concert performance of *Le nozze di Figaro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *The Gambler* by Luigi Cherubini, and *The Telephone* by Gian Carlo Menotti. These productions introduced audiences to a repertoire that presents considerable interpretative, technical, and musical-dramaturgical challenges for the performers. At the same time, they attest to the broad stylistic scope of Ms. Hanse's artistic interests and musical expertise.

Total for Group B: 245 points out of the required 100 points

Under **Group I, Indicator 7 - Published Monograph Based on a Successfully Defended Doctoral Dissertation for the Award of the Educational and Scientific Degree of Doctor (PhD)**, Aliya Hanse presents the monograph *Theoretical and Analytical Aspects of the Unity between Poetry and Music in Ivan Spasov's Solo Art Songs* (2022), Academic Publications, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv; Management Business Machines Ltd. (M&BM), ISBN 978-619-7682-12-0 (print), ISBN 978-619-7682-13-7 (online), 209 pp. The study constitutes an indisputable scholarly contribution, offering an original theoretical and analytical perspective on Ivan Spasov's solo art songs through an examination of the organic unity between poetry and music.

Under **Indicator 8 - Articles and Papers Published in Scholarly Journals Indexed in Internationally Recognized Scientific Databases**, the candidate presents the paper *The Path to Knowledge through Art and the Perception of Art through Knowledge*, published in the 2022 Thematic Peer-Reviewed Yearbook of Art Studies, Vol. II – *New Art, Art and Society*, Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia

Under **Indicator 9 - Articles and Papers Published in Specialized Publications in the Field of Arts**, the candidate lists four publications.

The scholarly contributions of these publications are likewise indisputable. I shall mention only some of their principal contributions. The papers devoted to the Academic Opera Theatre emphasize its significant role in fostering an educational and creative environment conducive to the professional development of students, while

also creating opportunities for collaboration among a wide range of majors and academic disciplines offered across the three faculties of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. These studies are based primarily on the empirical research method, while also taking into consideration the psychological and emotional factors that shape the overall artistic process and the resulting creative outcomes.

Under **Indicator 13 - Leading (or Independent) Artistic Achievement in the Field of Arts Other than the Principal Habilitation Work**, the candidate presents ten concerts, including international tours with the *Evmolpeya* Choir in Germany, Serbia, North Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Romania.

Under **Indicator 14 - Supporting Artistic Achievement or Participation in a Collective Artistic Project**, seventeen artistic activities are presented, documenting Mr. Hanse's work as conductor of the *Evmolpeya* Choir, the *Pro Belcanto* Vocal Ensemble, the Symphony Orchestra of *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music and Dance, and the Academic Opera Theatre.

Total for Group Г: 685 points out of the required 120 points

Under **Group Д, Indicator 17 - Citations in Peer-Reviewed Monographs and Collective Volumes**, the candidate presents three citations, all documented accurately and with due precision.

Under **Indicator 19 - Reviews of Original Artistic Works or Creative Achievements Published in Specialized Publications in the Field of Arts**, the candidate presents one review: The Artistic and Project Activities of the Academic Opera Theatre of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts under the Direction of Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD, a review by Associate Professor Eduard Sarafyan, PhD, published in *Art Spectrum* Academic Edition, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv.

Total for Group D: 40 points out of the required 40 points

Under **Group E, Indicator 23 - Participation in an International Research, Educational, or Artistic Project**, Aliya Hanse lists the following project:

Voice and Percussion Blended Intensive Programme

2022-1-PLO1-KA131-HED-000054544

Project start date: 29 March 2023

Project end date: 28 May 2023

Erasmus+ Programme

Project partner: Aliya Hanse

Under **Indicator 24 - Leadership of a National Research, Educational, or Artistic Project**, two projects are presented:

1. *From Concerts to Opera: On the Path of Professional Development of Students* (2019-2020), Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts
2. *The Beginning of a Second Creative Decade for the Academic Opera Theatre - Plovdiv* (2021–2022), Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Under **Indicator 28 - Leadership of a Masterclass, Studio, or Workshop in the Field of Arts**, the candidate presents leadership of two workshops:

1. A workshop entitled *Academic Opera Theatre at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv: Interdisciplinary, Artistic and Pedagogical Interaction*, conducted jointly by Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD, and Assistant Professor Alper Yünlütürk, within the International Congress of Social Studies organized by UTAK - Izmir, Turkey, on 16 May 2025
2. A workshop *Musical and Stage Workshop on Arias and Ensembles from Operas and Musicals by Various Composers*, conducted within the Academic Opera Theatre of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, with conductor Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, held on 18 December 2025 in the Concert Hall of the Academy

Under **Indicator 30 - Awards for Artistic Creativity and Performance Granted by National Professional Forums and Organizations**, the candidate has been awarded two *Golden Lyre of Orpheus* prizes, in 2024 and 2026

Total for Group E: 140 points out of the required 50 points

In conclusion, taking into account all the above-mentioned materials, the contributory nature of the artistic achievements, the submitted scholarly works, publications, and projects, as well as the fact that the candidate significantly exceeds the required minimum points across most indicators, I hereby confidently propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury of the present competition recommend Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD, for the academic position of Associate Professor in the major: Vocal Ensembles and Academic Opera Theatre within Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Art.

Sofia, June 07, 2026

Professor Ermila Schweitzer, PhD