

REVIEW

by Prof. Elisaveta Borisova Valchinova-Chendova, D.Sc.

Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance art, New Bulgarian University

Regarding the contributions of the creative and research activities of

Assoc. Prof. Georgi Asenov Arnaudov, PhD, New Bulgarian University

for participation in a competition announced in the State Gazette (№62/06.08.2019)

for the academic position Professor,

at the New Bulgarian University, Research area: 8.3 Music and Dance art

Presentation

Georgi Asenov Arnaudov (Gheorghi Arnaudov)¹ (1957) is a distinguished Bulgarian composer with international recognition. He graduated in composition with Alexander Tanev and contemporary music with Bojidar Spassov from the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" and obtained his Doctorate of Philosophy in the New Bulgarian University. While attending the Music Academy, Arnaudov also studied composition in Florence, where he explored electronic and concrete music. Upon graduation and completion of his studies abroad, Arnaudov began establishing a reputation as dedicated composer as well as a theorist. Specializing in modern and postmodern aesthetics, communication and semiotics, he also set himself to exploring ancient and Far Eastern musical forms. To date Arnaudov has produced numerous symphonies, oratorios, concertos and has won several international prizes. He currently teaches in the "Music" and "Theatre" departments of New Bulgarian University as well in the Faculty of Philosophy of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and in the National School of Music "Lubomir Pipkov" – Sofia. In 2009 he was appointed associate professor in Composition and Harmony and at the New Bulgarian University. His artistic career started in the beginning of the eighties. At the same time he did research work in the field of musical theory, concrete and electro acoustic music as well as research in the field of ancient and Far-Eastern music. He is author of scientific and theoretical articles in music, as well as of publicist and critical reviews in scientific and musical periodicals, mainly in the sphere of the contemporary arts, the aesthetics of modernism and postmodernism, communications in the music, musical semiotics and the theory of contemporary music. He has won many international and national awards, including the Grand Prix of the European Broadcasting Union (1985), the Golden Harp Prize (1985), the "Jeunesses Musicales" Prize (1985), the Special Prize of the Union of Bulgarian Composers (1986), the Carl Maria von Weber International Prize of Music (1989), the Composer Award in honor of the Sofia National School of Music Centenary. In 2017 Arnaudov was awarded with the Ministry of culture's "Golden Age" – Star award for his contribution to the development and the flowering of the Bulgarian culture and national identity. Compared in the beginning to composers such as Scriabin, Messiaen or Part nowadays Arnaudov is known as one of the most distinctive European composers, creating

¹ <https://www.arnaudov.net/>

a music of stasis, a new kind of intense minimalism "that tells no conventional stories but rather meditates on an idea. His instrumental works have distinguished him as a modernist innovator, one who looks at musical instruments as total items capable of many sounds, overtones and resonances. Many have commented on the spiritual side of Arnaudov music, and indeed mysticism and ritual are two elements present in much of his work. Also influential has been art, cinema and literature, with sources of inspiration including Rene Magritte, Tarkovsky, James Joyce or Jorge-Luis Borges. Georghi Arnaudov's works have been released on many CDs under the labels Gega New, BNR (Bulgaria), Concord Records, Labor Records (USA).

Georgi Arnaudov is a major contributor to his active involvement in the activities of various governing bodies of New Bulgarian University as a member of the departmental and faculty councils, as well as of the Academic Council of NBU. Over the years, Assoc. Prof. Georgi Arnaudov is the Director of the Bachelor's Program in Theater (2002 – 2006), the Bachelor's Program in Music (2008 – 2012), and the Director of the Program Board of Music (2014 – 2017). In January 2018 Assoc. Prof. Georghi Arnaudov was appointed Vice-Rector for International Relations and Research in NBU.

Research/creative activity and its results (according to the indicators for the various scientific degrees and academic positions in the competition area: 8.3. Music and dance art')

The presented materials, with which Assoc. Prof. Georgi Arnaudov participated in the competition, include activities that far exceed the minimum requirements for this section in individual groups. According to the requirements, I will limit myself to commenting on the groups of indicators with the submitted materials for the competition and short summaries (without analysis of the works), emphasizing that all documents are carefully prepared, comprehensive supporting material is attached.

