

# CHRISTIAN VASSILEV

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Philosophy of music; musicology; phenomenology; musical semiotics; psychoanalysis; psychology of musical development; philosophy of education.

Current focus: musical subjectivity, identification, and agency; the pre-reflective and nonverbal dimensions of musical experience; psychoanalytic frameworks in music studies and philosophy of music.

## AWARDS AND FUNDING

- **2025–present** — FWO Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship (KU Leuven).
- **2018–2019** — Erasmus Scholarship (University of Augsburg exchange).

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- **2025–present** — FWO Junior Postdoctoral Fellow, KU Leuven, Belgium.
- **2024–present** — Head, Research Centre for Music Philosophy and Humanities, Fundamenta musicae, Sofia.
- **2013–present** — Permanent Fellow, Research Centre for Music Philosophy and Humanities, Fundamenta musicae, Sofia.

## EDUCATION

- **2023** — PhD in Musicology, National Academy of Music “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov” (Sofia), summa cum laude.
- **2019** — MA (integrated 5-year Magister programme; equivalent to BA+MA) in Musicology, National Academy of Music “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov” (Sofia).
- **2018–2019** — Exchange student, University of Augsburg (Germany).
- **2014–2015** — German language training (Berlin, various institutions). TestDaF 5/5/4/4.
- **2007–2013** — American College of Sofia.

## TEACHING (SELECTED)

Teaching assistant, National Academy of Music “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov”:

- 2022 — Pedagogy; Theory and Philosophy of Education and Musical Pedagogical Upbringing.
- 2021 — Psychology of Music; Ethics; Philosophy; Musical Aesthetics.
- 2020 — Philosophical Aspects of Musical Interpretation.
- 2015–2017 — Philosophy and Music.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Peer reviewer: *British Journal of Aesthetics*; Springer (*Numanities - Arts and Humanities in Progress* series).
- Editor, “Music Philosophy” series, Riva Publishing House.
- Member: Deutsche Gesellschaft für phänomenologische Forschung; International Society for Music Education; International Association for Semiotic Studies.

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

- Vassilev, C. (2023). Methodological Foundations of Eero Tarasti’s Musical Semiotics. *Acta Semiotica Fennica LVIII*. Semiotic Society of Finland. 248 pp.

- Vassilev, C. (2022). The Phenomenon of Musical Identification: A View from Heidegger's Early Phenomenology. *Horizon. Studies in Phenomenology*, 17(2), 584–606. doi: 10.21638/2226-5260-2022-II-2-584-606
- Vassilev, C. (2024). "The Whole City Must Never Cease Singing" — Plato and the Community of the Musical Nomos. *Philosophy of Music Education Review*. doi: 10.2979/pme.000Q6

#### **OTHER SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- Vassilev, C. (accepted). Experience as Justification: A Phenomenological Approach. In: *Justification of Music Education*, ed. Ø. Varkøy. Springer, Landscapes: The Arts, Aesthetics, and Education.
- Vassilev, C. (2025). What Is Phenomenological Pedagogy? Key Perspectives and the Example of Otto Bollnow. *Annual of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"*, Faculty of Slavic Studies.
- Vassilev, C. (2022). Organic Wholeness in Heinrich Schenker's Lehre. *Bulgarian Musicology* (1), 108–128. (in Bulgarian)

#### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS / INVITED TALKS**

- 2026 — "Beyond Virtuality: Musical Identification and the Limits of Persona-Theory", ICMS 16, Sibelius Academy (Helsinki).
- 2026 — "Only a Tropos Can Save Us: Musical Attunement and Ethos as Abode", BSP 26, University of Sussex (Brighton).
- 2025 — "Between Listening and Hearing in Musicology", International Doctoral/Postdoctoral Seminar on Musical Semiotics (Athens).
- 2025 — "Bridging Divides: Rethinking Musical Creativity Across Philosophy and Psychology", Musical Creativities (Giessen).
- 2025 — "The Limits of Code: Musical Understanding Beyond, or Before, Competence", research seminar, University of Helsinki (online).
- 2023 — "Methodological Foundations of Eero Tarasti's Musical Semiotics", On the Roots of Humanism (Ermoupolis, Greece).

#### **LANGUAGES**

- Bulgarian — native.
- English — academic/professional proficiency (primary publication language).
- German — TestDaF 5/5/4/4.
- Italian; French; Russian — working knowledge (reading/research use).

*Last updated: 4 March 2026*