

OPINION

from Associate Prof. Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov –

Department of Music, New Bulgarian University - Sofia

professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art

on the contribution of the artistic and creative activity proposed for habilitation work

of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski,

a full-time lecturer at the Bachelor's Faculty of NBU, Department of Music,

regarding his participation in a competition for Associate Professor academic position at NBU (jazz harmony, chamber ensembles, accompaniment and jazz improvisation) under professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, announced in State Gazette No. 6 / 21.01.2020

Biographical data:

Angel Zaberski's biography compiles of concerts, original works and music albums, hundreds of concerts with famous jazz musicians Bulgaria and foreign guests. I will highlight only the main points of his creative path so far (to comply with the format of the opinion), although even that is unnecessary due to the popularity of this great Bulgarian jazz pianist and composer.

Angel Zaberski-son was born in 1969 in Sofia in the family of musicians Angel Yankov Zaberski and Margarita Radinska. He has been playing the piano since he was 6 years old. He graduated from the National School of Music 'Lyubomir Pipkov' with major piano. After completing the compulsory military service, he continued his education at the National Academy of Music 'Pancho Vladigerov', majoring in composition and conducting. He studied counterpoint, musical forms, basic music theory, solfeggio - the main disciplines of music education. His first steps in jazz music started at that time as well. A turning point for the young Zaberski was the recording of the pianist Oscar Peterson, given to him by his father, which changed the direction of his music career.

Zaberski Junior zealously began collecting recordings and listening to jazz. He was also excited about the development of jazz in Bulgaria and attended all concerts of Bulgarian jazz performers at the end of the twentieth century.

In 2000 the musician releases his first CD 'Angel Zaberski Octet' including 7 plays written and arranged by him. His second CD was released in 2006 entitled 'Hot Brass & Rhythm'.

In 2006-2007 he became an arranger at the Big Band of the Bulgarian National Radio, with Vili Kazasyan as conductor. Then he worked with singer Vasil Petrov for more than 10 years, for whom A. Zaberski-son wrote a number of arrangements for jazz and evergreen melodies for trio and symphony orchestra. The two perform together all over Bulgaria as well as in Switzerland and Russia. They participate in almost every edition of Apollonia Arts Festival, as well as in other jazz forums and festivals in Bulgaria - in the cities of Ruse, Varna, Plovdiv. In 2008 the third CD of Angel Zaberski-son was released – 'Definitely Mr. Zaberski', with original plays, written and arranged by the composer for string orchestra, brass quintet, jazz trio and soloist. In April 2011 he released a fourth original CD recorded in the popular Sofia Live Club. Angel Zaberski and the Big Band Brass Association became a music phenomenon.

The next album 'LIKE JAZZ' by ANGEL ZABERSKI TRIO presents the author romantic free interpretations of popular classical themes by Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Puccini, etc., expressed with the help of jazz.

Assessment of the compliance with the minimum national requirements

1. Group of indicators A - minimum required points: 50

Angel Zaberski defended his dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' on the topic: 'The **creative** work of Angel Zaberski' (21.12.2012 - New Bulgarian University).

Appendix 1: Copy of the diploma for the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' and the author's summary of the dissertation.

Total points in group A - 50 points

2. Group of indicators B - minimum required points: 100

Total points in group B - 120 points

3. Group of indicators D - minimum required points: 120

Total points in group D - 240 points

4. Group of indicators E - minimum required points: 40

Total points in group E - 40 points.

5. Group of indicators F - minimum required points: 50

Total points in group F - 210 points.

6. Group of indicators G - minimum required points: 40

Total points in group G - 355 points

7. Group of indicators H - minimum required points: 40

Total points in group H - 90 points

8. Group of indicators I – minimum required points: 40

Total points in group I – 50 points

9. Group of indicators J – minimum required points: 0

Total points in group J – 40 points

Annex 2: Evidence for performances completed

The candidate's self-assessment describes in detail his activities for habilitation work.

As a jazz pianist, composer, arranger and conductor Angel Zaberski is one of the most famous and loved Bulgarian musicians. He has proven himself with his concert and recording activity, as well as with his artistic work over the last 20 years. He is the author and arranger of dozens of jazz instrumental pieces performed together with local and foreign world-famous jazz musicians. At the moment he is the only Bulgarian composer of big band music, producing both jazz and classical themes; he is a composer and arranger of music works for both small bands and large symphony orchestras.

The result of Angel Zaberski's many years' experience are the composer's latest 11 original plays, presented in his latest album '**BIG BAND IN ACTION**', recorded with the **Big Band Brass Association** in 2018, in which Zaberski is a soloist and conductor. The author has invited some of the most successful jazz musicians in Bulgaria and abroad, the solo parts are performed by Mihail Yosifov (trumpet), Dimitar Lyolev (saxophone), Martin Tashev (trumpet), Stoyan Yankulov (drums), Boris Tashev (bass), Velislav Stoyanov (trombone) and Vladislav Michev (trombone). Guest musicians in the saxophone part are Tobias Hoffmann from Germany, Ivan Ivanov from Macedonia and Arnau Garrofé from Spain. The album includes a wide variety of

genres: romantic ballads, folk plays, opera arias and jazz standards, as Zaberski himself puts it: ‘An eclecticism of genres - swing, ballad, fusion, folklore, bebop, mainstream...’ at concerts in Bulgaria Hall in Sofia and Boris Hristov House of Culture in Plovdiv. In addition, the candidate presents a brief analysis of the works included in the album.

Angel Zaberski is a two-time winner of the Crystal Lyre in jazz category. He has received national awards for original compositions performed together with his distinguished students, which contribute greatly to the image of New Bulgarian University as a high quality educational institution. Angel Zaberski is one of the public figures representing NBU in the media.

The artistic activity provided to serve as habilitation work is productive and of high quality, which is more than enough to defend the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ at NBU. The candidate has more than the necessary high quality activities and contribution to the culture of our country. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski, being a lecturer at NBU, has proven his professionalism and the benefits he brings to the university and its young talents.

I have known Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski for many years working together at NBU. I believe that the university will benefit significantly from appointing him as an ‘Associate Professor’.

Opinions, recommendations and other notes on the activities and achievements of the candidate – None.

Based on the above, as well as the conclusions made on the proposed creative and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski and having in mind his great artistic activities and the high contribution of his composition and creative performances, I give my positive assessment and propose to the honourable members of the Scientific Jury in the competition for ‘Associate Professor’ at NBU, professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, specialty: Musicology and music art (pop jazz harmony, improvisation, chamber ensembles, pop and jazz piano) to offer to the NBU Academic Council to select Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ at the Bachelor Faculty of NBU (Department of Music), in compliance with the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

25.05.2020

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Petkov