

OPINION

by

by **Professor Velislava Angelova Karagenova, PhD**

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

regarding the application documents submitted by

Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD

in connection with the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, major **‘Vocal Ensembles and Academic Opera Theatre’**, at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.*

Candidate Information

Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD is the sole applicant in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the major ‘Vocal Ensembles and Academic Opera Theatre’ at the Department of Classical, Pop and Jazz Performing Arts. The documentation submitted by the candidate includes a summary of compliance with the minimum national requirements by indicator groups, an author’s statement of contributions to research activity, evidentiary materials related to artistic and scholarly work, as well as a curriculum vitae. The summary of compliance with the minimum national requirements has been prepared accurately. All submitted materials demonstrate that the candidate fully meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of *Associate Professor*

Aliya Hanse completed her secondary education at *Panayot Pipkov National School of Arts - Pleven* in 2012. She continued her studies at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv* in the major ‘Folk Ensemble Conducting’, which she completed in 2017 with a Master’s degree. In 2021, she was awarded the educational and scientific degree ‘PhD’. In addition, she obtained two further qualifications from the Department for Language and Specialized Training: Professional Qualification in ‘Symphonic and Opera Conducting’, as well as Professional Qualification ‘Music Teacher in Kindergartens and Schools’.

Assessment of the Submitted Materials from the Scientometric Table in the Relevant Field of Higher Education

Within **group B indicator**, Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD has presented seven artistic performances defined as her habilitation work:

The production ‘Blue Monday’ based on the jazz opera Blue Monday by George Gershwin, staged at the Academic Opera Theatre with conductor Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD;

The production of selected fragments from the opera L’elisir d’amore by Gaetano Donizetti, presented by the Academic Opera Theatre

The concert performance of selected fragments from the opera The Marriage of Figaro (Le nozze di Figaro) by W. A. Mozart, performed at the Concert Hall of Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance on 14 February 2024, conducted by Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD.

The production of the opera The Gambler by L. Cherubini at the Academic Opera Theatre of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, conducted by Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD

The production of the opera The Telephone by Gian Carlo Menotti at the Academic Opera Theatre of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, conducted by Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD.

The staged performance of Bastien and Bastienne by W. A. Mozart at the Academic Opera Theatre of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, held on 11 April 2025 at the 'A'part' Theatre Hall - Plovdiv, conducted by Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD.

The concert performance of selected fragments from the opera Il Trovatore by Giuseppe Verdi at the Academic Opera Theatre of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, held on 8 May 2025 in the Concert Hall of the Academy, conducted by Senior Assistant Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD.

They reveal her in-depth and sustained interest in the field of operatic stage performance. The fact that all presented productions and performances have been realized within the last three years demonstrates an active and dynamically developing artistic trajectory, reflecting dedication and strong commitment to her chosen professional path. At the same time, the large number of repeated performances across different stages, cities, and institutions, as well as their presence in various forums, speaks to their significance and contribution to the development of Plovdiv's cultural life. It is also an indicator of the success of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts* as an institution training highly educated and motivated professionals.

The leading artistic activities and participations presented under **indicator Г13**, which are not part of the main habilitation work, further complement Senior Assistant Professor Hanse's artistic profile. As conductor of the *Evmolpeya* Choir, she has realized numerous concerts and performances both in Bulgaria and abroad. These concerts enrich her artistic activity and skills and demonstrate a solid and diverse stage presence. The quality of the presented repertoire is also noteworthy, particularly the significant presence of Bulgarian works. The achievements of the *Evmolpeya* Choir are further evidenced by press reviews and critical responses.

The scientific priorities of Associate Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD are presented within **Group Г indicators, items 7, 8, and 9**. The achievements of contemporary Bulgarian music, and in particular the original vocal works of Ivan Spasov, form the basis of the book 'Theoretical and Analytical Aspects of the Unity Between Poetry and Music in the Solo Art

Songs of Ivan Spasov', 2022, Academic Publications - *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv; ISBN 978-619-7682-12-0, published on the basis of a defended doctoral dissertation (Indicator A). The work covers a large number of solo songs by the composer Ivan Spasov, which are analyzed and presented for the first time in music literature. Aliya Hanse emphasizes their significant place in Spasov's oeuvre with the aim of further developing both scholarly and performance interest in them. The book includes interviews containing valuable guidance on the interpretation of Ivan Spasov's artistic works, drawn from the rich experience of Prof. Vasilka Spasova - conductor, Prof. Roksana Bogdanova - pianist, and Prof. Zornitsa Petrova, PhD - vocal performer of Ivan Spasov's works.

The five reports further complement the scope of the candidate's scholarly research. Some of them are the result of her practical teaching experience and her work with the Academic Opera Theatre.

Beyond the candidate's rich and diverse artistic and scholarly activity, it is also necessary to emphasize the responsible pedagogical work of Associate Professor Hanche, her active participation in academic project activities, the conduct of master classes, and her involvement in mobility programs under the Erasmus+ programme. The submitted materials reveal the profile of a young musician with an active, ambitious, dedicated, and committed approach to musical art and to the institution to which she belongs. These are also my personal impressions of my colleague Aliya Hanse, of her successful artistic performances, of the level and quality of her doctoral dissertation, and of her collegial cooperation in demanding situations.

On the basis of the above, I support the candidate's application and recommend to the esteemed academic jury that Associate Professor Aliya Hanse, PhD be awarded the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in Professional Field 8.3 'Music and Dance Arts' – **'Vocal Ensembles and Academic Opera Theatre'**

May, 2026

Prof. Velislava Angelova Karagenova, PhD