

PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Ivanova Geleva – Teacher of Choir Conducting at the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv

for Chief Assistant Dr. Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova – candidate for the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor of Piano” /mandatory instrument/, announced in State Gazette, Issue 40 of 17.05.2019, at the Piano and Accordion Department of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv in: Higher Education field: 8. Arts; Professional field: 8.3 Music and Dance Arts

Nadezhda Kuzmanova graduated with honors and a gold medal from the Music School in the City of Stara Zagora. In 1994 she graduated from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv with a degree in the specialties: “Music Pedagogy” and “Instrumental Art – Piano”. She is an active participant in a number of master classes in Germany and Switzerland. Nadezhda Kuzmanova graduated with a specialization in Piano Training Methods at P. Vladigerov National Music Academy, as well as with a specialization in Pipe Organ at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

In 1994 she started working at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts as a full-time Accompanist at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Singing, and in 1996 after a successful competition she became a full-time Piano Teacher. She defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic: “The Chamber Music of Gabriel Fauré”, preceded by 6 concerts, publications and a public lecture on “The Piano in the Chamber Art of Gabriel Fauré”.

Her creative appearances range from soloist of the Philharmonic Orchestras in Bulgaria, Romania and Germany to concert performances with chamber music in various formations, including her partnership with Prof. Albena Dimova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Velislava Karagenova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova, Prof. Al. Spirov, Prof. N. Todorov, Neli Koycheva, Rayna Petrova, RANG Piano Quartet and others.

Chief Assistant Dr. Kuzmanova has successfully participated in a number of prestigious festivals: Viva La Musica, Prof. Ivan Spasov Winter Music Evenings, AmBul Festival of American and Bulgarian Music, International Festival of Chamber Music – Plovdiv, Scene, Palette, Word Winter Festival – Plovdiv, Autumn Salon of Arts – Varna and many others.

The materials presented by the candidate are impressive in volume and content and represent her long-standing musical activity in its diversity. In the reference for leading creative appearances in the field of arts /Indicator B, item 5 of the minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor”/ instead of habilitation work, 10 concerts are presented, illustrating the qualities of N. Kuzmanova as a solo and chamber performer. The contributory character of this item is due, for the most part, to the premiere for Bulgaria and the world of performances or complete integral

representations of cyclic works, among which are concerts for two, three and four pianos by Johann Sebastian Bach, piano music of Franz Schubert for Four Hands, 17 songs by Charles Ives, works of Gabriel Fauré for piano and violin, traditional Japanese voice and piano songs, works by Liszt, Poulenc, Debussy, Vincent d'Indy, Clifford Demarest, Velislav Zaimov, etc. All appearances are backed up by legal evidence – posters, programs, records. The reviews of her performing work, according to which she possesses enviable skills of an erudite piano interpreter, with a pronounced taste for the new and unexplored, are very impressive.

The active concert activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Kuzmanova is complemented by creative appearances in other fields. She is a leader of projects and master classes, chair of a jury at national arts festivals and author of reviews in specialized music magazines. Her pedagogical skills are evidenced by the numerous concert performances of her students, as well as by her desire to create broad knowledge and deep analytical thinking in young pianists through the work on the projects: Contemporary Piano Culture Club, a master class on the topic: “The Role of the Pianist in the Creation of Interpretation and Ensemble” and the concert-workshop “Music of Old Times”. As a result of the above, in 2016 Chief Assistant Dr. Kuzmanova received an award by the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for high activity in the educational process and creative achievements of students.

My personal impressions of Nadezhda Kuzmanova are related to creative teamwork and direct communication. She is an extremely tolerant and ethical person, with a high degree of professional motivation and personal responsibility – qualities that make her a valuable colleague and friend.

In conclusion, the materials provided under the procedure prove indisputable achievements in the field of pedagogical, creative and scientific activity and exceed the minimum national legal requirements. I strongly support the candidacy of Chief Assistant Dr. Nadezhda Kuzmanova and propose to the distinguished Scientific Jury to confer on her the academic position “Associate Professor”.

28.07.2019

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva

Plovdiv