

OPINION

by

Prof. Yulian Stoyanov Kuyumdzhev, PhD,

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

regarding the documents submitted by

Asst. Prof. Georgi Atanasov Slavchev, PhD

in connection with the competition for the academic position '**Associate Professor**' in professional field **8.3. Music and Dance Art**, 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*, announced in *State Gazette*, Issue 57 of 15.07.2025.

Information about the candidate

Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD is the sole candidate in the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the major *Piano* at the Department of Piano and Accordion within the Faculty of Music Pedagogy at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv*. The documentation he has submitted includes: a report on the minimum required points by group of indicators, an author's report of contributions in scientific and artistic-creative activity, a list of major artistic performances, supporting materials related to his artistic and scholarly work, and a creative curriculum vitae.

The candidate meets the condition of fulfilling the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of *Associate Professor*.

Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD graduated from the Secondary Music School in Plovdiv (today *Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance*). Already as a student, he was distinguished with numerous awards from national and international competitions. He continued his education in the United States at the private arts high school *Idyllwild Arts Academy* in California. He received his Bachelor's degree with highest honours (*summa cum laude*) and two awards from the *Shepherd School of Music at Rice University* in Houston, and his Master's degree from the *Cleveland Institute of Music* under the renowned

pedagogue and performer Sergei Babayan. Later, he earned the degree Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Georgi Slavchev has an extensive concert career in Bulgaria, the United States, Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Greece, Luxembourg, Turkey, Mexico, and the Philippines.

As a composer, Georgi Slavchev is the author of solo, chamber, choral, and symphonic works, as well as music for theatre and for a significant number of short and documentary films that have received awards at film festivals. He is the composer of the *Anthem of Plovdiv*, for which he was honoured with the city's Honorary Badge. He has also received First Prize in the National Competition *New Bulgarian Music in 7/8*. He has recordings in electronic media and has released numerous compact discs. He has taught piano, chamber music, choral music, film music, and electronic music at prestigious educational institutions in the USA.

Since 2021, Georgi Slavchev has been a lecturer at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv.

Evaluation of the submitted materials from the scientometric table in the respective field of higher education

The report on the minimum required points by groups of indicators has been prepared correctly and is supported by the necessary evidential materials.

In Group B indicators, Georgi Slavchev has published his dissertation titled *'Fifty-Three Studies on Chopin by Leopold Godowsky – Continuation and Evolution of the Transcendental Piano Technique: History, Partial Analysis, and Practical Performance Solutions'* as a book – *'The Continuation and Evolution of Transcendental Piano Technique in the Fifty-Three Studies on the Études of Chopin by Leopold Godowsky'*. Based on his many years of experience as a performer and pedagogue in the United States, Georgi Slavchev develops original practical exercises and guidelines for interpretation and pedaling, offering performers structured and valuable approaches for mastering the transcendental technical and artistic challenges embedded in Godowsky's works.

Also in Group B indicators, Georgi Slavchev presents several concerts equivalent to a habilitation work. In most of them, Georgi Slavchev appears as a

soloist with leading Bulgarian orchestras and chamber ensembles (the Symphony Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio, the Plovdiv Philharmonic, the Ruse Philharmonic, *Sofia Soloists* Chamber Ensemble) in piano concertos from different musical eras: the *Piano Concerto in A major, KV 414* by Mozart, the *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23* by Tchaikovsky, the *Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15* by Brahms, and the *Piano Concerto in G major* by Ravel, under the baton of conductors such as Ruslan Raychev, Georgi Dimitrov, and Plamen Dzhurov. Some of these performances took place at prestigious music festivals, including the *Sofia Music Weeks* and the *International Chamber Music Festival in Plovdiv*.

In Group Γ indicators, the candidate has included leading artistic achievements, among which are his appearances as a soloist in piano concertos by Bach, Chopin, and Tchaikovsky in Bulgaria and the USA, two solo recitals in the USA and Germany, as well as a solo compact disc featuring works by D. Scarlatti, J. S. Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Ravel.

The submitted materials reveal an active artistic and creative activity on the part of Asst. Prof. Georgi Slavchev, PhD. His candidacy complies with the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) requirements and fully meets the criteria of the announced competition for acquiring the academic position of *Associate Professor*.

I would like to add my personal impressions of him - I have followed his development since his student years at the Music School in Plovdiv and later during his guest visits in Bulgaria, and I have witnessed his successful artistic endeavours.

Based on all this, I support his candidacy and recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury confer upon Asst. Prof. Georgi Anastasov Slavchev, PhD the academic position of *Associate Professor* in professional field 8.3. 'Musical and Dance Art', major 'Piano', in the Department of Piano and Accordion at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

November 11, 2025

Prof. Yulian Kuyumdzhiev, PhD