

## OPINION

on the creative work of Assistant Professor Georgi Anastasov Slavchev, PhD,  
participant in the competition for *Associate Professor* in the field 8.3. *Music and  
Dance Arts*, with a scientific specialty in *Musicology and Musical Art*

Reviewer: Prof. Sava Dimitrov, PhD

Assistant Professor Georgi Anastasov Slavchev, PhD completed his higher education in Cleveland, USA, and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, specializing in piano performance, piano pedagogy, music history, and electro-acoustic media. In 2005, he defended his dissertation titled '*Fifty-Three Etudes on Chopin by Leopold Godowsky*' – *Continuation and Evolution of Transcendental Piano Technique – History, Partial Analysis, and Practical Performance Solutions*. He has taught piano, chamber music, choral, film, and electronic music at prestigious institutions in the USA.

He is the author of solo, chamber, choral, and symphonic compositions, as well as music for theatre, short films, and documentaries, some of which have been awarded at film festivals. He also composes and produces in the fields of pop and electronic music. His creative biography includes recordings for radio and television, as well as released CDs and albums featuring classical, original, popular, film, solo, and ensemble music. He has received awards from international competitions and has maintained an active concert career in the USA, Bulgaria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Greece, Luxembourg, Turkey, Mexico, the Philippines, and other countries. He was awarded First Prize at the National Competition '*New Bulgarian Music in 7/8*'.

Since 2021, he has been a faculty member at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts*.

The submitted documents show that, as a candidate for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field of higher education 8.3. Musical and Dance Arts, Assistant Professor G. Slavchev, PhD meets all the criteria and indicators for long-term evaluation as specified in the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the AMDFA and the Procedure for Long-Term Evaluation of Faculty at the AMDFA, and he fulfils the national requirements by indicator groups for the respective academic position.

For participation in the competition, the candidate presented a very extensive creative biography, which includes all of his activities as a performer.

## Group B Indicators

Under Indicator 5 (realized creative achievement), the candidate presents, as a performer, the completed concert performance of Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major, M. 83, within the framework of the XXX International Festival 'Sofia Music Weeks' in 1999. This concert is technically very demanding and provides the candidate an opportunity to demonstrate exceptional performance skills. The concert was performed with the Symphony Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio under the direction of Ruslan Raychev at *Bulgaria* Hall.

This indicator also includes two solo recitals: one within the 'Pianistas Internacionales' series at the *Manuel Ponce de Jardín Borda* Hall in Cuernavaca, Mexico, in 1997, and another as part of the 'Sofia Summer 2001' series at *Bulgaria* Chamber Hall in 2001.

Additionally, this indicator covers three more concert performances: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Ruse Philharmonic under the baton of Tsanko Delibozov at the Philharmonic Hall, Ruse, in 1998; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Concerto in A major at the International Chamber Music Festival with *Sofia Soloists* Chamber Ensemble under the direction of Plamen Dzhurov at the Ethnographic Museum Hall, Plovdiv, in 2006; and Johannes Brahms' Piano Concerto in D minor with the Plovdiv Opera and Philharmonic Society under the direction of Georgi Dimitrov at the Concert Hall, Plovdiv, also in 2006. In all these concerts, the candidate also demonstrates his exceptional performance mastery.

## Group Γ Indicators

**Indicator 7** (publication of a book based on the doctoral dissertation) refers to the published book *Continuation and Evolution of Transcendental Technique in 'Fifty-Three Etudes on Chopin's Etudes'* by Leopold Godowsky, 87 pages.

**Indicator 9** (articles and papers published in specialized art publications) includes two articles: 'On Dvořák and His Piano Works' from the Spring Scientific Readings 2024, and 'Who is Leopold Godowsky?', published in the Yearbook of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

**Indicator 13** (leading creative achievement in the arts, which is not a primary habilitation work) includes two solo recitals: one at Emerson Unitarian

Church in Houston, USA, in 1997, and another at the Pianistic Forum at Villa ‘Musica’ in Mainz, Germany, in 2000.

The same indicator also includes the performances of the *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in F minor* by J. S. Bach, together with *Sofia Soloists* Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Plamen Dzhurov at the 31st Chamber Music Festival in Plovdiv Concert Hall in 1995; the *Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor* by F. Chopin with the Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra conducted by Scott O’Neil in Stude Concert Hall, Houston, Texas, in 1996; as well as the *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor* by P. I. Tchaikovsky, performed with the State Philharmonic – Plovdiv under the baton of Plamen Dzhurov at the Plovdiv Concert Hall in 1999.

The same indicator also includes the compact disc published by the candidate at *Rice University* in 1998.

Indicator 14 (supporting creative activity or participation in a collective artistic product) includes the candidate’s participation in the performance of the *Piano Quintet in E-flat minor* by J. N. Hummel at Villa ‘Musica’, Landau, Germany, in 1998; his participation with Maria Elena Infantino as Édith Piaf in Baldini Hall, Rome, in 2013; participation in the ‘Sofia Musical Summer’ festival with the concert *Music for Two, Four and Six Hands* together with Dora and Anastas Slavchev in 2008; as well as participation in the *Cycle of Bulgarian Concerts* at St. John’s Methodist Church, Boston, Massachusetts, in 2001.

### **Group D Indicators**

Under Indicator 19 (reviews of realized authorial products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of the arts), four reviews are included - by Zornitsa Petrova, Savka Shopova-Markova, Zlatina Kotseva, and Yulian Kuyumdzhev - published in the journals *Musical Horizons* and *Musica Viva*.

### **Group E Indicators**

Under Indicator 28 (leading a master class, syidio, or workshop in the field of the arts) fall the two piano master classes led by the candidate at *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music and Dance – Plovdiv in 2005 and 2006, as well as the piano master class at the Faculty of Music of the Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Mexico, in 2017.

My overall impression is that the candidate presents an exceptionally rich artistic biography. The selection of complex works for performance by composers such as M. Ravel, P. I. Tchaikovsky, W. A. Mozart, J. Brahms, J. S. Bach, Fr. Chopin, and others shows that he consistently strives to demonstrate his highly developed performance mastery.

Based on all the facts presented, I am firmly convinced that Asst. Prof. Georgi Atanasov Slavchev, PhD is fully qualified to hold the academic position of *Associate Professor* in professional field 8.3. *Music and Dance Art*.

Sofia, October 24, 2025

Prof. Sava Dimitrov, PhD