

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Petyo Krastev, PhD

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*regarding a competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in
Field 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, Major: Fiddle and
Arrangement and Orchestration of Folk Ensembles at the Faculty of Musical
Folklore and Choreography, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance
and Fine Arts - Plovdiv*

This Opinion has been prepared pursuant to Order No. RD-27-182 (04.12.2025) of the Rector of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv*, concerning the opening of a competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in Field 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.3. Music and Dance Art, Major: Fiddle and Arrangement and Orchestration of Folk Ensembles at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography. In the competition, Peyo Trendafilov Peev appears as the sole applicant. He has submitted all required documents for participation in the competition. These comply with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Rules of *Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv* for its implementation. The report on compliance with the minimum national requirements under the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act confirms that the candidate fully meets and significantly exceeds the minimum scientometric indicators across all groups, which attests to a convincing professional record.

The professional background of Peyo Peev as a performer with *Filip Kutev National Folklore Ensemble*, as a soloist-orchestral musician and section leader in the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio, as a lecturer at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts*, as a participant in national and international music projects alongside numerous distinguished Bulgarian and foreign artists, and as a composer of music for stage performances and various productions, defines his development as a virtuoso instrumentalist–fiddle player and as one of the

most prominent representatives of contemporary professional performance practice. His art presents an original individual style, shaped by an in-depth knowledge of folk music in its process-oriented perspective (traditional regional folklore practices, wedding instrumental styles), combined with a highly developed contemporary instrumental technique. This is manifested in the expansion of the technical possibilities of the fiddle with regard to passage technique, the complexity of ornamentation, the richness of tonal nuance achieved through bowing techniques, improvisational mastery, and the concept of the ‘universalization’ of the instrument. In this regard, the transformation of the traditional fiddle’s diatonic character and its gradual chromaticization through the introduction of various scale types is evident, along with the expansion of its intonational range by incorporating elements drawn from classical music, jazz, contemporary pop, and other genres. These achievements in the development of instrumental performance rank Peyo Peev among the most established performers. Evidence of this is his extensive concert and recording activity in collaboration with some of the most prominent contemporary musicians and artists. All of the aforementioned qualities are convincingly demonstrated in the performance outputs submitted for the present procedure - the concert ‘Folklore Easter’ with the Kapanski Ensemble, Razgrad; the concert ‘Fiddlers on the Move’, Peyo Peev & Vladimir Vladimirov; and the production presented under Group of Indicators Γ (items 13, 14).

As a composer of original works and arrangements (adaptations) creatively interpreting traditional music, Peyo Peev demonstrates his own distinctive artistic signature. The stylistic characteristics of his work are manifested in the development of musical form, the expansion of horizons in instrumentation, and the enhancement of the capabilities of folk instruments and their functions within the musical score. Particularly remarkable are his explorations in the field of harmonization. These integrate into a unified whole established achievements and historical accumulations with an individual creative perspective enriched by techniques from contemporary popular music and jazz. Examples of this are the submitted original projects - the solo

album 'Sreshti' ('Meetings'), the solo album 'Pletenitsa' ('Interweaving'), and the works presented under Group Γ Indicators (item 12) - music and arrangements of songs.

Peyo Peev's creative activity is reflected in the theoretical understanding of his work, expressed through a conceptual scholarly consolidation of his ideas. In this regard, the book *'The Fiddle: Acoustic Characteristics and Contemporary Trends in Its Amplification'* was published based on his doctoral thesis. The submitted scholarly article *'Fundamental Features of the String Section in the Folk Instrument Orchestra'* presents a theoretical perspective on the function of the fiddle in forming the core section of the folk instrument orchestra, defined by the author as the 'string ensemble section' (p. 105). Peyo Peev demonstrates various types of bowing techniques used by the fiddle group, derived from classical violin technique and symphonic orchestration.

His extensive performance and creative activity is complemented by his pedagogical work in the academic environment and at various types of forums, as submitted under Group E Indicators (item 28).

Conclusion

The review of Peyo Peev's artistic and creative, research, and teaching activities convincingly presents him as a suitable candidate for the announced competition. He demonstrates outstanding achievements as an established performer, a creator with a distinctive individual style, an author of scholarly works, and a lecturer in the academic environment. On the basis of all these considerations, I **confidently vote in favour** of the selection of Assoc. Prof. Peyo Peev, PhD in the competition at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the Professional Field 'Music and Dance Art', Major Fiddle and Arrangement and Orchestration of Folk Ensembles.

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Sofia

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