

STATEMENT

**by Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova, PhD
regarding the competition for the academic position of
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
announced in State Gazette Issue 57 dated 15.07.2025
in the professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts
major 'Piano'
for the needs of the Department of 'Piano and Accordion'
at the Faculty of 'Music Pedagogy'
of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts –
Plovdiv**

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate.

The documents submitted for the competition comply with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at AMDFA. **The sole candidate for the academic position of Associate Professor in the announced competition is Assistant Professor Georgi Anastasov Slavchev, PhD, whose documents are complete, meticulously prepared, and meet all formal requirements.**

Georgi Slavchev comes from a family of prominent musicians from Plovdiv. He began his education at the Plovdiv Music School and, at the age of 16, moved to the United States, where he consecutively studied at the private arts high school *Idyllwild Arts Academy*, California; earned a Bachelor's degree at *Rice University*, Houston; a Master's degree and Artist Diploma at the *Cleveland Institute of Music* under the renowned pedagogue and performer Sergei Babayan; and a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree at the *University of Southern California*, Los Angeles, specializing in piano performance, piano pedagogy, music history, and electro-acoustic media. His entire educational path has been accompanied by numerous awards, highest distinctions, achievements on the concert stage, and recognition from leading musicians in various fields.

The creative work of G. Slavchev spans several areas:

- Concert activity in several countries as a soloist with prestigious orchestras and in solo recitals.
- Authorship of solo, chamber, choral, and symphonic works, as well as music for theatre, numerous short and documentary films, awarded at film festivals.
- Compositional and production activity in the fields of pop and electronic music. He is the author of the music for the 'Anthem of the City of Plovdiv', for which he was awarded the Honorary Badge of the City.
- Recording activity for radio and television, with numerous CDs and albums issued in classical, original, popular, film, solo, and ensemble music.
- Teaching activity in piano, chamber, choral, film, and electronic music at prestigious educational institutions in the USA. Since 2021, he has been a faculty member at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv*.

2. Brief presentation of the materials submitted for review according to the indicators of the scientometric table.

Group A Indicators

The candidate presents his doctoral dissertation 'Fifty-Three Etudes on Chopin by Leopold Godowsky' - continuation and evolution of the transcendental piano technique - history, partial analysis, and practical performance solutions (2005), along with the diploma awarding the educational and scientific degree of 'PhD No. 296443 dated 07.06.2007 from the *University of Southern California, USA*.

Group B 5 Indicators

The following performances are presented as corresponding, in weight, to a habilitation work:

1. Maurice Ravel - Piano Concerto in G major, *Sofia Music Weeks XXX IF* - BNR Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ruslan Raychev; 15.06.1999, *Bulgaria Hall, Sofia*.
2. Mozart - Piano Concerto in A major - IFCM – *Sofia Soloists Ensemble*, conducted by Plamen Dzhurov, 20.06.2006, *Ethnographic Museum Hall, Plovdiv*.
3. Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor - Ruse Philharmonic, conducted by Tsanko Delibozov, 07.06.1998, *Philharmonic Hall, Ruse*.
4. Johannes Brahms - Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor – *Plovdiv Opera and Philharmonic Society*, conducted by Georgi Dimitrov, 10.03.2006, *Concert Hall, Plovdiv*.
5. Solo recital - *Sofia Summer 2001*, 29 June 2001, *Bulgaria Chamber Hall*.
6. Solo recital - *Pianistas Internacionales*, 18 October 1997, *Manuel Ponce de Hardin Board Hall, Cuernavaca, Mexico*.

The listed creative activities significantly exceed the required number of points according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. Two main aspects stand out:

1. Georgi Slavchev performs on prestigious musical stages such as *Bulgaria Hall (Sofia)*, *Ethnographic Museum (Plovdiv)*, *Philharmonic Hall (Ruse)*, *Manuel Ponce de Jardín Borda Hall (Mexico)*, among others, under the baton of leading Bulgarian conductors such as Ruslan Raychev, Plamen Dzhurov, Tsanko Delibozov, and Georgi Dimitrov. These facts are an indisputable guarantee of the quality of the performances.
2. The repertoire is exceptionally broad and covers all major representatives of the Classical and Romantic schools. The richness of the solo programs highlights the main qualities of pianist Slavchev – youthful enthusiasm, brilliant virtuosity, and infectious energy.

Group F Indicators

Item 7 The published book based on the defended doctoral dissertation – 'Continuation and Evolution of the Transcendental Piano Technique in 'Fifty-Three Etudes on Chopin' by Leopold Godowsky' - constitutes a contribution to Bulgarian musicology and piano pedagogy not only with its informational content but also through the practical performance solutions it offers for these complex works.

Item 9 The two published articles in specialized publications of the AMDFA – 'On Dvořák and His Piano Works' and 'Who is Leopold Godowsky?' - again highlight the high practical

value of G. Slavchev's research and are intended to stimulate students' interest in lesser-known and performed piano works.

Item 13: A selection of six performances, again exceeding the required minimum, demonstrates the colleague's brilliant piano abilities – three piano concertos, two recitals abroad, and one published compact disc. The programs are impressive in their wide temporal and stylistic range and confirm the international recognition and significance of the pianist's performance mastery.

Item 14: Four performances are included, demonstrating Slavchev's engagement with chamber music, as well as popular genres, crossover concerts, and unusual ensembles.

Group D Indicators

This indicator correctly reflects four reviews that cover Slavchev's activity in various aspects, confirming the flourishing of his talent, his laureate titles from 13 international competitions, and the captivating naturalness of his interpretation.

Group E Indicators

Under **item 28**, three masterclasses conducted by G. Slavchev are listed: at *Dobrin Petkov* National Music School - Plovdiv, and at the Faculty of Music, University of Veracruz, Xalapa, Mexico. The interest in these masterclasses is based both on the pianist's individual performance skills and on his charm in interacting with others.

3. Contributions of leading creative achievements.

As mentioned above, the selected creative achievements convincingly highlight the abilities of pianist G. Slavchev as a solo performer and as a soloist with major philharmonic orchestras. These are authoritative concerts that demonstrate the colleague's potential and his indisputable status as a master of piano tone and technique.

4. Contributions of other submitted habilitation materials.

The credibility of the other submitted habilitation materials is authentic and valuable. They present G. Slavchev as an experienced chamber performer, a successful scholar, and a dedicated pedagogue who inspires the younger generation with his example and innovative ideas.

5. Personal Impressions.

For the past three years, G. Slavchev has been a part of the Piano and Accordion Department at AMDFA, and for almost two years he has served as the Department Secretary. He demonstrates himself as a responsible lecturer and colleague, bringing new ideas and creative potential to the faculty. I would also like to highlight his qualities as a composer, which are briefly mentioned in the habilitation report, but we have witnessed the performance of his original works on the Academy's concert stage, generating significant interest and enthusiastic applause.

6. Conclusion

Based on all the materials received and reviewed, as well as my personal impressions and professional evaluation, I assess the overall activity of Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev as extensive, professionally solid, accurate, progressive, and of pronounced contributory character.

I confidently propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury award the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts, major 'Piano', to Asst. Prof. Georgi Anastasov Slavchev, PhD.

November 10, 2025
Plovdiv

Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Kuzmanova, PhD