

# OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov, PhD

*Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy for Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv

regarding the submitted documents of

**Asst. Prof. Georgi Anastasov Slavchev, PhD**

Concerning the competition for occupying the **academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts, major Piano at the Faculty of Musical Pedagogy**, Department of Piano and Accordion at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv, pursuant to Rector's Order No. RD-27-120/12.09.2025 - resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Musical Pedagogy (Record No. 17 of 12.09.2025)

## **General presentation of the procedure:**

The materials submitted by Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD, fully comply with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and with the Internal Regulations of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy for Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. He is the sole candidate who applied for this competition. The submitted materials contain documents and reports related to his education, academic degree, teaching activity, research involvement, administrative work, as well as the entirety of his scholarly and scientific and applied contributions. The documents have been prepared with exceptional professionalism and reflect the candidate's broad creative, research, and pedagogical scope.

## **Brief biographical data and general description of activity:**

Georgi Anastasov Slavchev is a pianist of international recognition with an impressive professional biography. He began his education at the Plovdiv School of Music in the class of the distinguished piano pedagogue Yuliya Girginova. From an early age, he demonstrated remarkable talent, earning numerous awards from national and international competitions. His development continued naturally in the United States, where he completed his higher education: a Bachelor's degree with the highest distinction (*summa cum laude*) at a university in Houston, and a Master's degree in Piano at the *Cleveland Institute of Music* under the eminent pedagogue and performer Sergei Babayan. In the next stage of his academic advancement, he earned the degree *Doctor of Musical Arts* from the *University of Southern California*, specializing in piano performance, piano pedagogy, music history, and electro-acoustic media.

His education at one of the world's leading music institutions shaped him into a pianist of high rank - distinguished by erudition, technical mastery, and artistic taste. In his international artistic career, Asst. Prof. Slavchev has performed in the USA, Germany, the Czech Republic, Turkey, the Philippines, and Bulgaria, as well as at festivals in Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Plovdiv.

He has appeared as a soloist with a number of American symphony orchestras from Ohio and California, performing *Piano Concerto No. 2* by Frédéric Chopin.

On the Bulgarian stage, he has performed with the Rouse Philharmonic, the Plovdiv Philharmonic, and *Sofia Soloists* Chamber Ensemble. He has performed Maurice Ravel's *Piano Concerto* under the baton of Ruslan Raychev, Johannes Brahms' *Piano Concerto No. 1* with the Plovdiv Philharmonic, a Mozart concerto conducted by Plamen Dzhurov, among others.

His stage performances are marked by brilliant technique, a clear sonic concept, and an intellectually constructed dramaturgical framework. These qualities shape the profile of an interpreter with pronounced conceptual depth, stylistic precision, and profound inner discipline.

**The presented Report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements according to Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act confirms that the candidate fully meets and significantly exceeds the minimum scientometric indicators across all groups, which demonstrates the consistency and versatility of his professional achievements.**

- Group A: doctoral dissertation, defended in full compliance with the requirements for the degree of *Doctor (PhD)*.
- Group B: habilitation proposal, including representative research and concert activity.
- Group Γ: publications and authored materials with a theoretical-analytical focus.
- Group Д: reviews, citations, and media publications reflecting high public recognition.
- Group E: pedagogical, concert, and project activity in Bulgaria and abroad.

Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD presents analytical texts, methodological developments, and scholarly publications devoted to piano interpretation and sound production techniques. In his habilitation work, the candidate examines the stylistic features of piano music by Antonín Dvořák and Leopold Godowsky, emphasizing folk elements, polyphonic organization, and pianistic ornamentation. His analytical approach is both well-argued and contemporary, relying on historical context and comparative methods between different national schools. The content is enriched with practical examples from concert practice and observations on the psychological aspects of interpretation.

Among his publications, notable texts appear in the anthologies of AMDFA *Spring Scientific Readings*, as well as in international forums where he presents reports on issues such as timbral balance, piano physiology, and preparation for concert performance.

His performance activity reveals a high degree of professional culture, in which technique fully serves the artistic concept. Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD achieves a vivid timbral colour, fine dynamic gradation, and a convincing emotional line. His concert programs include classical, romantic, and contemporary works, presented with intellectual maturity and solid stage confidence. The artistic-creative activity of Dr. Slavchev is manifested through a rich concert repertoire. His stage appearances are distinguished by a high artistic level, intonational clarity, precise dynamics, and a rich timbral palette - **traits of a musician with an established interpretative school.**

In recent years, Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD has been an active faculty member at the Department of Piano and Accordion at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv. The courses he teaches, including *Special Subject - Piano*, *Piano Accompaniment*, *Chamber Music*, and *Compulsory Piano*, cover a wide range of educational areas. His pedagogical work is characterized by analytical rigor, patience, and attention to individual approaches. He applies methods characteristic of the American pianistic school, successfully adapting them to the specifics of the Bulgarian educational system. In his lessons, the candidate focuses on sound technique, depth of tone, and phrase logic, cultivating in students a sense of artistic integrity and stage culture. The results of his work are evident in his students' participation in student concerts and national competitions, as well as in their stage presence and musical maturity.

In addition to teaching, Asst. Prof. Slavchev is an active participant in academic life - serving on committees, juries, and organizational teams for competitions, as well as coordinating student concert events at the Academy.

As a colleague and observer of Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev's professional development, I have first-hand impressions of his artistry, precision, and dedication to music. He is an exceptionally prepared, disciplined, and intelligent artist who inspires his students through his personal example of stage professionalism. His art is characterized by stylistic purity, solid technique, and a profound understanding of the aesthetic principles of pianistic art. Beyond being an outstanding performer, he has established himself as a researcher and pedagogue, enriching contemporary music education in Bulgaria (undisputed contribution).

The professional biography of the candidate in the areas of artistic-creative, concert, and project activity is highly impressive. The diverse spectrum of his engagements clearly follows a path of high standards worthy of by the younger generation. **The quality of his achievements as a virtuoso pianist, composer, project initiator, and visionary reflects the extent of his contributions.** Having built a successful career, Asst. Prof. Slavchev, PhD continues to develop and articulate his sensitivity toward musical semantics.

I consider that his candidacy fully complies with the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the regulations for its application.

The presented materials, including his research, artistic-creative, and pedagogical activities, are clear evidence that Asst. Prof. Georgi Anastassov Slavchev, PhD fully meets all national and institutional requirements for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor in Piano, in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Art. His work demonstrates sustainable professional achievements of national and international significance, distinguished by a contributory character, artistic maturity, and pedagogical effectiveness.

**On the basis of all the above, I give my positive evaluation and propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to appoint Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD to the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, specializing in Piano, within the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Department of Piano and Accordion.**

Date: November 11, 2025

Assoc. Prof. Zhan Pehlivanov, PhD