- **Group "A" (in Bulgarian „A“) indicators – 50 points required / defended PhD thesis.**

Georgi Arnaudov's Dissertation theme is: *Stylistic interactions in the creative activities of the composer in the postmodern era*. Research area: 8.3. Musical and dance art. This is certified by a Diploma No/date: 116 / 11.04.2012 of New Bulgarian University. The dissertation and its related publications are highly regarded as a theoretical study on the processes of contemporary music.

- **Group "C" (in Bulgarian „B“) indicators – 100 points required. The total number of points is 370:**

Indicator 4. Realized artistic production in the field of arts (film, spectacle, exhibition, concert, etc.) Georgi Arnaudov collects 300 points, presenting 6 major author's contributions:

1. “Antiphona dulcis armonia” Concerto for two cellos and orchestra (2017) 29 May 2017, 7.00 p.m. Bulgaria concert hall;
2. “Concerto Ppianissimo” – concerto for two pianos and orchestra (2017);
3. Author's CD „Flow and stay“- produced by the Bulgarian national radio, MK57496/2017;
4. Georgi Arnaudov's concerto in the frame of XLV Sofia Music Weeks Classical International Music Festival. 16.06.2014;
5. 60 Years Georgi Arnaudov concerto in the frame of XLVIII Sofia Music Weeks Classical International Music Festival – Bulgarian National Radio Hall – 21.06.2017;
6. Jubilee Concerto Georgi Arnaudov 13.11.2017 r., Bulgaria Chamber concert hall.

I know the works included on the CD and in the concert programs, I have also attended the events themselves, which have become cultural highlights on the music billboard and are subject to positive peer review. I will especially emphasize the professional attitude and interest of the performers in his music, and at the anniversary concert in 2017 they were the initiators of his organization.

Indicator 5. Leading (self-dependent) artistic contribution in the field of arts Georgi Arnaudov collects 70 points and provided evidences of two major contributions, the publication in Osaka, Japan of two of his last works:

1. Arnaudov, Gheorghi (2018). Concerto Ppianissimo, for Two Pianos and Orchestra. Osaka: Da Vinci Edition. SKU: DV 10973;
2. Arnaudov, Gheorghi (2017). Three Sonnets of Michelangelo, for Cello Solo. Osaka: Da Vinci Edition. SKU: DV 10974

These two international editions are indisputably high recognition for his work and for the Bulgarian music.

• **In the Group “D” (in Bulgarian „Г“) indicators – 150 points required. The total number of points is 380.**

Indicator 9. Articles and reports published in specialized editions in the field of arts: Here Arnaudov presents information and evidence about 12 articles published in specialized periodicals in the field of arts and 2 studios.

Indicator 11. Studies published in specialized editions in the field of arts: Arnaudov presents information and evidence for 2 published studies.

Indicator 13. Leading (or independently) artistic contribution to the arts not presented as a habilitation thesis: Here Arnaudov presents information and evidence of 4 major artistic contributions to the arts – the first performances and world premieres of his compositions in London (premiere of Phantasmagoria II – Concerto for Violin and Orchestra), concert performance of "Doors of Sleep" III for string quintet (Vienna and Tianjin), and premiere of "Midnight Songs" for orchestra of traditional and ancient Chinese instruments (Beijing, China, October 13, 2017, Beijing Concert Hall), Forbidden City Chamber Orchestra, conductor Liu Shen. On September 30, 2019, this work was performed in Sofia as a guest orchestra of the Forgotten City Chamber in Bulgaria Hall (the concert was organized on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations with China) – sophisticated music presenting aesthetics and the most recent searches for the composer in the field of sound space, conceived by silence.

- **In the Group “E” (in Bulgarian „Д“) indicators – 80 points required. The total number is 210.**

Indicator 17. Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review. Here Arnaudov presents information and evidences for 5 citations in the indicator.

Indicator 18. Citations or reviews in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals. Here Arnaudov presents information and evidences for 4 citations in the indicator.

