

## STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov, 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 of

**Associate Professor** in Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Art,

major **Interpretation with Conducting**

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

announced in the *State Gazette*, Issue 57 of 15 July 2025

### **General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate:**

The set of materials submitted by the sole candidate in the competition, Krastin Nasteв Nasteв, PhD, complies with the requirements of the *Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act*, its Regulations for Implementation, as well as with the *Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and the Occupation of Academic Positions* at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv. The documentation includes:

- Professional Curriculum Vitae
- Reference for meeting the minimum requirements for participation in the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in Interpretation with Conducting

- Reference outlining the contribution-based character of the artistic, creative and pedagogical activity
- List-appendix of artistic, creative, pedagogical, and research activities.

### **Biographical Data of the Candidate, Creative and Pedagogical Development:**

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

He studied Conducting at the Music Academies in Plovdiv (Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan), Sofia (Prof. Miroslav Popsavov, Prof. Plamen Dzhurov), Barcelona (Prof. Lutz Köhler), Basel (Prof. Raphael Immoos), and at the Summer Academy in Siena (Gianluigi Gelmetti). In the early stages of his training he took private lessons in conducting with Georgi Dimitrov, and subsequently attended the conducting courses of Alan Hazeldine, Mark Shanahan, Bruno Aprea, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Donato Renzetti, Prof. Lutz Köhler, Frieder Bernius, Raphael Immoos, Georg Grün, and Prof. Vasil Kazandjiev, as well as the vocal masterclasses of Rayna Kabaivanska, Montserrat Caballé, Darina Takova, Raúl Giménez, Kaludi Kaludov, and Ramón Vargas.

The candidate's continuous pursuit of self-improvement and his work with world-renowned conductors, such as Donato Renzetti, with whom I myself have had the pleasure of working in Italy, are particularly noteworthy.

He was awarded a Special Prize at the choral conducting competition organized by the International Choral Federation *Europa Cantat* in 2013 in Saint Petersburg, and in 2007 reached the final round of the *Mariele Ventre* Choral Conducting Competition in Bologna, Italy. In 2000 he won Third Prize at the Academic Bach Competition for Pianists organized by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, and in 2024 the vocal ensemble *Cappella Arte*, under his direction, received the *Crystal Lyre* of the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers in the category 'Choral Art'.

He made his debut at the stage of the Sofia Opera with Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*, conducted the Sofia Philharmonic and the National Philharmonic Choir, and recorded studio sessions with the Symphony Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio. As a guest conductor he has conducted the Plovdiv Opera, the Pleven Philharmonic, the Shumen Symphony Orchestra, the orchestras of Antalya, Bursa, and Eskişehir (Turkey), the choir of Ankara Radio, the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra in Enschede, the Youth Orchestra of Málaga (Spain), and Sinfonietta Berlin (Germany).

He has served on the juries of international choral festivals in Saint Petersburg (2014), Hong Kong (2015), and Paralia, Greece (2022). In October 2025 he will serve on the jury of the First Choral Conducting Competition *Krikor Chetinyan*, organized by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts and the Creative Laboratory for Choral Music.

As a choral conductor he has worked at the Plovdiv Opera, the Antalya State Opera, *Teatre del Cercle* in Barcelona, and with the Regional Symphony Choir of Madrid. In 2018 he was invited to serve as assistant conductor in the preparation of Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* for the opera festival in Selzach, Switzerland. Between 2011 and 2018 he conducted various choirs in Spain, Germany, and Switzerland, and directed the choirs of the Antalya Conservatory and the Barcelona School of Music. At the beginning of 2022 he led a masterclass for choral conductors at the invitation of the Choral Federation of Valencia, Spain. In 2024 he gave a masterclass at the Higher Conservatory of Music in Valencia on Rossini's opera *Il viaggio a Reims*.

In 2023 he made his debut at the stage of Teatro Bellini in Catania (Italy) with seven performances of the ballet *Giselle*.

On 31 August 2023 he conducted for the first time an opera gala featuring the special participation of Sonya Yoncheva at the Summer Theatre in Varna. His artistic collaboration with the renowned singer continued the following year in the productions of *Tosca* at the Ancient Theatre with the Plovdiv Opera, and *La Bohème* at the Summer Theatre in Varna with the company of the Varna Opera.

His doctoral dissertation, defended at *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Music Academy, was published by Janet 45 Publishing House and officially presented at the Varna Opera by Violeta Toncheva in 2023, and as part of the accompanying programme of the Sofia Music Weeks in 2024 by journalist Dimitar Sotirov.

Krastin Nastev is the conceptual author of the film dedicated to the artistic path of conductor Krikor Chetinyan, produced by a team of BNT-Plovdiv in 2024 on the occasion of his 80th anniversary, and awarded the *Plovdiv* Prize.

His organizational activity includes not only the planning and realization of nine Creative Laboratories (2015–2025), but also the programming and execution of the *Borislav Ivanov* International Competition for Orchestral Conductors – Varna (2023 and 2025), as well as the *Krikor Chetinyan* Choral Conducting Competition, which will take place at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts between 23–25 October 2025.

In addition to the two competitions and the Creative Laboratories, the organization of a Masterclass for Choral Conductors under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Fred Stoltzfus from the University of Illinois and Prof. Miroslav Popsavov from Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy – Sofia in 2002, as well as the Masterclass by Frieder Bernius, which will take place at the Academy between 23–26 October 2025, is also included.

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 studies at *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music in Plovdiv, specializing in oboe and advanced theoretical disciplines.

Krastin Nastev is a member of the Association of Choral Conductors of Spain.

Important for the present competition is the fact that the candidate **meets the minimum scientometric indicators** stipulated by the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) **for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor**, as follows:

#### **Group A Indicators - 50 points**

Krastin Nastev, PhD is the author of a dissertation entitled:

*'The Choir and the Choral Conductor in Opera. Aspects of Opera Choir Preparation: Vocal, Linguistic, and Dramaturgical-Musical Issues in Working with Opera Choir.'*

**For Group B Indicators**, the following may be identified as having high contributive value:

Leading Creative Achievements in the Arts

- **G. Verdi – *Aida* – opera in 4 acts, 7 scenes – 35 points**

Varna Opera, 05.12.2024, 7:00 p.m.

Conductor of the performance at Varna Opera

- G. Puccini – *La Bohème* – opera in 4 acts – 35 points  
06.08.2024, 7:00 p.m., Summer Theatre – Varna

XV Festival **Opera in the Summer Theatre – Varna**

Conductor of the performance featuring opera prima Sonya Yoncheva and Varna Opera

- **Concert on the Occasion of the Liberation of Varna – 35 points**

With Varna Opera, 27.07.2024, 7:00 p.m., Varna Opera

Conductor of the festive concert

- **G. Puccini – *Tosca* – opera in 3 acts – 35 points**

04.06.2024, 9:00 p.m., Ancient Theatre - Plovdiv

Conductor of the performance featuring opera prima Sonya Yoncheva and Plovdiv Opera /35 points/

- **G. Rossini – *Petite Messe Solennelle* – 35 points.**

Concert on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan

30.03.2024, 6:00 p.m., *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv

Conductor of the concert together with the vocal ensemble *Capella Arte*

- **Symphony Concert – 35 points**

Soloist: Stoyka Milanova – violin

08.11.2019, 7:00 p.m., Varna Opera

L. van Beethoven – Violin Concerto

J. Brahms – Symphony No. 3

- **Giuseppe Verdi – *Il trovatore* – opera in 4 acts – 35 points**

19.10.2022, 7:00 p.m., Varna Opera

Conductor of the performance with the ensemble of Varna Opera, featuring guest soloist Concetta Pepere (Italy)

**Total: 245 points**

For **Group Γ Indicators**, **120 points** are required.

- A published monograph based on a defended doctoral dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree ‘PhD’ or the scientific degree ‘Doctor of Sciences’

***The Choir and the Choral Conductor in Opera. Aspects in Working with Opera Choir.* – 75 pts.**

200 pages

Printing and design – *Janet 45 Printing Complex*  
ISBN 978-619-04-0068-4  
Bulgarian, first edition  
Print run: 300 copies  
Sofia, 2023

- Articles and conference papers published in specialized editions in the field of the arts

**The Relationship Between the Stage Director and the Choral Conductor in the Opera House. Reflections. – 15 pts.**

*Musical Horizons* Journal, issue 3/2025, pp. 23–25  
ISSN: 1310-0076

- Leading (or independent) artistic performance in the field of the arts, not constituting the primary habilitation work

**1. Seven performances of the ballet *Giselle* at the Opera House in Catania, Italy, 06–14 May 2023**

Venue: *Teatro Bellini* – 35 pts.

**2. Symphonic concert – 35 pts.**

*Mozart – Requiem*

*Beethoven – Piano Concerto No. 4* at Varna Opera

Soloist: Galin Ganchev Date: 13.04.2023

Venue: *Drama Theatre – Varna*

**3. Concert of *Svetoslav Obretenov* National Philharmonic Choir – 35 pts.**

Venue: *Bulgaria Hall – Sofia*

Date: 24.02.2023

Programme: *Misa Tango* by Martín Palmeri (first performance in Sofia)

**4. G. Verdi – *Macbeth* – 35 pts.**

– Conductor of the performance at Varna Opera Date: 03.02.2023, 7:00 p.m.

