

OPINION

from Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov

on the contribution of the pedagogical, research, artistic and creative activity of
Chief Assistant Dr. Angel Zaberski

regarding the announced competition for 'ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR' at NBU under 8.3.
Music and Dance Art and scientific specialty: Musicology and music art (pop jazz harmony,
improvisation, chamber ensembles, pop and jazz piano).

Current position: Chief Assistant Doctor at the Department of Music at the New Bulgarian University. In 2012 he defended his doctoral thesis entitled 'The creative work of Angel Zaberski' at New Bulgarian University. The artistic work of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski is huge and mainly related to his main role as a jazz pianist, composer and university teacher. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski invites some of the most successful local and foreign jazz musicians to take part in his projects. For the period under review his activities include:

A finalized album 'Big Band in Action' with recording of the album with the Big Band Brass Association and tour of Angel Zaberski Big Band; concerts in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas. Performances in two leading international events and a series of related concerts. A series of concerts with the four pianists 'Jazz meets the classics' as well as recording the author's album 'Like Jazz' and the concert 'The Music of America-Patti Austin' To Ella'.

The 'Big Band in Action' album includes skillfully selected romantic ballads, folk songs, opera arias and jazz standards and the result is 'An eclecticism of genres - swing, ballad, fusion, folklore, bebop, mainstream..'. Its successful presentation in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas and the concerts held in 2016 and 2018 is proof for the project creativity.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski meets the 50-point requirement for an associate professor under **GROUP OF INDICATORS A** with his dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'.

GROUP OF INDICATORS B has a requirement of minimum 100 points, the artistic performances are evaluated as follows:

INDICATOR 4 R- Completed author's product in the field of arts with required 50 points for the AUTHOR'S CD 'BIG BAND IN ACTION' with 11 original works finalized in 2018, as well as recording of the album with the Big Band Brass Association with original music, conductor and solo performer Angel Zaberski. The official presentation of the album 'Big Band in Action' was made on 13th and 14th September and can be seen at <https://impressio.dir.bg/noti/big-bend-v-deystvie-e-noviyat-proekt-na-angel-zaberski>

INDICATOR 5 with 70 points is met with two leading (international) performances and a series of concerts - two concerts of the Braz Quintet at the 'EUROPEAN CULTURAL DAYS' festival and the concert 'A new interpretation of evergreens'.

The project for four grand pianos with some of the best pianists in Bulgaria is extraordinary. It has been done four times at home and abroad. Four of the best Bulgarian pianists perform together. The program contains a rich palette of original or arranged by the pianists music, using improvisation and show elements. Popular works are played at the concert in a new way.

GROUP OF INDICATORS D - requirement for Associate professor – minimum 120 points
Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski presents INDICATOR 12 - Finalized author's product in the field of arts - 30 points. This is the recording of the CD 'Like Jazz' made in December 2015, as well as its promotion in seven cities in Bulgaria - Plovdiv, Stara Zagora,

Burgas, Dobrich, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo and Sofia. Evidence for these performances is attached.

INDICATOR 13 is met with four leading performances - 140 points. The concerts feature world-famous hits by world-renowned artists. World-famous Bulgarian and foreign musicians took part in the projects, which guaranteed the high quality, as evidenced by the performances. This indicator includes 15 major leading performances in Bulgarian cities, concerts in various television and radio programs, as well as joint concerts with Vasil Petrov and Monty Aidam.

INDICATOR 14 gives a total of 20 points refers to supporting performances or participation in a collective product in the field of arts and is met with two supporting creative performances.

GROUP OF INDICATORS E is related to INDICATOR 19. The reviews of completed author's products or performances in specialized editions in the field of arts are related to two leading performances and reviews giving 10 points.

INDICATOR 22 is included under **GROUP OF INDICATORS F**.

Participation in a national scientific, educational or artistic project, the implementation of 14 artistic projects results in the sum of 210 points:

Participation in an international scientific, educational or artistic project is noted under INDICATOR 23. with three leading performances and 60 points. The awards received from competitions for creativity and performance held by national professional forums and organizations, as indicated under INDICATOR 30 give him 10 points.

Chief Assistant Dr. Angel Zaberski meets all **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS** of NBU, namely: Developing and improving university curriculum and learning courses and availability of a research / artistic program;

The research program that he implemented focused on pop and jazz music and improvisation. Improving and having an individual approach in working with students is his top priority, he motivates his students to develop. The work on the musical development of the students and the individual approach led to serious scientific results, detailed in the book and textbook of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski 'Jazz - the freedom to improvise'. He urges his students to have at least two pop and jazz concerts to help them practise the theory learned.

In compliance with the Employment regulation for full-time lecturers Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski taught the required number of classroom and extracurricular courses.

In this period, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski reviewed completed author's products or creative performances in specialized publications in the field of arts and participated in national scientific, educational and artistic projects in order to update NBU pop and jazz programs. The teacher Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski has fully complied with the mandatory requirement to provide regular assessment to students which is an integral part of the assessment procedure at NBU. Moreover, the teacher has fully complied with the mandatory requirement to upload materials in the e-learning module.

All his activities show a professional approach to achieving results. As a teacher in the specialty 'pop and jazz' his teaching methodology is based on theory and practice, the results being evident from his students' performance. His research and artistic activity with all his performances and versatile concert activity show his great potential and work.

Regarding the minimum national requirements according to the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski meets the minimum national requirements points by groups of indicators related to scientific, teaching and artistic activity, as defined in the Appendix to the scientific and professional fields necessary for holding the academic position of Associate Professor.

The results are indicative and effective, the production and promotion of Bulgarian music on the world stages speaks a lot about his mission. The musical products are contemporary and no wonder they reach the global audience.

The teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski is also noticeable, and the courses taught comply with the framework of modern requirements. His administrative activity with Bulgarian institutions and abroad facilitated the completion and promotion of Bulgarian music products on the world stage. Joint concerts with foreign artists is motivating to students, teachers and artists in the field of his specialty. His intensive teaching activity combined with the artistic performances surely inspires students' creative performances as well. My personal impression of the candidate date from his early career at NBU; he is a teacher aiming at reaching musical mastery. Achieving the educational and artistic-creative goals set in working with students and completing projects is due to the great musical and organizational skills he possesses.

My recommendation regarding his future work is that the candidate continues to develop his musical excellence, and if any support is needed, I would gladly provide it.

An important contribution are the efforts to show high-quality artistic and musical mastery, along with providing professional teaching work to students. Their joint performances contribute to the development of the Bulgarian music culture.

The activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski lead to the conclusion that he is a distinguished musician and composer with indisputable music, teaching and organizational skills, and work that produces tangible results.

Having said all that, and having in mind the candidate's skills, I propose to the members of the honourable Scientific Jury to appoint Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Zaberski as an Associate Professor under professional field 8.3. - Music and Dance Art.

Sofia, 13.04.2020

REVIEWER:

/Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov/