

## **PEER REVIEW**

**by Prof. Yavor Svetozarov Konov, Doctor of Science**

full-time lecturer in the Department of Music

of New Bulgarian University – Sofia,

acquired his scientific degrees and titles in

Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”

**for the contributions of the artistic and creative activity**

**of Assoc. Prof. Dr. BORISLAV ALEKSANDROV YASENOV,**

full-time lecturer in

Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing Department

to the Faculty of Music Pedagogy

at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv,

**proposed by him as a habilitation thesis**

**for his participation in the competition for occupation of**

**the academic position “FLUTE PROFESSOR”,**

in Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”,

announced in State Gazette, Issue No 12 of 11.02.2020

According to the documentation provided to me, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov was born in 1967 in Plovdiv.

His educational curriculum can be summarized by the fact that in 1986 he graduated with a flute from the Music High School in his hometown (today: Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance), as a student of Emanuil Didov and Stefan Pashev. In 1992, he graduated with a Master degree from Plovdiv Academy of Music, Dance and Arts (now Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts), as a student of Assoc. Prof. Kiril Grozdanov. He also has 2 specializations at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music in Sofia: 1) with Prof. Lidiya Oshavkova (“Instrumental Art – Flute”, 2009) and 2) with Prof. Simeon Shterev (“Pop and Jazz – Flute”, 2010). In 2013, he defended his dissertation at the National Academy of Music in Sofia on the topic: “Some Aspects of the Flute Performing Art in Baroque and Jazz”, and obtained the educational and scientific degree of Doctor of Musicology and Musical Arts.

The pedagogical work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov as a teacher of flute (classical and jazz) extends back to 3 decades (since 1988), evolving from teaching positions in music schools and academies in Plovdiv and Kazanlak to the position of Associate Professor of Flute at the Academy in Plovdiv (since 2008 on a part-time basis, since 2012 a full-time Assistant, since 2015 a Chief Assistant, since 2017 an Associate Professor). The fact that Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yasenov is the author of the training programs at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Flute is not to be left aside: 1. Classical Flute, 2. Pop and Jazz Flute, 3. Pop and Jazz Formations, 4. Theory and Improvisation, 5. Chamber Music.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yasenov has a sufficient study load at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. His students show excellent performance and realization as performers (soloists, participants in various formations, orchestrators) and/or teachers. He has a student approved to study at the Conservatory of Trieste under the Erasmus program. He is also an

organizer of student concerts at the Blue House in Plovdiv. Dr. Yassenov participates in a number of juries at national competitions in our country.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov has conducted a large number of master classes in flute – at the Academy, the National School of Music and Performing Arts (Burgas), National Schools of Arts (Varna, Pleven, Ruse), various other schools in Bulgaria and abroad: at the George Enescu National University of Arts (Romania), at the Giuseppe Tartini State Conservatory – Trieste (Italy), etc.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yassenov created and since 1989 has been leading his Jazz Formation (until 2017 at the Plovdiv Municipality), with which he carries out a rich concert and recording activity. He is also the author of a number of compositions and arrangements for various performing groups.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yassenov has had concerts and participations in Sofia, Bankya, Bansko, Haskovo, Dimitrovgrad, Sopot, Sozopol (“Apollonia”), Balchik and many more – both as a classical flutist and as a jazzman. He has soloed in symphony and chamber orchestras (Vidin, Sliven, Yambol, Kazanlak). He has had recordings on BNT, BNR and has released 3 original jazz albums by Riva Sound Records Ltd.: 1) “Mo, di, log” (1995), 2) “Crazy World” (1998), 3) “There, where...” (2004), as well as classical: “Baroque and Modernity” with the guitar duo Valchevi (2002), and participations in a number of other recording projects.

**Summarized:** as a flute performer (solo and in formations) and pedagogue, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov has given concerts and has taught (including master classes) in Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Romania, Greece, and Republic of North Macedonia. Informed people know the similarities between Baroque and Jazz: constructively, and as executive and informational approaches – Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yassenov is a bright specialist, practitioner, and theorist in this aspect. He is a wonderful specialist in both Classics and Jazz – a not uncommon phenomenon, especially beneficial for himself and his colleagues and alumni.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov has been a member of the Academic Council of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts since 2016 and the head of the Department since March 2020.

For his work he has received awards from the Rector of the Academy (2017) and from the Mayor of Kazanlak (twice – in 2007 and in 2016).

