

## OPINION

by prof. Mariyana Nikolaeva Buleva-Petrova, Doctor of Science

Department of Music at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius",

Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training in...

(Methodology of teaching music - harmony),

on the artistic and creative production for participation in a competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in the professional field

8.3. Musical and dance art (conducting, composition, musical folklore),

announced in SG no. 44 of 14.06.2022,

with candidate Associate Professor Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov

### I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

The competition for a professor in a professional range 8.3. **Musical and dance art (conducting, composition, musical folklore)** has been announced by the NBU. Associate Professor Georgi Metev Petkov is a single candidate in it. All the stages of the procedure were completed correctly, in compliance with the terms and conditions of the ADASRB (Act of Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria), the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the requirements of the New Bulgarian University. The candidate in the competition, Associate Professor Georgi Petkov, meets the condition for meeting the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "professor" in the relevant professional field, distributed by indicators as follows: **indicator A** – 50 points; **indicator B (minimum required points: 100)**: B4 – 250 points; B5 – 105 points (**total 355 according to indicator B**); **indicator C (minimum required points: 150)** – total 275 points; **indicator D (minimum required points: 80)** – 80 points in total; **indicator E (minimum required points: 120)** – total 155 points; NBU requirements: **F – 360 points; G – 100 items; And - 195 items; H – 40 pts.**

The submitted materials for the competition are properly documented and provide the necessary information in full.

### II. Research (creative) activity and results

As a habilitation thesis for participation in the competition, Georgi Petkov presents 5 large-scale creative and artistic achievements (B4 – carried out author's product in the field of arts)

and three more significant performances (B5 – leading (independent) creative performance in the field of arts). In their framework, original compositions, arrangements, concert events, tours, recordings are included in various combinations and proportions.

For the five central achievements (B4) and for two more of those included in the NACID (National Centre for Information and Documentation) report (from indicators B5 and D), we receive information from the "extended summary" provided for in the requirements of the NBU, titled by Georgi Petkov **A SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS, CONCERTS AND MUSIC ALBUMS**. Within the framework of my standpoint, I cannot analyse the entire large-scale creative activity of Georgi Petkov, which has received international recognition and from which numerous cultural artefacts are available, documented through the relevant sheet music, YouTube recordings and CD music albums attached to the competition documents. To each of the projects, Georgi Petkov points out clearly outlined multifaceted practical-applied contributions. Therefore, I will place a special emphasis that, in my opinion, deserves to be brought out in parentheses:

The text, through which Georgi Petkov presents his creative production, is 63 pages long. Although a habilitation thesis is itself a creative activity, the so-called "extended summary" is a development that has the quality of a parallel textual habilitation thesis. As a genre characteristic, it is a kind of chronicle combined with theoretical self-reflection of the creative process. In my opinion, this text is remarkable in its own right, and if expanded, could be shaped into a book that would have a high informative value. *The author's understanding of the creative challenges in the creation of artistic production contains knowledge of innovative genres and performance practices, enriches the idea of synthesis processes in the postmodern era, shows interesting composer aspects in the combination of different musical cultures in the field of World music, provokes reflections on the new boundaries of authorship, for new composing and conducting techniques, for new arrangement approaches.* It is remarkable to glimpse the essentially mirror-like process of arrangement, in which a suitable folk song is "searched" for available Spanish flamenco harmony and rhythm; of great interest is the information about the radically different sense of organization of musical time in the considered cultures. The original concept of the big choral concert and music album "Choir polyphony between the sacred and the folkloric" is impressive, revealing the scope of Georgi Petkov's creative ideas and organizational abilities.

In the general contribution report, 12 contributions are identified, which are real, significant, and respectful. I would systematize them into three groups: promotion of Bulgarian musical folklore and Bulgarian choral art on the world music scene, crowned with the "Grammy"

award; first of its kind unique projects in the field of "World Music" (Bulgarian - Spanish and Bulgarian - Cuban); remarkable pedagogical work in the ensembles founded by him, which received an outlet and recognition on an international scale. Moreover, in each of these contributions, the personality of Georgi Petkov is present in many ways, and his achievements as a composer, arranger, conductor, and organizer are projected in a synthesis.

### **III. Educational and teaching activity**

Since 1998, Georgi Petkov has been a teacher in the "Music" department of the New Bulgarian University, where he leads musical theoretical and practical courses related to musical folklore. He is the creator and conductor of the original University Mixed Choir "Folk-Jazz Formation" of NBU and author of its main repertoire; creator, leader and producer of the Eurydice Vocal Trio; creator and conductor of the "New Bulgarian Voices" choir, as well as the author of the entire repertoire. From the NACID reference - "NBU Requirements" section, I received information about the impressively rich and versatile teaching activity, as well as about the utilization of the possibilities of Moodle-NBU.

### **IV. Administrative and public activity**

Georgi Petkov has a rich public activity. Since 2014, he has been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Music-Folklore Union "Orfeevo Izvorche". Main organizer of the National Music and Folklore Competition "Orfeevo Izvorche" (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022), in which between 30 and 40 children studying musical folklore receive financial support (one-year scholarships and one-time targeted aid) under the Program of measures for the protection of gifted children of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria. He is an expert evaluator of projects at CP-Culture (Capital program Culture) of Sofia Municipality in 2016 and 2017, a member of the jury for determining the Awards of Sofia Municipality for bright achievements in the field of culture for 2020.

### **V. Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)**

My professional communication with Associate Professor Georgi Petkov began on the territory of the NBU during my participation in scientific juries. We have also had creative contacts on the occasion of the collection of folk songs with piano accompaniment "Severnyashki Slavei" (Northern Nightingales), realized by Veliko Tarnovo University (compiler A. Borisova), in which he is one of the authors involved in creating the piano parts. My personal impressions are of a colleague and creator who is dialogic, inspires respect and trust, and is extremely well-

intentioned and always enriches his interlocutor. I believe that these qualities of his are the basis of his versatile activity, in which the artist is combined with the educator, the organizer and the irreplaceable team partner.

### **Conclusion**

Based on everything stated above, as well as the conclusions drawn on the proposed creative and teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov, bearing in mind his great activity, high contribution nature of the proposed creative performances, I give my positive assessment and propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury for the competition for "Professor" in the professional field 8.3 Musical and dance art (conducting, composition, musical folklore) to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov for the academic position of "Professor" at the NBU according to the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and to propose him for a vote to the respected Academic Council of the NBU.

30.09.2022

Signature: .....

Prof. Mariyana Buleva, D.Sc.