

OPINION

from

Prof. Dr. Boriana Asenova Lambreva

on the materials provided for participation in the competition for the academic position
'Associate Professor' under professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art
(jazz harmony, chamber ensembles, accompaniment and jazz improvisation) at the Bachelor's
Faculty, Department of Music at New Bulgarian University
(announced in the State Gazette, issue 6/21.01.2020)

by the sole candidate:

Chief Assistant Professor Angel Angelov Zaberski

In full compliance with the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, all stages of the competition have been properly carried out. The candidate meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position 'Associate professor', ascertained at the first meeting of the scientific jury.

Angel Zaberski – son name is well known to jazz fans in Bulgaria, he is very active in the concert life of the country. He has numerous performances as a pianist and composer at home and abroad. The main focus of his work is participation in concerts with various formations and soloists in the field of vocal and instrumental music, as well as being a composer and author of many arrangements that became part of the programs of jazz and brass bands at home and abroad. In addition to his successful artistic activity Zaberski is also a pedagogue - chief assistant and full-time lecturer at the Department of Music at the New Bulgarian University.

In his self-assessment report, Chief Assistant Professor Angel Zaberski offers a large and broad-spectrum artistic activity; the presented data and materials meet the minimum required points, and also exceed them in certain sections. This is due to high activity, especially in the field of artistic performances - concerts, participation in national and international forums, publishing audio CDs, etc.

Assessment of the compliance with the minimum national requirements according to art. 2, para. 2 of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

The candidate has presented the following activities under the different groups of indicators, which I will comment on according to the requirements:

Group of indicators A – 50 required points

Indicator 1: Dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'. In 2012 Angel Zaberski successfully defended the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' at NBU with his dissertation on the topic of 'The creative work of Angel Zaberski'.

Group of indicators C - 120 out of 100 required points

In this group the candidate presents the following projects relevant and equal to habilitation work: completed author's product in the field of arts under indicator 4 and two leading (independent) artistic performances in the field of arts - indicator 5.

Indicator 4: (50 points) - creating author's CD 'BIG BAND IN ACTION'. The composer Angel Zaberski includes 11 of his new works in the disc. Moreover, he is a conductor and soloist of the 'Big Band Brass Association' with which he carries out the project. Also a series of concerts

are held to present the disc in the capital and several cities in the country, as well as sound recordings of the works in it. Concerts are also held in 2016 in one of the largest halls in Dobrich, Varna and Ruse which precede the release of the CD.

Created especially for the Big Band Brass Association and for some of our best performers in the genre, the works are the result of new and more creative search and experience of the author, reflecting the composer's aspiration to find his own individual style. As he puts it: 'I have learned from the greatest in the field, that's why the music may sound familiar to some (...), but that doesn't prevent the end result from having my own style. I have written many songs for Big Band over the years, but I think the ones I have selected for this album are the most noteworthy and the most effective. An eclecticism of genres - swing, ballad, fusion, folklore, beat bop, mainstream...' The different genres united by Zaberski's individual author style is what contributes so much to the artistic product. I would like to pay special attention to the masterpieces in the opera genre - Puccini's famous arias 'Nessun Dorma' and 'Che gelida manina' which are also included in the disc and translated into the language of jazz with the help of Angel Zaberski arrangement.

Indicator 5:

The candidate presents two creative projects of international importance which are also part of a series of concerts.

1. Angel Zaberski Trio two concerts, Mihail Yosifov and the Brass quintet as part of the European Cultural Days festival in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The prestigious event has been held since 2003 and presents the best of the cultural life of European countries.
2. Organizing a series of concerts 'Jazz meets the classics'. The project once again shows the trend to bring together seemingly different genres which is typical of the artistic view and quest of Angel Zaberski - son. Some of the best pianists in Bulgaria in jazz and classical take part in a series of concerts - Angel Zaberski, Ivan Yanakov, Georgi Cherkin and Zhivko Petrov. That is the reason why some of these concerts are entitled 'The Four Pianists'. These performers prepare several non-standard and interesting programs which compile into one various works by Bach, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Richard Strauss and many other classical composers, and Christmas songs, music from films or Bulgarian folklore in the form of unique interpretations and arrangements, most of which originate from Angel Zaberski pen. The project definitely makes a great contribution and stands out among the rich artistic biography of the candidate.