Indicator 19. Reviews for realized artistic production, or artistic contributions in specialized editions in the field of arts. Here Arnaudov presents information and evidence for 15 articles and reviews for his artistic work as composer.

- **In the Group “F” (in Bulgarian „Е“) indicators – 120 points required. The total number of points is 285.**

Indicator 21. Management of successfully defended PhD student (n is the number of PhD student supervisors) – 80 points;

Indicator 22. Participation in a national scientific, educational, artistic project – 30 points;

Indicator 23. Participation in an international scientific, educational or artistic project – 40 points;

Indicator 24. Leadership of a national scientific, educational or artistic project – 75 points;

Indicator 27. Published university textbook or school textbook used in the school network – 40 points

Indicator 30. Awards for creative and performance competitions given by national professional forums and organizations – Georgi Arnaudov won two major national awards in 2017 – 20 points;

In Total, the sum of points from A to F is:

Group "A" [A]	Minimum required points – 50	Recognized points – 50
Group "C" [B]	Minimum required points – 100	Recognized points –370
Group "D" [Г]	Minimum required points – 150	Recognized points –380
Group "E" [Д]	Minimum required points – 80	Recognized points –210
Group "F" [E]	Minimum required points – 120	Recognized points –285

Herewith, I would like to emphasize again that the candidate Georgi Arnaudov completely meets the national required minimum science-metric indicators in the field of Arts, Research area: 8.3 Music and Dance art prescribed by the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act for occupying the academic position of “Professor”.

Something more Assoc. Prof. Georgi Arnaudov, PhD, completely meets as well the additional required minimum science-metric indicators in the field of Arts prescribed by the Regulation of the Development of Academic Staff of NBU.

- **The indicators G, H, I, J. are also convincing.**

I mentioned some of the activities involved in the presentation of the applicant, which testify to his active social, pedagogical and administrative activity. Here I will mention only the specially developed courses of the Bachelor of Music program: MUSB530 Music Theory (Harmony, Polyphony, Analysis) – Part I, MUSB630 Music Theory (Harmony, Polyphony, Analysis) – Part II, MUSB700 Music Theory (Harmony, Polyphony, Analysis) – Part III, MUSB800 Music Theory (Harmony, Polyphony, Analysis) – Part IV.

In Total, the sum of points from G to J is:

Group "G" [Ж]	Minimum required points – 70	Recognized points – 170
Group "H" [З]	Minimum required points – 70	Recognized points – 90
Group "I" [И]	Minimum required points – 70	Recognized points – 320
Group "J" [Й]	Minimum required points – 40	Recognized points – 40

I would like to emphasize again that the candidate Georgi Arnaudov not only completely meets, but also exceeds the required national minimum scientific and metric indicators in the field of arts, research area: 8.3 Music and Dance Arts. It fully complies with the additional necessary minimum scientific and metric indicators in the field of arts, prescribed by the Regulation for the development of the academic staff of NBU.

- **In the Group "J"** Georgi Arnaudov presented in Group J a theoretical studio entitled "On the Philosophy of Structuring a Musical Work (Notes on the Understanding of the Creative Process)", 71 p.

Georgi Arnaudov devotes a number of texts to the creative process, including in academic scientific publications. Here he offers a comprehensive concept that, as he emphasizes at the outset, exemplifies his views and beliefs as a composer "in the creative process. The text is valuable to both music researchers of Georgi Arnaudov and those who work in the field of contemporary composing projects, as well as to students of composition who are looking for their way into "making music."

Conclusion

On the basis of everything mentioned above, and in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, I would like to give all my positive assessments and propose to the Honorable members of the Scientific Jury of this competition for *professor* to approve Assoc. Prof. Georgi Asenov Arnaudov, PhD, for the academic position of "*professor*" in Research area: 8.3 Music and Dance art at the New Bulgarian University – Sofia and to propose his candidature for the vote of the Academic Council of NBU.

Sofia, 19.12.2019

Prof. Elisaveta Borisova Valchinova-Chendova, D.Sc.