The last habilitation of my colleague Borislav Yassenov is as an Associate Professor at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (2017): it is based on 2 of his publications, which presented him as a composer and musicologist: 1) “Jazz Pieces for Flute And Formations” – a collection of works by B. Yassenov (published by the Academy and Astarta Publishing House – Plovdiv, 2016), and 2) “Flute Art and Culture from the Mid-Eighteenth Century to the 1930s” (monograph, published by the Academy and Astarta Publishing House – Plovdiv, 2017). Accordingly, my assessment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yassenov as a candidate in this competition for occupation of the position of Professor will cover his entire teaching, performing, composing, and arranging activities – and he has the wealth of both classical and jazz flutist, performer, improviser, and composer. I pay special attention to the activity after the occupation of the position of Associate Professor – an activity sufficiently valuable, voluminous, and diverse for the academic activity of Flute Professor at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Here I will say and emphasize that, after reading in full,

carefully and thoroughly the documentation provided by Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yassenov for his participation in this competition, I saw that it not only meets the point requirements of National Center for Information and Documentation for scientometrics, but also far exceeds them – in addition, I think, a number of his activities and assets have not been mentioned in the documents.

Here I will present explicitly, in connection with his participation in this competition for Professor of Flute the following:

(1) the following 5 concerts of Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yassenov, declared in this competition as a leading (independent) creative performance in the field of arts (described in column B5 of the Table of the National Center for Information and Documentation):

1.1. Concert, 23.01.2020, Sliven Hall – Sliven, B. Yassenov (flute, guest soloist), Sliven Symphony Orchestra with conductor Dimitar Karaminkov;

1.2. Flute Protuberances – concert, 20.11.2019, in the Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Participants: B. Yassenov (flute), Velislava Karagenova (piano);

1.3. Concert, 14.06.2019, Vidin Philharmonic Hall, B. Yassenov (flute, soloist), Vidin Symphony with guest conductor Michael Rosenzweig;

1.4. Latin American Nuances – concert, 21.11.2018, in the Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Participants: B. Yassenov (flute), Stela Dinkova (classical guitar);

1.5. Through the Flute Music of Germany – concert, 14.03.2018, in the Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Participants: B. Yassenov (flute), V. Karagenova (piano),

as well as

(2) the following 3 concert and creative realizations of Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yassenov (described in column B4 of the same table):

2.1. Reflection – author’s concert of Borislav Yassenov (all works and their arrangements performed in the concert were composed by him) within the Jazz Festival in the Valley of the Thracian Kings, Kazanlak. Held on 30.08.2019 at the Art Gallery, Kazanlak at 6 PM. Participants: Borislav Yassenov (flute), Yordan Tonovski (piano), Radoslav Paunov (bass) and Aleksandar Kamenov (drums);

2.2. Author’s concert of Borislav Yassenov (all works and their arrangements performed in the concert were composed by Borislav Yassenov) at the Plovdiv Jazz Evenings International Festival within the Autumn Salon of Arts, Plovdiv. Held on 11.10.2008 in the Plovdiv Concert Hall at 8 PM. Participants: Borislav Yassenov (flute), Miroslav Turiyski (piano), Aleksandar Lekov (bass), Radul Nachkov (drums);

2.3. CD “There, where...” – author’s album (all works and their arrangements were composed by Borislav Yassenov), produced by BNR – Plovdiv, released by Riva Sound – Sofia, 23.01.2004. Participants: Borislav Yassenov (flute, author, and performer), Miroslav Turiyski (piano), Pasho Konov (bass), Ivan Enev (drums), Nikolay Karageorgiev (guitar in plays 2, 3, 7, 8), Atanas Hadzhiev (saxophone in plays 1, 2, 7), Plamen Dobrev (flute in play 5).

The small side volume of this peer review does not allow me to list in such a detailed completeness all the activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yasenov, which should be taken into account for his participation in this competition.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Yasenov has publications in specialized issues, and I will list only those after his habilitation as an Associate Professor (2017): Antonio Vivaldi, Sonata for Flute and Digital Bass, Opus 13, No 6, RV 58, g moll (Yearbook of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2018) and “Jazz and Dance Music – Aspects And Analyzes (Through the Eyes of the Flutist)” and “Carl Reinecke, Concert for Flute and Orchestra, D major, Opus 283 – Musical-Aesthetic and Interpretive Analysis” (Collection – Science, Education and Innovation in the Field of Art International Scientific Conference – Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2017 and 2019). As a musicologist he has been quoted by colleagues. As a performer, he enjoys great reviews.

I will not make additional (critical) opinions, recommendations, and remarks on the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov in this competition for Professor of Flute at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – there is no need.

**IN CONCLUSION:** Based on the above, I am convinced that my colleague Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yasenov – as a flutist performer (solo and in various formations, both in Classics and Jazz), teacher, composer and arranger – has every reason to take the academic position of Professor of Flute at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts and I vote “YES” on his election. I think that this will be the conclusion of the other colleagues from the scientific jury in this competition. Accordingly, I propose to the Academic Council of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts to elect him as a Professor of Flute (under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”).

Sofia, 16.06.2020

Signature:

(Prof. Yavor Sv. Konov, Doctor of Science)