Group of indicators "D" - 250 out of 120 required points

Indicator 12 - Completed short author's product in the field of arts (30 points) - releasing the author's CD 'Like Jazz' with jazz trio 'Like Jazz' (Angel Zaberski, Stoyan Yankulov - Stundzhi and Boris Taslev), as well as going on a national tour in seven cities in Bulgaria to present it.

According to indicator 13 - Leading (or independent) artistic performance in the field of arts, which is not the main habilitation work (35 points) - Chief Assistant Angel Zaberski presents a diverse and impressive activity complementing the general impression of his dynamic presence in concert life in our country. In summary, four leading events are highlighted:

1. A concert with the participation of Patti Austin, vocals (USA), Angel Zaberski Brass Association, Classic FM Radio Orchestra. Conductor: Angel Zaberski. The concert "For

Ella" honoured the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ella Fitzgerald and includes in its program songs by the singer, George Gershwin and Duke Ellington.

2. A concert with Classic FM orchestra and soloist - trumpet player Mihail Yosifov - part of the fourth season of the cycle 'The Music of America'. Special guest of the concert and conductor was Francisco Noah.
3. At the invitation of Sofia Music Enterprises, a concert with Christian McBride with his trio was held in March at Sofia Live Club with the media partnership of Jazz FM.
4. A concert from the cycle 'Music for America' held in April 2013 with Angel Zaberski trio and the American trumpeter Rex Richardson, with arrangements by Angel Zaberski on the music of George Gershwin, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.

In the table, under group D, the candidate has indicated four "articles and reports published in specialized editions in the field of arts", but in the self-assessment report and other documentation these are not discussed. On the other hand, there is a list of 15 leading artistic performances not included in the calculation of activities in this group of indicators, but again they show the presence of a wide range of interests, participation in various music forums, various programs and stage partnerships of Angel Zaberski.

Indicator 14 – 'Supporting artistic performance or participation in a collective product in the field of arts' (10 points) includes two aspects - as a performer and a member of the Bulgarian jury of the 'Eurovision' song contest.

Group of indicators E - 40 of the required 40 points

Indicator 19 – 'Reviews of completed author products or artistic performances in specialized publications in the field of arts.'

The candidate includes two prestigious music awards and two reviews in this group. However, his website www.angelzaberski.com/bg/publications.html shows a serious amount of more reviews and interviews in the press covering his performances on stage and in recording studios.

Group of indicators E - 155 points of the required 50 points

Again the required points are exceeded due to the rich and wide-ranging activity of the candidate. An impressive number of concerts and participations in local and international music projects complete his artistic biography. For his active work as a producer, performer, arranger and composer Angel Zaberski - son was awarded with the following:

- 'Crystal Lyre' in 2013 for the jazz festival JazzIt
- 'Crystal Lyre' in 2014 in the Jazz category for the Symphony - Jazz project
- An award from the international competition for a 7/8 composition for the play 'Three miniatures for four voices and a symphony orchestra'

In addition to the above, I would like to pay special attention to meeting the additional requirements at NBU related to the pedagogical and administrative work of Chief Assistant Professor Angel Zaberski namely the development of courses and research programs, participation in university conferences, initiatives and projects for strategic development of the New Bulgarian University.

In summary: The candidate Angel Zaberski has an active and valuable artistic, pedagogical and cultural activity clearly making a contribution, and also exceeding the legal requirements. I highly appreciate the artistic experience of the performer and composer, which has become a trend and a distinctive feature of his work, using different genres of classical music and folklore, and reflected through the individual jazz style of the author.

I would like to conclude with the following assessment: on the basis of the above and the materials provided, as well as the conclusions on the proposed artistic and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Professor Angel Angelov Zaberski, I give my positive assessment and suggest to the members of the Scientific Jury in the competition for 'Associate Professor' under professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Arts at the Bachelor's Faculty, Department of Music at NBU to appoint Chief Assistant Professor Angel Zaberski at the academic position of 'Associate Professor' according to the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Sofia
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