

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Vasil Milchev Vasilev, PhD

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member of the Scientific Jury in a competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in the professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts, major: Fiddle and Arrangement and Orchestration of Folk Ensembles, for the needs of the Department of Musical Folklore at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, announced in the State Gazette of the Republic of Bulgaria (Issue No. 82 of 7 October 2025)

I. Information on the Competition and the Procedure

The present opinion has been prepared in connection with a competition for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ in the professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts, major: ‘Fiddle and Arrangement and Orchestration of Folk Ensembles’ at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, announced and conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the implementing regulations, and the internal regulatory acts of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

After reviewing the submitted documentation, I have established that the procedure is lawful and fully compliant with the applicable regulatory framework. One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition – Assistant Professor Peyo Trendafilov Peev, PhD.

II. Information about the Candidate. Professional and Artistic Career

Assistant Professor Peyo Trendafilov Peev, PhD, was born on 21 September 1975 in Stara Zagora. His professional development began at an early age as a member of *Zagorche* Children and Youth Ensemble. He completed his secondary education in 1994 at *Filip Kutev* Secondary School of Music – Kotel, majoring in Fiddle – one of the most emblematic and distinctive instruments of Bulgarian traditional music.

In the same year, the candidate was admitted to the *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy

of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in 'Conducting of Folk Ensembles' in 1999. In 2017, he earned a Master's degree in 'Instrumental Performance', and in July 2023 he successfully defended his doctoral degree (PhD).

His professional background is exceptionally rich and distinguished. During the period 1997-1999, he was an orchestral musician with *Filip Kutev* National Folklore Ensemble. From 2000 to the present, he has served as a soloist-orchestral musician and section leader in the Bulgarian National Radio Folk Music Orchestra - a position that in itself signifies high professional recognition and prestige.

Particularly impressive is his international activity – participation in the world-renowned show 'Riverdance' with approximately 150 concerts, as well as collaborative recordings and performances with the ensembles Hesperion XXI (Jordi Savall) and L'Arpeggiata (Christina Pluhar). His concert tours have encompassed Europe, the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, and Israel.

Since 2017, Assistant Professor Peev, PhD, has been a part-time lecturer at *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, and since 2020 he has held a full-time academic position at the Department of Musical Folklore, where he has developed consistent and active pedagogical work.

III. Research Activity and Scholarly Contributions

The candidate's research activity constitutes a logical continuation of his long-standing practical and performing experience. His doctoral thesis, **entitled 'The Fiddle: Acoustic Characteristics and Contemporary Trends in Its Amplification'**, represents an original and up-to-date study devoted to a topic that has thus far been relatively underdeveloped in Bulgarian scholarly literature.

On the basis of the dissertation thesis, a book bearing the same title was published in 2025, making a substantial contribution both in theoretical and applied terms. In this work, the author analyzes the acoustic characteristics of the fiddle, examines contemporary technological solutions for its sound production, and proposes practical models applicable both in concert practice and in the educational process.

The candidate's academic profile is further enriched by published articles in specialized journals, as well as documented citations in peer-reviewed scholarly publications and edited volumes. This attests to the real presence and significance of his research within both the academic and professional communities.

IV. Artistic and Creative Activity

The artistic and creative activity of Assistant Professor Peyo Peev, PhD, is exceptionally intensive, multifaceted, and distinguished by a clearly defined individual style. He has participated in more than 50 recording projects with musicians from around the world and has released two solo albums, as well as six editions produced by him.

The candidate is the composer of the music for the stage productions 'Click', 'Dance of the Wind', and '5 x 5 + 1', in addition to numerous arrangements and original compositions. His documented solo and leading creative appearances, concerts in Bulgaria and abroad, as well as his participation in prestigious international projects, outline his profile as an established performer, composer, and arranger with an indisputable contribution to the contemporary development of Bulgarian folk music.

V. Teaching Activity

In his capacity as a lecturer at the Department of Musical Folklore at the *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, Assistant Professor Peev, PhD, demonstrates a high level of pedagogical competence, responsibility, and commitment to student education. His practical experience, combined with a research-oriented approach, provides a solid foundation for an effective and contemporary educational process.

His active engagement in leading masterclasses and workshops both nationally and internationally further strengthens his pedagogical profile and confirms his established authority within the wider professional community.

VI. Conclusion

Based on my overall assessment of the submitted documentation and the results of the research, artistic and creative, and teaching activities of Assistant Professor Peyo Trendafilov Peev, PhD, I state with full conviction that he fully meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the

Regulations for its implementation for holding the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’.

I hereby express my positive evaluation and propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury that Assistant Professor Peyo Trendafilov Peev, PhD, be awarded the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts, major: Fiddle and Arrangement and Orchestration of Folk Ensembles at the *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv.

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