

OPINION

by

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on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’

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

in professional field 8.3 *Music and Dance Arts*

major: ***Interpretation with Conducting***

By Order RDNNo.-27-121 dated 12.09.2025 of the Rector of the Academy, based on Art. 25 of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and pursuant to a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Music Pedagogy – Record No.17 dated 12.09.2025, I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position of ‘**Associate Professor**’ in *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts* in professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts, major: ‘Interpretation with Conducting’. The submitted documents and materials are complete and comply with the requirements of DASRBA and the Regulations for its Implementation.

In the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the major ‘Interpretation with Conducting’, announced in State Gazette Issue 57 of 15.07.2025 and on the official website of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, the sole candidate is **Krastin Nastev Nastev**.

1. Presentation of the candidate:

Krastin Nastev began his musical development in the Plovdiv Boys Choir (today *Stefka Blagoeva* Choir of Plovdiv Boys and Youth) and continued his education at *Dobrin Petkov* Secondary Music School - Plovdiv (today *D. Petkov* National School of Music and Dance Arts) with a specialization in **oboe**. He obtained his bachelor’s degree at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, where he studied Conducting in the class of Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan. With excellent academic achievement, he completed two consecutive master’s programs at *Prof. P. Vladigerov* National Music Academy - Sofia: in 2005 – ‘Conducting /Choral/’ and in 2008 – ‘Conducting /Opera and Symphony/’ under the supervision of Prof. Miroslav Popsavov and Prof. Plamen Dzhurov. He further developed his conducting skills and broadened his artistic horizons at the Summer Academy in Siena and through conducting courses with Alan Hazeldine, Mark Shanahan, Bruno Aprea, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Donato Renzetti, Prof. Lutz Köhler, Frieder Bernius, Prof. Vasil Kazandzhiev, among others. Simultaneously, he attended vocal masterclasses with world-renowned opera

soloists: Rayna Kabaivanska, Montserrat Caballé, Darina Takova, and tenors Raul Jiménez, Kaludi Kaludov, and Ramon Vargas.

He gained recognition as a conductor, reaching the final round of the *Mariele Ventre* Choral Conducting Competition in Bologna, Italy, in 2007, and receiving a special award at the choral conducting competition organized by the International Choral Federation *Europa Cantat* in 2013 in Saint Petersburg.

Between 2011 and 2018, he conducted various choirs in Spain, Germany, and Switzerland, leading the choirs of the Conservatory in Antalya and the Music School in Barcelona. In 2016, he made his debut with Mascagni's opera *Cavalleria Rusticana* on the stage of the Sofia Opera, produced studio recordings with the BNR Symphony Orchestra (2017), and conducted the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Philharmonic Choir (2018). He has been a guest conductor at: Plovdiv Opera, Pleven Philharmonic, Shumen Symphony Orchestra, the orchestras of Antalya, Bursa, and Eskisehir (Turkey), the Ankara Radio Choir, the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra in Enschede, the Youth Orchestra of Malaga (Spain), Berlin Sinfonietta (Germany), among others.

He has also served on juries at international choral festivals in Saint Petersburg (2014), Hong Kong (2015), and Paralia, Greece (2022). Since 2019, he has been the conductor of the Varna State Opera, where he organized an opera gala with the special participation of Sonya Yoncheva. This marked the beginning of their artistic collaboration, resulting in productions such as *Tosca* at the Ancient Theatre with Plovdiv Opera and *La Bohème* at the Summer Theatre in Varna.

Krastin Nastev is the initiator of the *Borislav Ivanov* Orchestral Conducting Competition – Varna (2023 and 2025) and the *Krikor Chetinyan* Choral Conducting Competition, organized by *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (successfully held in October 2025). He is also the creator and organizer of *Krikor Chetinyan* Creative Laboratory for Choral Music, with 10 consecutive successful editions.

Since 2023, he has been teaching choral conducting at the Higher Music Conservatory of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain).

In 2024, he received the *Crystal Lyre* award from the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers (UBMD) in the category 'Choral Art' for the vocal ensemble *Capella Arte*, which he leads.

All of the above clearly demonstrates that Krastin Nastev has an impressive and diverse career as a conductor, recognized both nationally and internationally. His mission is the development of choral and orchestral art in Bulgaria through passing on the legacy of his teachers and attracting world-renowned figures in the art of conducting.

2. Brief Commentary on the Submitted Materials According to the Scientometric Indicators Table

In the present competition for the academic position of '**Associate Professor**', Krastin Nastev submits the following documents and materials: a professional biography, a detailed report on the fulfillment of the scientometric indicators and their compliance with the national minimum requirements, accompanied by supporting evidence; *certificates of professional experience and teaching activity*; *an author's statement on scientific contributions*; and *other documents certifying his artistic and creative activity in Bulgaria and abroad*.

