

## OPINION

from Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova

Department of Music at the New Bulgarian University professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art on the contribution of the artistic and creative activity as habilitation work of

### **Chief Assistant Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski**

Full-time lecturer at NBU Bachelor Faculty, Department of Music regarding his participation in a competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' (jazz harmony, chamber ensembles, accompaniment and jazz improvisation) under professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art, announced in the State Gazette No. 6/21.01.2020

### **I. Biography**

Angel Zaberski-son is a world famous Bulgarian jazz pianist, composer, accompanist and arranger. He graduated from the National School of Music 'Lyubomir Pipkov' - piano, then from the National Academy of Music 'Prof. Pancho Vladigerov' with major conducting and composition. In 2012 he defended his doctorate at the New Bulgarian University with a scientific research entitled 'The **creative work** of Angel Zaberski'. He has been teaching at NBU for over 17 years in the field of music theory, harmony, orchestration, accompaniment and especially in pop and jazz improvisation. He works with students and PhD students. He is a sought-after lecturer and partner in many world-class projects.

Angel Zaberski is actively present in the concert life of our country. He has concerts in the most prestigious festivals and is a partner of some of the world famous jazz musicians. He plays with Hilda Kazasyan, Hristo Yotsov, Teodosii Spasov, Vasil Petrov, Kamelia Todorova and others. He has won a number of prestigious awards: 2nd prize and orchestra award in the 'Bulgarian Rhapsody in 7/8' competition - Plovdiv, Crystal Lyre of SBMTD (2002), United Bulgarian Bank Award (2008) for culture and creativity (Apollonia) and more. He has completed recordings and albums, the ones standing out: the album 'One more time - Big Band', 'Angel Zaberski octet', 'Definitely Mr. Zaberski'.

### **I. Assessment of the compliance with the minimum national requirements**

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

Defended educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' in professional field: 8.3. Music and Dance Art, certified by Diploma: 159 / 11.03.2013.

Total points in group A - 50 points

#### **2. Group of indicators C - minimum required points: 100**

As habilitation work Angel Zaberski presents the following performances in the field of arts:

Indicator 4 - AUTHOR'S CD "BIG BAND IN ACTION" with 11 original works finalized in 2018. Recording of the album with Big Band Brass association with Angel Zaberski original music. Conducting and solo performance.

#### Indicator 5

1) Two concerts of the Angel Zaberski Trio held on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November in 2014 as part of the International Festival 'European Cultural Days' in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

2) A series of 5 concerts "Jazz meets the classics" held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015, 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 22<sup>nd</sup> May.2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.

Total points in group C – 120

#### **3. Group of indicators D – minimum required points: 120**

(Sum of indicators from 6 to 15):

Indicator 9 - Four articles in specialized editions in the field of arts: 'Musical Horizons' magazine, 'Guitar' magazine and in the collections Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance in 2014 and 2015.

Indicator 12 - recording and completion of the author's CD "Like Jazz"

Indicator 13 - four performances in the period 2013-2017 - concerts from the cycle 'The Music of America', joint performances with Patti Austin (USA) and trumpeter Rex Richardson (USA).

Indicator 14 - a significant contribution event in 2016 - the invitation from the Bulgarian National Television to become a member of the Bulgarian jury for the Eurovision Song Contest together with Stoyan Yankulov, Teddy Katsarova, Joana Dragneva and the chairman of the jury Mihail Belchev (10, 12 and 14 May 2016).

Total points in group D – 240

#### **4. Group of indicators D – minimum required points: 40**

(Sum of indicators from 16 to 19):

Reviews of significant artistic performances and CDs of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Zaberski are presented: Review of the JazzIt Jazz Festival (2013); Review of the Project 'Symphony – Jazz' on BNR by Sibila Lilova (2014); Disc review Big bend in Action (2018) IMPRESSIO by Nedyalkova, Aneta. (2013). Angel Zaberski and Vera Shandel presented for the first time 'Jazz Boudoir' and others.

Total points in group D - 40

#### **5. Group of indicators F – minimum required points: 50**

(Sum of indicators from 20 to 31):

Indicator 22 - Six participations of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski at Apollonia, Sozopol; BNT - Eurovision 2016; Jazz in the museum - Plovdiv and others.

Indicator 23 - Three participations in large and prestigious international festivals – the Jazz festivals in Bansko, Nis and Kruševac.

Indicator 30 - Competition awards - 3 awards, International Competition for composing a symphonic work in 7/8 (2013), two prestigious 'Crystal Lyre' national awards (2014 and 2013).

Total points in group F – 210

I would like to highlight the following artistic activities of Dr. Zaberski:

**AUTHOR CD 'BIG BAND IN ACTION'** with 11 of his compositions and arrangements (2018). The album was recorded with the **Big Band Brass Association**. Zaberski conducts and has solo performances in the project. The program includes romantic ballads, folklore plays, opera arias and jazz standards: 'An eclecticism of genres - swing, ballad, fusion, folklore, bebop, mainstream...' The project is presented in Sofia, Plovdiv, Dobrich, Varna and Ruse. The Brass Association is the latest big band in Bulgaria having 17 members. Zaberski has invited some of the most successful jazz musicians in Bulgaria and abroad to join the band.