Venue: *Drama Theatre – Varna*

- Supporting artistic performance or participation in a collective artistic product

Participation in concerts of the Symphony Orchestra and Choir of the Higher Conservatory of Music of Castilla-La Mancha, as choral conductor:

**1. Concert – *Coronation Mass* by W. A. Mozart – 10 pts.**

14.03.2024, Cathedral of Albacete

Role: Choral Conductor

**2. Concert – *Requiem* by L. Cherubini – 10 pts.**

02.04.2025, 6:00 pm, Cathedral of Albacete

Role: Choral Conductor

**3. New Year's Concert at the Antalya Opera – 10 pts.**

28.12.2010, 8:00 pm, *Hashim Isçan* Cultural Centre, Antalya

Role: Choral Conductor

**4. Opera: W. A. Mozart – Zaide – 10 pts.**

16–17–18 July 2010, Topkapi Palace, Istanbul

First Opera Festival, Istanbul

Antalya Opera – participation as choral conductor

**Total: 270 points**

**Group Д** - Reviews of completed original artistic products or creative performances published in specialized editions in the field of the arts

**1. Review by Assoc. Prof. Georgi Patrikov, PhD, of the Concert of the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte*, published on the peer-reviewed website <http://www.musicology-bg.com/>, *Miscellaneous* Section, ISSN 2534-9279 – 10 points**

**2. Spring Concert of the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte* – 10 points**

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

**3. Soloists from Turkey Perform with the Opera and Philharmonic Society – Plovdiv – 10 points**

Author: Magdalena Andonova

Review of the performance of soloists from the State Opera – Antalya (Turkey) with 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’ – 10 points**

Author: Eliana Mitova

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

ISSN: 1310-0076

**5. ‘Easter Concert in Varna’ – 10 points**

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 Blessed Memory of Krikor Chetinyan’ – 10 points

Author: Kristina Venkova.

7. Review of the performance of Gioachino Rossini’s *Petite messe solennelle* in the hall of Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy – Sofia, conducted by Krastin Nastev

In: *Musical Horizons*, issue 3/2024, pp. 10–12 ISSN: 1310-0076 – **10 points**

**Total – 70 points**

## Group E

Leadership of a masterclass, studio, or workshop in the field of the arts

1. Leadership of a masterclass for choral conductors at *Dobrin Petkov* National School for Music and Dance Arts, Plovdiv /29.07 – 02.08.2015/ – **20 pts.**

2. Leadership of a masterclass for choral conductors at *Dobrin Petkov* National School for Music and Dance Arts, Plovdiv /02.07 – 08.07.2016/ – **20 pts.**

3. Leadership of a masterclass for choral conductors at *Dobrin Petkov* National School for Music and Dance Arts, Plovdiv /22.07 – 29.07.2017/ – **20 pts.**

4. Leadership of a masterclass for choral conductors at *Dobrin Petkov* National School for Music and Dance Arts, Plovdiv /01.09 – 08.09.2019/ – **20 pts.**

5. Leadership of a masterclass for choral conductors at *Dobrin Petkov* National School for Music and Dance Arts, Plovdiv /26.07 – 31.07.2021/ – **20 pts.**

6. Leadership of a masterclass for choral conductors at *Dobrin Petkov* National School for Music and Dance Arts, Plovdiv /25.07 – 30.07.2022/ – **20 pts.**

7. Leadership of a Conducting masterclass organized by the Federation of Choirs of Valencia, Spain (January–February 2022) – **20 pts.**

Artistic participation in a masterclass, studio, workshop in the field of the arts

1. World Youth & Children’s Choir Festival – Hong Kong /2015/  
Participation in the workshop ‘Looking Like the Music: Gestural Expression of Music to Choristers’ within the framework of the festival, lasting 1.5 hours – **5 pts.**

Awards from competitions for creative work and performance, granted by national professional forums and organizations

- Third Prize from the Academic Competition for Performance of Works by J. S. Bach, 2000, at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv – **10 pts.**

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

Awards from competitions for creative work and performance, granted by professional forums and organizations abroad

- Special Prize from the *Europa Cantat* Competition for Choral Conductors, 2017, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia – **20 pts.**
- Award from the Rheintal Choir Festival, Switzerland, 2018, with the Women's Choir – Pratteln (Basel, Switzerland) – **20 pts.**

**Total: 205 points**

### **Personal Impressions**

I have known Krastin Nastev (PhD) since 2005, when we worked together in the Plovdiv Boys, Youth and Men Choir - I as a vocal coach, and he as a conductor. Our joint work was facilitated by Mr. Nastev's excellent communication skills and his pleasant character. During this period, he developed a strong sense of critical insight. Particularly noteworthy is his aspiration for self-improvement, demonstrated by his participation in numerous master classes led by world-renowned conductors and, later on, by his own leadership of such masterclasses.

Therefore, based on all the arguments presented above, I confidently propose that the esteemed academic committee confer the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the professional field 8.3. *Music and Dance Arts*, major *Interpretation with Conducting*, upon Krastin Nastev Nastev, PhD.

October 2025

Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov, PhD