

# OPINION

by

**Prof. Boryana Asenova Lambreva, PhD**

on the submitted materials for the competition announced by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv for the academic position of **Associate Professor** in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts, major **Piano**, announced in the State Gazette (Issue 57 / 15.07.2025), with candidate

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

## **Regarding the Competition:**

The competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** in Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts was announced for the needs of the Department of **Piano and Accordion** at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. Only one candidate, Asst. Prof. Dr. Georgi Slavchev from *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, submitted documents for participation. All stages of the competition were conducted properly, in compliance with the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the Rules for its implementation. The submitted documents and materials meet the conditions for fulfilling the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of **Associate Professor**, as confirmed at the first meeting of the scientific jury.

## **Candidate Information:**

Georgi Slavchev has an impressive creative biography, marked by numerous activities, almost always crowned with awards. Until the age of 16, he studied at the Music School in Plovdiv, after which he moved to the United States, where he completed his secondary and higher musical education with excellent results. At all stages of his education, Georgi Slavchev excelled, receiving prestigious and honorary distinctions. In 2005, he obtained the academic and scientific degree of Doctor of Musical Arts from the *University of Southern California*, specializing in piano performance, piano pedagogy, music history, and electro-acoustic media. As the successor of the high-level performance mastery of his renowned teachers (Sergei Babayan, John Perry, Paul

Schoenly, and others), Slavchev has performed with great success on the concert stage, giving solo recitals and participating in concerts with symphony orchestras at prestigious venues in the USA, Russia, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, and many other countries. His performance in a solo recital at *Carnegie Hall* is particularly notable, as are his appearances as a soloist with orchestras such as the *Cleveland Symphony Orchestra*, orchestras in California, Colorado, Bursa, the Philippines, and others. He is the recipient of 14 awards from piano competitions, and has participated in numerous prestigious festivals and other musical forums worldwide. Georgi Slavchev is also a composer, with works in the solo, chamber, choral, and symphonic genres. He has made numerous recordings for radio and television companies and has released compact discs. After an almost 30-year successful career in performance, pedagogy, and composition in the United States, Georgi Slavchev returned to Bulgaria to pass on his rich performance and teaching experience in his homeland.

Without a doubt, the candidate is a person of broad creative interests, with numerous achievements demonstrating a high professional level, whether as a pianist or a composer. This is further evidenced by the many awards and distinctions that Georgi Slavchev has accumulated throughout his career as a distinguished and accomplished musician.

#### **Evaluation of the Presented Report on the Minimum Required Points by Indicator Groups:**

The Report has been prepared correctly, supported by the necessary evidence, and meets all requirements, often significantly exceeding the parameters set by Decree No. 122 amending and supplementing the Rules for the Implementation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. It presents Georgi Slavchev as an exceptionally active musician, primarily oriented toward diverse and highly artistic creative projects.

As a commentary on the content of the attached Report, I will focus on several indicators.

*In Indicator 1 of Group A Indicators*, Georgi Slavchev submitted his dissertation for the award of the academic and scientific degree of **Doctor of Musical Arts**, entitled '*Fifty-Three Etudes on Chopin by Leopold Godowsky – Continuation and Evolution of Transcendental Piano Technique – History, Partial Analysis, and Practical Performance Solutions*'; April 2, 2005, University of Southern California – Thornton School of Music. This work contains valuable scientific and applied contributions regarding performance and pedagogical practice in Bulgaria. Based on this dissertation, he also published a book: *Continuation and Evolution of Transcendental Piano Technique in 'Fifty-Three Etudes on Chopin by Leopold Godowsky'*, 87 pages, ISBN 978-619-7682-50-2. Above all, the choice of topic is inherently significant, as Leopold Godowsky's work is little known in Bulgaria. The true contribution of the work lies in the development of systematized practical

exercises and useful guidelines for interpretation and purely technical aspects of performance, including suggestions for pedaling and fingering, which Slavchev provides based on his own empirical experience.

*In Indicator 5 of Group B Indicators*, the candidate presents six major performances, equivalent in weight and significance to a habilitation work. These include four piano concertos (by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Ravel) and two solo piano recitals. This selection further demonstrates the broad repertoire range of the pianist Georgi Slavchev, both in the genre of the piano concerto and in the programs of his solo recitals. In both cases, Slavchev seeks interpretative challenges, performing works with diverse stylistic and genre characteristics.

Further in the attached report, under *Indicators 13 – Leading (or solo) creative activity in the arts, which is not the main habilitation work* and *14 – Supporting creative activity or participation in a collective artistic product*, a number of additional concerts are listed. These performances, in addition to their thematic diversity, aim to enrich and complement Slavchev’s artistic profile, and include appearances with various traditional and non-traditional chamber ensembles and performers.

In addition to these key aspects of the candidate’s work, master classes in Bulgaria and Mexico, which he has conducted, are highlighted, as well as his two publications in the printed journals of AMDFA, concerning the works of Antonín Dvořák and Leopold Godowsky. The report also emphasizes the high critical appreciation of his performance style, reflected in reviews of some of his concerts.

**Conclusion:**

I conclude my Opinion with the following assessment: based on all the above, the submitted materials, and the conclusions drawn regarding the artistic and scholarly activities of Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD, taking into account his extensive pianistic activity and the contributory nature of his scholarly texts, I give my positive evaluation and *recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury in this competition to award Georgi Anastassov Slavchev the academic position of Associate Professor in Piano within professional field 8.3 – Music and Dance Arts.*

Sofia

Prof. Boryana Lambreva, PhD

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