From the very start the band performs on the stage of the National Palace of Culture together with "DE PHAZZ", "Sofia Jazz Peak", it also records a concert for the Bulgarian National Television in the National Palace of Culture and performs regularly on the stage of 'Sofia Live Club' and 'Studio 5'. It also makes a tour in Italy with the music by Bernstein and Duke Ellington. The first studio recording was made in 'Sofia Live Club' (the club then served as a recording studio for the first time) with 9 plays, specially composed and arranged for the formation by Angel Zaberski - the leader of the orchestra.

**Participation in a concert on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014** together 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, and every year the culture of the various countries of the European Union is emphasized. On the stage of Jazzkeller, where the great Dizzy Gillespie and Louis Armstrong played 60 years ago. The concert featured Vasil Petrov, Stoyan Yankulov, Mihail Yosifov, Todor Bakardzhiev, Martin Tashev, Vili Stoyanov, Mihail Mihailov and Dimitar Uzunov entitled 'A new interpretation of evergreens'.

**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 Theodosii Spasov, The Mystery of the Bulgarian Voices, the London Bulgarian Choir and London Chamber Orchestra. The concert was held in the prestigious Cadogan Hall in London in honour of the Day of Bulgarian education and culture with the Minister of Culture Vezhdi Rashidov as a special guest. The concert was the first in a series of events during Bulgaria's preparation for presidency of the Council of the EU.

**Participation in a series of concerts from the cycle ‘MUSIC FOR AMERICA’,** with the American trumpeter Rex Richardson (2013) and special guest conductor Francisco Noah (USA), with Christian McBride (at the invitation of Sofia Music Enterprises) and others.

Field of Higher Education **8. Arts**

Group of indicators	Content	Points required for Associate Professor	Self-assessment points
<b>A</b>	Indicator 1	50	<b>50</b>
<b>B</b>	Indicator 2	0	
<b>C</b>	Sum of indicators 3 to 5	100	<b>120</b>
<b>D</b>	Sum of indicators 6 to 15	120	<b>240</b>
<b>E</b>	Sum of indicators 16 to 19	40	<b>60</b>
<b>F</b>	Sum of indicators 20 to 31	50	<b>210</b>

**Chief Assistant Dr. Angel Zaberski meets and exceeds the minimum scientometric requirements of the Law for The Development of Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria and New Bulgarian University in the field of ‘Arts’,** which is evident from the points obtained, according to the data for his activities under the indicators. The candidate has many more than the required activities which are of extremely high quality and importance, both for NBU and the culture of our country. The evidence provided corresponds to the data. **I would highlight them as a particularly big contribution.**

The data below is mandatory for the growth of NBU academic staff but there are additional requirements to the national minimum requirements of the Republic of Bulgaria. Chief Assistant Dr. Angel Zaberski fully meets the additional requirements of NBU in the field of research, teaching, administrative and social field.

**Group of indicators G** - Chief Assistant Dr. Zaberski has developed a research program, he is a member of national artistic organizations and has put in practice the results of his artistic and creative research. He is one of the public figures of New Bulgarian University presenting the university activities in the media.

**Group of indicators H** - The average assessment of students’ satisfaction with Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Zaberski courses in the period is 4.94. The candidate has author's materials in Moodle in collaboration with students on research projects.

**Group of indicators I** - Zaberski regularly participates in the meetings of the board of the Department of Music, he takes an active part in the public activities of the department and in candidate student campaigns and information seminars, he presents the department and its

programs, works with foreign students and Erasmus exchange program teachers. He also meets the requirement under:

**Group of indicators J** – an extended summary (25 pages) describing the theoretical framework of the process of creating his author product.

Group of indicators	Content	Points required for Associate Professor	Self-assessment points
<b>G</b>	Sum of indicators from 32 till the end /mandatory at NBU /	50	<b>375</b>
<b>H</b>		70	<b>90</b>
<b>I</b>		50	<b>50</b>
<b>J</b>		40	<b>40</b>

## II. Research (creative) activity and results

Dr. Zaberski's artistic activity is very dynamic and brings prestige to the New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria and the European Community. **The work presented is of high quality and contribution and is sufficient for obtaining the academic position of Associate Professor at NBU.**

## III. Teaching and Learning Activity

At the Department of Music, Dr. Zaberski teaches courses in harmony, jazz history, chamber ensembles, improvisation, pop and jazz piano. His many years' experience as a pedagogue, knowledge about various fields of music culture, and work with young talents make him an extremely valuable teacher of music programs at the department.

## IV. Administrative and Social Activity

Dr. Zaberski has no administrative duties at NBU but is an active representative of the department council and regularly participates in various university initiatives.

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

Being head of the Department of Music for 12 years, I know Angel Zaberski very well, both as a professional, lecturer and person. I believe his habilitation would be beneficial not only to NBU but to all other high education institutions in our country.

## VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the candidate activity and achievements

None.

I would like to conclude with the following:

**Based on the above, as well as the conclusions on the presented artistic and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski, and bearing in mind his great activity, and the huge contribution of his creative performances, I give a highly positive assessment and suggest to the honourable members of the Scientific Jury in the competition for 'Associate Professor' in the professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art (jazz harmony, chamber ensembles, accompaniment and jazz improvisation) to appoint Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski at the academic position of 'Associate Professor' at the Bachelor Faculty of New Bulgarian University, in compliance with the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and to propose to the honourable Academic Council of NBU voting in his favour.**

Date: 3rd April 2020

Signature:

Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova