

PEER REVIEW

by **Stela Miteva-Dinkova, Ph.D.** – **Associated Professor** in classic guitar
at AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev – Plovdiv

member of the Scientific Jury for the selection of the academic position of
Associated Professor in Piano (compulsory instrument)
of Professional Field 8.3. Musical and Dance Arts.

The procedure for awarding the academic position was announced for the needs of
the Department of Piano and Accordion, Faculty of Musical Pedagogy,
AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev – Plovdiv

Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova, Ph.D., of the Department of Piano and Accordion, Faculty of Musical Pedagogy, AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev – Plovdiv was the only candidate in the procedure for awarding the position of Associate Professor in Piano (compulsory instrument), announced in the State Gazette 40 of 17.05.2019.

Nadezhda Kuzmanova acquired her secondary education degree after graduating at the National Music and Stage Arts Secondary School Hr. Morfova, Stara Zagora with honors and gold medal. She continued her education in the Prof. Georgi Petrov's class at AMDFA – Plovdiv. She graduated in 1994 with two majors in Music Education Pedagogy and Instrumental Art – Piano. She perfected her skills with Prof. Gunda Köhler-Scharlach (Weimar, Germany) and Prof. Peter Feuchtwanger (England). In the period 1994 – 1996 she worked as a full-time tutor at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Singing, and since 1996 after a successful competition she has been employed as a full-time piano tutor at AMDFA. In 2014, she defended her Ph.D. thesis on the topic *The Chamber Music of Gabriel Faure* and received her scientific degree of Doctor.

According to the attached STATEMENT for the minimum national requirements for awarding the academic position of Associated Professor, Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kuzmanova, Ph.D. provided detailed information, accompanied by evidence of realized leading creative performances in the field of arts and reviews on them, published dissertation thesis, management of a national scientific project, a master class, and a workshop. The said activity of the applicant is the subject of the following review.

Indicators Group “A” – Indicator **No 1** – Dissertation thesis for the award of educational and scientific degree Doctor on the topic *The Chamber Music of Gabriel Faure*, defended on 02.10.2014 (50 pts.)

Indicators Group “C” – Indicator No 5 – 10 leading artistic performances in the field of arts are presented, which are relevant and equivalent to habilitation work. The most distinguished of them are: integral performance of concerts for two, three and four pianos by J.S. Bach

together with the RANG Quartet on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the composer's death (5.2); the first integral performance of the romantic piano music for four hands by F. Schubert together with Rayna Petrova – cycle of 5 concerts (5.3); The Songs Charles Ives together with Neli Koycheva at the 7th Festival of American and Bulgarian Music (5.4); The Romantic world of Gabriel Faure with the performance of the composer's entire work for violin and piano, together with Nedyalcho Todorov at the 47th International Chamber Music Festival (5.5); the first of its kind recital with Baroque and Romantic Music for Organ in AMDFA with the premiere of Sonata for 4 Hands and 4 Feet by G. Merkel (5.8); Keyboard Dialogues for Organ and Piano Concert, together with Albena Dimova (piano) with the world premiere of Sonata for Piano and Organ by V. Zaimov and transcription performed by N. Kuzmanova for piano and organ of the original piano work Morning Serenade by F. Poulenc (5.9).

The prestigious concert performances presented characterize the candidate as a performer with extensive experience and diverse artistic and creative pursuits. They classify this group of indicators as one of the most significant in the statement presented (the total score of points is 350, which is significantly higher than the required 100).

Indicators Group “D” – Indicator **No 7** – Book, published based on the dissertation thesis, entitled The Chamber Music of Gabriel Faure (Through the Pianist's Eyes), 116 pages in total.

Indicator **No 13** – The 4 leading creative performances in the field of arts, which are not a major habilitation work, are presented. The most significant are: The Music for Two Pianos Concert, with Velislava Karagenova (13.1) and Russian Piano Music for Four Hands, with Rayna Petrova (13.2).

Indicator **No 14** – A total of 5 supporting creative performances, which were performed in collaboration with Vanya Baleva (piano), Prof. Albena Dimova (piano), Gaudeamus Academic Mixed Choir, Stefan Dalchev (organ), Anahid Tateosyan (harp) (14.1); Prof. Georgi Petrov, Arno Hovagimyan, and Rayna Petrova (14.2); Prof. Madlen Bachvarova (piano) (14.3), Assoc. Prof. Liliya Ilieva (mezzosoprano) (14.5).

The creative performances of the candidate have premiered performances and include music by French authors (Debussy, Faure, Messien, Massenet, etc.), as well as by Bulgarian composers (D. Hristov, G. Zlatev-Cherkin, P. Stoyanov, P. Vladigerov , N. Stoykov, etc.). The total score in this group of indicators is above the minimum requirements (265 points out of the 120 points required).

Indicators Group “E” – Indicator **No 17** – One quote in a published dissertation with author Lyudmil Petkov *Unknown and Rarely Performed Works for Piano Duo from the XVIII-XX AD*.

Indicator **No 19** – 6 peer reviews for realized creative performances with authors Prof. Snezhana Simeonova, Asst. Katya Vasileva, Tsveta Pancheva, Prof. Anastas Slavchev, Zdravko Petrov, Polya Paunova-Tosheva, published in the journal Musical Horizons and the

Art Spectrum culture and information magazine, and one review for a copyrighted product by Prof. Atanas Kurtev, published by SBK.

The attached reviews define Nadezhda Kuzmanova as a performer with a swing, precision, depth, mastery and bright artistry. The total score fully covers the minimum national requirements (80 points out of 40 points required).

Indicators Group “F” – Indicator **No 24** – Management of a scientific, educational, and artistic project Three Club Events of the Modern Piano Culture Club at the Department of Piano and Accordion with AMDFA. (30 pts.)

Parameter **No 28** – Conducting of a Master Class The Role of the Pianist in Creating Interpretation and Ensemble Master Class in Kobe, Japan and the Music of the Old Times Workshop Concert in Plovdiv. (40 pts.)

It is apparent from all the above that the applicant fully meets the minimum required of national requirements in the Arts area. Her artistic and creative work is of value and proven contribution, as evidenced by the evidence presented.

Based on the foregoing, I categorically give my positive evaluation and kindly suggest to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury of the procedure for awarding the position Associate Professor to award Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova, Ph.D., the academic position of Associated Professor in Piano (compulsory instrument), in the Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts, Department of Piano and Accordion, Faculty of Musical Pedagogy, AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev – Plovdiv, in compliance with the requirements of the DASRBA.

Date: 24.08.2019

Signature:
(Assoc. Prof. Stela Miteva-Dinkova, Ph.D.)