3. Research Activity and Its Results According to the Scientometric Indicators and Their Compliance with the National Minimum Requirements

It is of special significance for the current evaluation procedure that the scientometric indicators provided by Krastin Nastev, PhD are accurate, well-substantiated, and exceed the minimum national standards.

Group A Indicators

Minimum required: **50 points** / Achieved: **50 points**

Under Indicator 1, Diploma No. 172, issued on 11.04.2023, is presented for the conferred educational and scientific degree *PhD* based on the defended doctoral dissertation entitled: *'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.'*

Group B Indicators:

Minimum required: **100 points** / Achieved: **245 points**

Significant, contributory, and valuable are the creative achievements listed under Group 'B', *Indicator 5*: Leading (Independent) Creative Achievement in the Field of Arts. Seven major operatic and symphonic performances and concerts realized during the period 2019–2024 are presented as follows: Giuseppe Verdi – *Aida*; Giacomo Puccini – *La Bohème* with soloist Sonya Yoncheva, performed within the XV Festival 'Opera at the Summer Theatre', Varna; Festive concert on the occasion of the Liberation of Varna, featuring soloists and a program including works by Bulgarian composers; Giacomo Puccini - *Tosca* with soloist Sonya Yoncheva at the Ancient Theatre, Plovdiv; Gioachino Rossini - *Petite Messe Solennelle* – Concert on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan, with soloists and the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte*, performed sequentially in Plovdiv and Sofia; Symphonic concert with soloist Stoyka Milanova with the Varna Opera; Giuseppe Verdi - *Il Trovatore* with guest soloist, the Italian prima Concetta Pepere, and Varna Opera.

Group Γ Indicators:

Minimum required: **120 points** / Achieved: **270 points**

Under Indicator 7 a published book based on a defended dissertation is presented, entitled *'The Choir and the Choral Conductor in Opera: Aspects of Working with an Opera Choir'*, which traces the origins of the opera choir, its evolution, and its role in the operatic genre across different periods of European musical art. The work has demonstrated scientific research value, while also offering practical and applied contributions based on the methods proposed in Chapter Three for addressing linguistic and phonetic challenges in the study of choral works in the three most commonly used languages in the operatic repertoire: Italian, French, and German.

It is also necessary to note the contributory character of Krastin Nastev's leading creative achievements in 2023 under Indicator 13: seven performances of the ballet *Giselle* at the Opera in Catania, Italy, at Teatro Bellini; a symphonic concert featuring Mozart's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4* with soloist Galin Ganchev in Varna; the premiere performance of *Misa Tango* by Martín Palmeri at *Bulgaria Hall* with *Svetoslav Obretenov National Philharmonic Choir*; and Verdi's opera *Macbeth* with the Varna Opera.

These leading achievements are complemented by the activities presented *under Indicator 14*, comprising four supporting creative contributions as conductor of the choir at the Higher Conservatory of Music of Castilla-La Mancha.

Group D Indicators:

Minimum required: **40 points** / Achieved: **90 points**

Under Indicator 17, two citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review are listed by K. Decheva in the *Yearbook 2024*. *Under Indicator 19*, seven materials are described, six of which were published in the established journal *Musical Horizons* and one on the refereed website *musicology-bg*. These publications provide favourable commentary on the candidate's creative achievements and attest to his interesting repertoire selection, talent, and conducting mastery.

Group E Indicators:

Minimum required: **50 points** / Achieved: **205 points**

Krastin Nastev's professional profile is further complemented by the following: *under Indicator 28*, a total of seven masterclasses conducted in Valencia (Spain) and Plovdiv (2015–2022), and *under Indicator 29*, participation with a workshop at the World Youth and Children's Choir Festival in Hong Kong (2015). It is also important to highlight his contribution to the enrichment of choral art through the creation and development of the project *Creative Laboratory for Choral Music 'Krikor Chetinyan'* in Plovdiv, held over ten consecutive editions. This dedicated and mission-driven initiative has preserved its prestigious position in the city's cultural life to this day.

Overall, the summary table for the scientometric indicators shows that of the required 360 points, Krastin Nastev presents extensive and substantive scientific and artistic activity totaling 860 points.

Conclusion

The materials and documents submitted during the procedure, as well as the scientific and applied results achieved in the candidate's overall creative, research, teaching, and public activities, are assessed as significant, contributory, and highly professional.

Therefore, I give a high evaluation and fully recommend to the esteemed scientific jury that the academic position of *Associate Professor* be awarded to Krastin Nastev in the professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts, major: *Interpretation with Conducting*.

November 09, 2025

Opinion prepared by:.....
/Prof. Stella Miteva-Dinkova, PhD/