

REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Eduard Magardich Sarafyan, PhD,

Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Art

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

regarding the competition for occupying the academic position **Associate Professor in**

Interpretation with Conducting in Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, at *Prof.*

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

General Presentation of the Candidate

Krastin Nastev was born in 1980 and began his musical development in the Plovdiv Boys Choir, which today bears the name of its founder, Stefka Blagoeva. He continued his education at *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music and Dance in Plovdiv, specializing in oboe and advanced studies in theoretical disciplines.

The candidate has studied conducting under the guidance of distinguished pedagogues, including Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan (*Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv), Prof. Miroslav Popsavov and Prof. Plamen Dzhurov (*Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music - Sofia), Prof. Lutz Köhler (Barcelona, Spain), Prof. Raphael Immoos (Basel, Switzerland) and Gianluigi Gelmetti (Summer Academy, Siena, Italy). In the early stage of his training he took conducting lessons with conductor Georgi Dimitrov, and subsequently attended conducting masterclasses led by Alan Hazeldine, Mark Shanahan, Bruno Aprea, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Donato Renzetti, Prof. Lutz Köhler, Frieder Bernius, Raphael Immoos, Georg Grün, Prof. Vasil Kazandzhiev, as well as vocal masterclasses by Rayna Kabaivanska, Montserrat Caballé, Darina Takova, Raúl Giménez, Kaludi Kaludov and Ramón Vargas.

Awards and Distinctions

The candidate has been honoured with the following awards and distinctions:

- 2024 – *Crystal Lyre* of the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers (UBMD), awarded to the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte* under his direction, in the category *Choral Art*;
- 2013 - Special Award from the Competition for Choral Conductors organized by the International Choral Federation *Europa Cantat* /St. Petersburg, Russia/;
- 2000 - Third Prize at the *Academic Bach Competition for Pianists*, organized by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv.

Highlights of the Candidate's Creative and Professional Career

Krastin Nastev made his debut on the stage of Sofia Opera with Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*. He has conducted the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and the National

Philharmonic Choir, and has carried out studio recordings with the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra. As a guest conductor, he has led performances with the State Opera Plovdiv, the Pleven Philharmonic, the Shumen Symphony Orchestra, as well as the orchestras of Antalya, Bursa, and Eskişehir (Turkey), the Ankara Radio Choir, the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra in Enschede, the Youth Orchestra of Málaga (Spain), and Sinfonietta Berlin (Germany).

As a choral conductor, he has worked at the State Opera Plovdiv, the Antalya Opera, *Teatre del Cercle* in Barcelona, and with the Regional Symphony Choir of Madrid. In 2018 he was invited as assistant conductor for the preparation of Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* (*The Flying Dutchman*) for the opera festival in Selzach, Switzerland. Between 2011-2018 he conducted various choirs in Spain, Germany, and Switzerland, and served as conductor of the choirs of the Antalya Conservatory and the Music School of Barcelona.

In 2023, he made his debut at *Teatro Bellini* in Catania (Italy) with seven performances of the ballet *Giselle*. In the same year, he conducted his first opera gala featuring Sonya Yoncheva at the Summer Theatre in Varna. His artistic collaboration with the renowned soprano continued the following year in productions of *Tosca* at the Ancient Theatre with the Plovdiv Opera, and *La Bohème* at the Summer Theatre in Varna with the Varna State Opera ensemble.

At present, Krastin Nastev is a conductor at the Varna State Opera, director of the annual Creative Laboratory for Choral Music *Krikor Chetinyan* in Plovdiv, and lecturer at the Higher Conservatory of Music of Castilla-La Mancha.

Brief Presentation of the Materials Submitted for Review According to the Various Indicators in the Scientometric Table

It is of particular relevance to the present competition that the scientometric indicators submitted by Krastin Nastev have been presented in a precise and duly compliant manner, meet the mandatory minimum national criteria, and, in certain indicator groups, exceed such requirements to a **considerable and noteworthy** extent.

Group A Indicators: 50 points (out of the required 50 points)

Indicator 1. Dissertation for the Awarding of the Educational and Scientific Degree 'PhD'

The rich artistic profile, experience, and erudition of Krastin Nastev were materialized in 2023 through the attainment of the educational and scientific degree '**PhD**' at *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music, Faculty of Instrumental Studies, professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, certified by Diploma No. 172 dated 11 April 2023.

The topic of the Dissertation, *The Choir and the Choral Conductor in Opera. Aspects of Opera Choir Preparation: Vocal, Linguistic, and Dramaturgical-Musical Issues in Working with an Opera Choir*, offers an in-depth, systematic, and detailed examination of the aspects and specificities of employing the chorus as an integral component of the operatic performance, as well as of the role and responsibilities of the choral conductor in the operatic

setting. For the first time in Bulgarian scholarship, the work presents a structured music-dramaturgical and stylistic study of the opera chorus, tracing its origins, evolution, and function within the operatic genre across the various epochs of European musical art.

Under Group B Indicators: 245 points (out of the required 100 points)

Under Indicator 5 – Leading (independent) creative achievement in the field of the arts – seven leading creative performances have been submitted, featuring the candidate as conductor of opera performances of G. Puccini (*La Bohème* and *Tosca*), G. Verdi (*Aida* and *Il trovatore*), the *Concert on the Occasion of the Liberation of Varna* with the Varna Opera, G. Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* - Concert dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan, as well as a *Symphony Concert* with the orchestra of the Varna Opera (soloist: Stoyka Milanova).

Under Group Γ Indicators: 270 points (out of the required 120 points)

Under Indicator 7 – Published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree ‘PhD’ or the scientific degree ‘Doctor of Sciences’ - a book based on the defended dissertation has been submitted, entitled *‘The Choir and the Choral Conductor in Opera. Aspects of Working with an Opera Choir.’*

Total: 75 points

Under Indicator 9 – Articles and papers published in specialized editions in the field of the arts – one publication has been submitted, entitled *‘The Relationship Between the Stage Director and the Choral Conductor in the Opera House: Reflections.’* *Musical Horizons* Journal, Issue 3/2025, pp. 23–25, ISSN 1310-0076.

Total: 15 points

Under Indicator 13. Leading (or independent) creative artistic performance in the field of the arts, which does not constitute the main habilitation work, four artistic performances have been submitted, as follows:

1. Seven performances of the ballet *Giselle* at the Opera House in Catania, Italy, from 06-14 May 2023. Venue: Teatro Bellini;

2. Symphony concert – Mozart's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4* with the Varna State Opera. Soloist: Galin Ganchev. Date: 13 April 2023. Venue: Drama Theatre - Varna;

3. Concert of *Sv. Obretenov* National Philharmonic Choir, Bulgaria Hall – Sofia, 24 February 2023; Programme: *Misa Tango* by Martín Palmeri /first performance in Sofia/;

4. G. Verdi, *Macbeth* – conductor of the performance at the Varna State Opera. Date: 03 February 2023, 19:00. Venue: Drama Theatre - Varna.

Total: 140 points

Under Indicator 14. Supporting creative artistic achievement or participation in a collective artistic performance in the field of the arts, four artistic performances have been presented, as follows:

1. Concert – *Coronation Mass* by W. A. Mozart, 14 March 2024, at the Cathedral of Albacete (participation as chorus conductor);
2. Concert – *Requiem* by L. Cherubini, 02 April 2025, at the Cathedral of Albacete (participation as chorus conductor);
3. New Year’s Concert of the Antalya Opera, 28 December 2010, *Haşim İşcan* Cultural Centre, Antalya (participation as chorus conductor)
4. W. A. Mozart – *Zaide*, 16-17-18 July 2010, Topkapi Palace, Istanbul; First Opera Festival, Istanbul Opera Antalya (participation as chorus conductor)

Total: 40 points

Under Group D Indicators: 80 points (out of the required 40 points)

Under Indicator 17, a total of two citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes have been presented, as follows:

