

## REVIEW

from Prof. Dr. Adrian Georgiev, Sofia University 'St Kliment Ohridski' on the artistic activity of Chief Assistant Dr. ANGEL ZABERSKI in relation to the procedure announcing the competition for 'ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR' at NBU under the professional field of higher education 8.3. Music and Dance Art and scientific specialty: Musicology and music art (pop jazz harmony, improvisation, chamber ensembles, pop and jazz piano).

Angel Zaberski was born in 1969 in Sofia in the family of musicians. He has been playing the piano since he was 6 years old, he graduated from the National School of Music 'Lyubomir Pipkov'. After completing two years military service he continued his education at the National Music Academy 'Pancho Vladigerov' majoring in 'Composition and conducting'. He studied counterpoint, musical forms, basic music theory and solfeggio - the basics of any serious musical education. The he also made his first steps in jazz music. A turning point for the young Zaberski was the recording of the pianist Oscar Peterson, given to him by his father. The music of the black virtuoso marked the beginning of the new musical path that Zaberski Junior took. At that time the talented student was inspired by Herbie Hancock, Chick Curry, Keith Jarrett, Art Tatum and many others. He began fervently to collect recordings and listening to jazz and was excited about the development of jazz in Bulgaria, he attended all concerts of Bulgarian jazz performers – the acoustic version Antoniy Donchev and Hristo Yotsov, Simeon Shterev 'Banana', Lyudmil Georgiev, Mario Stanchev, Stoyan Yankulov, Vasil Parmakov, Ventsi Blagoev, Teodosi Stoykov – these are only some of the jazz music soldiers who played in the club 'Under the Opera' during the 80s of the last century.

The first band that Angel Zaberski-son founded was a trio along with Dimitar Dimitrov (drums) and Petar Slavov Jr. (bass). Currently, they both work and live in the USA. The trio records many pieces for the show 'JazzTime' broadcasted on the Bulgarian National Television. At the same time Zaberski wrote his first arrangement for the Big Band – 'The Days of Wine and Roses', music by Henry Mancini. The orchestral music became a priority for the young composer and he continued to explore the American method of arranging Big Band and symphonic music by learning from Ted Jones, Henry Mancini, Don Sebesky, Bob Bruckmeier, Bill Howman, Quincy Jones, Gil Evans, Sammy Nestico, Russell Garcia, Ernie Wilkins, Peter Herbolzheimer, Jorge Calandrelli and many others.

The musician released his first CD 'Angel Zaberski Octet' in 2000 with seven plays written and arranged by him and one jazz standard 'Stella By Starlight'. He also made recordings at BNT and BNR /Bulgarian National Radio/. In 2006 the second CD of Angel Zaberski-son came out entitled 'Hot Brass & Rhythm'. In 2006-2007 Zaberski-son joined the Bulgarian National Radio as an arranger of the Big Band. In 2008 the third CD was released called 'Definitely Mr. Zaberski' with original plays, written and arranged by the composer for streich orchestra, brass quintet, jazz trio and soloist.

The author's fourth CD was completed in April 2011. The album contains plays for the Brass Association big band written and arranged by Zaberski Junior and recorded by the 17-member formation. The album contains eleven plays, only two of which are not original. Angel Zaberski is the composer of the other nine, in which jazz, passion and retro intertwine. Angel Zaberski and the Big Band Brass Association are a phenomenon not only because their mastery take us back to one of the most glamorous epochs in the history of music but also because they bring back our faith in the contemporary Bulgarian jazz. The Big Band compiles sixteen of the best musicians in their field - trumpets, trombones, bass saxophones, percussion and, of course, piano. The album is called 'HIGH VOLTAGE'.

The next album 'LIKE JAZZ' by ANGEL ZABERSKI TRIO presents free romantic interpretations of popular classical themes by Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Puccini, expressed with the magic of jazz. Angel Zaberski turns to famous classical works, exploiting the elegance of jazz and the romantic improvisation, as well as the strengths of his trio with Stoyan Yankulov - Stundzhi and Boris Tashev – a great professionalism and extraordinary collaboration between thinking musicians.

I took the liberty to quote the autobiographical notes in order to properly reflect Mr. Zaberski work, which exceeds by far the requirements for holding the academic position of 'Associate Professor', so below I would like to comment on the monographic work presented by Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski as his habilitation thesis for associate professor of Musicology and Music (under professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art). Four significant projects of national and international importance are presented with a short text with well-defined scientific problems and contribution:

- **Participation in a concert on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 with Angel Zaberski Trio, Mihail Yosifov and Brass quintet at the 'EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS' festival in Frankfurt am Main.** The event was organized by the European Central Bank (ECB) in cooperation with the Bulgarian National Bank. The EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS initiative has been running since 2003, every year focusing on the culture of the various countries of the EU. The first concert with Angel Zaberski Trio was on the stage of Jazzkeller, where jazz icons such as Dizzy Gillespie and Louis Armstrong played 60 years ago. On 28<sup>th</sup> November we presented a concert entitled 'A new interpretation of evergreens' with Vasil Petrov, Stoyan Yankulov, Mihail Yosifov, Todor Bakardzhiev, Martin Tashev, Vili Stoyanov, Mihail Mihailov and Dimitar Uzunov. The music the trio performed on the stage of the oldest music academy in Frankfurt Dr. Hoch's Konservatorium (1878) included the author's arrangements.
- **Participation in a concert on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 with the project 'JAZZ MEETS THE CLASSICS'** on 4 grand pianos with three of the best pianists in Bulgaria (Ivan Yanakov, Georgi Cherkin and Zhivko Petrov) at the invitation of the Bulgarian Cultural Institute in London, with the participation of Teodosii Spasov, The Mystery of the Bulgarian Voices, the London Bulgarian Choir and the London Chamber Orchestra. The concert was held in the prestigious Cadogan Hall in London honouring the Day of Bulgarian Literature and Culture with a guest Minister of Culture at that time - Vezhdi Rashidov. The concert is the first in a series of events in the course of Bulgaria's preparation for the presidency of the Council of the European Union and is under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture.
- **Participation in a concert from the series 'Music for America'** in April 2013 with Angel Zaberski trio and the American trumpeter Rex Richardson, with arrangements of Angel Zaberski on the music of J. Gershwin, D. Ellington and L. Armstrong.
- **Taking part in a concert with Mihail Yosifov** - trumpet and Classic FM orchestra in the fourth season of the cycle 'The Music of America'. The concert took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in the Bulgaria Hall and included popular themes from Hollywood productions, with special guest - conductor Francisco Noah.

- **Participation in a concert of Christian McBride with his trio at the invitation of Sofia Music Enterprises. The concert was held in March in Sofia Live Club** with the media partnership of Jazz FM.

- **Recording and implementing author CD:**

- OKtet –Angel Zaberski octet
- Angel Zaberski ‘Hot and Brazz rhythm’
- ‘Definitely Mr. Zaberski’
- ‘Hi voltage’ - Big Band
- ‘Reflections’
- ‘Like Jazz’

Based on the above I would like to express my firm support of the candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Angel Zaberski for being appointed as an ‘ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR’ in the announced competition at NBU in professional field of higher education 8.3. Music and Dance Art and scientific specialty: Musicology and music art (pop jazz harmony, improvisation, chamber ensembles, pop and jazz piano).

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Prof. Dr. Adrian Georgiev