

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Toni Dimitrova Shekerdzhieva-Novak,
Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts

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

regarding the competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor in Interpretation with Conducting* in Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts,

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

General overview of the procedure and the candidate:

The materials submitted by the sole candidate in the competition, Krastin Nastev, PhD, comply with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, its Implementation Rules, and 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.

Biographical information of the candidate, professional and pedagogical path:

Krastin Nastev is a graduate of the *Dobrin Petkov* National School of Music and Dance Arts, where he completed an advanced curriculum in theoretical subjects, choral conducting, and oboe performance. While still a student, he frequently performed as an oboist in concerts and productions with the Plovdiv Philharmonic and the Plovdiv Opera. He obtained his Bachelor's degree at AMDFA, Plovdiv, in the class of Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan, and his Master's degree at the National Music Academy: Choral Conducting with Prof. Miroslav Popsavov and Orchestral Conducting with Prof. Plamen Dzhurov. Other notable instructors included Prof. Dr. Adriana Blagoeva and Prof. Dr. Teodora Pavlovich.

He has conducted opera performances in Antalya, where he was invited to teach and lead the choir and orchestra of the Conservatory. In 2012, he collaborated with the European Chamber Opera, based in London, during a concert tour in Asia. In 2013, he received a special award at the choral conducting competition organized by *Europa Cantat* in Saint Petersburg. Between 2015 and 2018, he worked with choral ensembles in Germany and Switzerland and made his debut at the Sofia Opera with the opera *Cavalleria Rusticana* by P. Mascagni. He has produced studio recordings with the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra and soprano Svetlana Doneva-Ehinger. His conducting career has continued in Biel (Switzerland), Sofia, and Plovdiv. Since the 2018/2019 season, he has been a resident conductor at the Varna Opera. He is a member of juries at international festivals. In 2023, he conducted an Opera Gala featuring the special participation of Sonya Yoncheva at the Summer Theatre in Varna, and in 2024, his collaboration with the renowned singer continued with performances of *Tosca* at the Ancient Theatre with the Plovdiv Opera and *La Bohème* at the Summer Theatre in Varna with the Varna

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

We have also received documentation regarding the national requirements for holding the academic position of **Associate Professor in Interpretation with Conducting** in the Department of Classical, Pop, and Jazz Performance at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA, as follows:

Group A - /50 points/ – Indicator 1. The candidate applies his doctoral dissertation for obtaining the scientific degree *PhD* and Diploma No. 168, issued on 17 October 2022. The topic of the dissertation is: ‘*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*’, and he makes a significant contribution to forming a more comprehensive profile of theoretical studies in the previously unexplored territory of the opera choir and choral-master methodology in working with such ensembles. **/50 points**

Group B - /100 points/ - Indicator 5. ‘Leading (Independent) Creative Achievement in the Field of Arts’ The candidate presents seven leading creative achievements as a conductor of opera performances by Puccini (*La Bohème* and *Tosca*), Verdi (*Aida* and *Il Trovatore*), a concert on the occasion of the Liberation of Varna with the Varna Opera, Rossini – *Petite Messe Solennelle* - a concert dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Assoc. Prof. Krikor Chetinyan, and a symphonic concert with the orchestra of Varna Opera featuring soloist Stoyka Milanova./ **245 points**

Group Γ /120 points/ - Indicator 7: ‘A published book based on a successfully defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree ‘PhD or the scientific degree ‘Doctor of Sciences’ has been submitted, namely the book based on the defended dissertation entitled ‘*The Choir and the Choral Conductor in the Opera: Aspects of Working with Opera Choir*’. **/75 points**

Under Indicator 9. ‘Articles and papers published in specialized editions in the field of the arts’, a publication has been submitted, entitled ‘*The Relationship Between the Stage Director and the Choral Conductor in the Opera House: Reflections.*’ *Musical Horizons*, Issue 3/2025, pp. 23–25, ISSN 1310-0076. **/15 points**

Under Indicator 13. ‘Leading (or independent) artistic performance in the field of the arts, which is not the main habilitation work’, four performances have been submitted, as follows: seven performances of the ballet *Giselle* at the Opera House in Catania, Italy, from 6-14 May 2023, Venue: Teatro Bellini; a symphonic concert featuring Mozart’s *Requiem* and Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 4* at the Varna Opera with soloist Galin Ganchev on 13 April 2023, Venue: Drama Theatre – Varna; a concert of *Svetoslav Obretenov* National Philharmonic Choir at Bulgaria Hall – Sofia on 24 February 2023, with a programme including *Misa Tango* by Martín

Palmeri (first performance in Sofia); and G. Verdi's *Macbeth*, conducted at the Varna Opera on 3 February 2023 at 7:00 pm, Venue: Drama Theatre – Varna. / **140 points**

Under Indicator 14. 'Supporting creative performance or participation in a collective artistic product', four performances have been presented, as follows: a concert featuring Mozart's *Coronation Mass* on 14 March 2024 at the Cathedral of Albacete (choir conductor); *Requiem* by Cherubini on 2 April 2025 at the Cathedral of Albacete (choir conductor); the New Year's Concert of the Antalya Opera on 28 December 2010 at the *Haşim İşcan* Cultural Center, Antalya (choir conductor); and W. A. Mozart's *Zaide* on 16-17-18 July 2010 at Topkapi Palace, Istanbul, during the First Opera Festival of Istanbul Opera Antalya (choir conductor). / **40 points. The total number of points under indicators 7, 9, 13, and 14 is 245 points.**

Group Д /40 points/ - Under indicator 17, a total of 2 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review have been submitted. / **20 points**

Under indicator 19, a total of 6 reviews of realized authored products or creative performances in specialized publications in the field of arts have been submitted. / **60 points**

Total for indicators 17 and 19 - 80 points

Group E – /50 points/ Four indicators (28, 29, 30, and 31) have been presented.

Under Indicator 28, 'Leadership of a masterclass, studio, or workshop in the field of arts', a total of 7 masterclasses in Plovdiv and Valencia have been submitted. / **140 points**

Under Indicator 29, 'Creative performance in a masterclass, studio, or workshop in the field of arts', one performance has been submitted. / **5 points**

Under Indicator 30, Awards from national professional forums and organizations for creativity and performance, two awards have been presented: Third Prize in the Academic Competition for Performance of Works by J. S. Bach, 2000, at AMDFA - Plovdiv (10 points), and *Crystal Lyre 2024* in the category 'Choral Art' with the Vocal Ensemble *Capella Arte* – Plovdiv (**10 points**). / **20 points**

Under Indicator 31, 'Awards from international professional forums and organizations for creativity and performance', a Special Prize from the Choral Conductors Competition *Europa Cantat*, 2017, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia (20 points), and an award from the Choral Festival Rheintal, Switzerland, 2018, with the Women's Choir – Pratteln (Basel, Switzerland) (**20 points**). / **40 points. Total points for Group E indicators – 205 points**

Based on the submitted table, it can be concluded that the candidate **meets the minimum scientometric requirements** set by the DASRBA for **appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor**.

In conclusion, I give my positive evaluation of Krastin Nastev, Phd, candidate for the academic position of **Associate Professor of Interpretation with Conducting** in Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* AMDFA - Plovdiv.

November 12, 2025

Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak, PhD