- Nastev, Krastin; *Aspects in the Work with Opera Choir*; In: *Musical Horizons*; 2022, No. 1; ISSN: 1310-0076; pp. 19. Cited in: *Yearbook 2024 of Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA – Plovdiv*, ISBN: 1313-6526, pp. 166–172, ‘Some Specific Features in Teaching a Foreign Language (English) to Art Students at the Art Academy in Plovdiv’ by Assoc. Prof. Kalina Decheva, citation on p. 168;
- Nastev, Krastin; *The Chorus and the Choral Conductor in Opera. Aspects in the Work with Opera Choir*; Sofia: Janet 45; 2023; ISBN 978-619-04-0068-4; 200 pages. Cited in: *Yearbook 2024 of Prof. Asen Diamandiev AMDFA – Plovdiv*, ISBN: 1313-6526, pp. 166–172, ‘Some Specific Features in Teaching a Foreign Language (English) to Art Students at the Art Academy in Plovdiv’ by Assoc. Prof. Kalina Decheva, citation on p. 170

Total: 20 points

Under Indicator 19, a total of six reviews for implemented authorial products or creative performances in specialized artistic publications have been submitted, as follows:

1. Review by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Patrikov for the Concert of the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte*, published on the peer-reviewed website *musicology-bg.com* in the *Miscellaneous* Section: <http://www.musicology-bg.com/>, ISSN 2534-9279

2. Spring Concert of the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte*

Author: Valeria Dimitrova In: *Musical Horizons*, Issue 4/2025, pp. 12–13, ISSN: 1310-0076

3. Soloists from Turkey Visit Opera and Philharmonic Society – Plovdiv’

Author: Magdalena Andonova

Review of the visit of soloists from the State Opera – Antalya /Turkey/ at the Opera and Philharmonic Society – Plovdiv under the baton of Krastin Nastev

In: *Musical Horizons*, Issue 2/2010, pp. 16–17, ISSN: 1310-0076

4. ‘Krastin Nastev Conducts the National Philharmonic Choir’

Author: Eliana Mitova

In: *Musical Horizons*, Issue 2/2023, pp. 10–11

ISSN: 1310-0076

5. ‘Easter Concert in Varna’

Author: Tatyana Kapricheva

Review of the Easter Concert of Varna Opera conducted by Krastin Nastev

In: *Musical Horizons*, Issue 4/2023, p. 12

ISSN: 1310-0076

6. ‘With Love and Gratitude. In Memory of Krikor Chetinyan’

Author: Kristina Venkova.

Total: 60 points

Under Group E Indicators: 205 points (out of the required 50 points)

Under Indicator 28, Leadership of master classes, workshops, or studios in the field of arts, a total of seven master classes conducted in the cities of Plovdiv and Valencia have been presented.

Total: 140 points

Under Indicator 29, Creative participation in master classes, workshops, or studios in the field of arts, one participation has been presented.

Total: 5 points

Under Indicator 30, Awards from national professional forums and organizations for creativity and performance, two awards have been presented, as follows:

- Third prize at the Academic Competition for the Performance of Works by J. S. Bach, 2000, at AMDFA – Plovdiv. (10 points)

- *Crystal Lyre 2024* in the category ‘Choral Art’ with the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte* – Plovdiv. (10 points)

Total: 20 points

Under Indicator 31, Awards from professional forums and organizations abroad for creativity and performance, two awards have been presented, as follows:

- Special prize at the Choral Conductors Competition *Europa Cantat*, 2017, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia. (20 points)

- Award at the Rheintal Choir Festival, Switzerland, 2018, with the Women’s Choir – Pratteln (Basel, Switzerland). (20 points)

Total: 40 points

The volume of presented evidence regarding the scientific and artistic production for the position of *Associate Professor* is impressive in scope and content, portraying the candidate, Krastin Nastev, as a versatile and serious conductor, researcher, and pedagogue.

Based on the foregoing, **I give my positive assessment** and recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury of the competition for Associate Professor **in Interpretation with Conducting** that **Krastin Nastev be appointed to the academic position of *Associate Professor in Professional Field 8.3 Musical and Dance Arts*, for the needs of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv*.**

November 10, 2025

Assoc. Prof. Edward Sarafyan, PhD