

PEER REVIEW

by **Prof. Evgeniya Mihaylova Simeonova, Ph.D.**

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(Professional Field 8.3. Musical and Dance Art)

Regarding

procedure for awarding the academic position of Associate Professor in Piano (compulsory instrument) in the Professional Field 8.3. Musical and Dance Art at the AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev, Plovdiv, State Gazette 40 of 17.05.2019.

The procedure for awarding the position of associate professor was announced for the needs of the Department of Piano and Accordion at the AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev, Plovdiv. The sole candidate in the procedure is **Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova, Ph.D.** All stages of the competition have been duly executed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the DASRBA and the Regulations for its implementation. The applicant is eligible to meet the Minimum National Requirements for the Associate Professor position, which was established at the first meeting of the Scientific Jury.

As a graduate (with honors and a gold medal) at the Secondary Music School in Stara Zagora, AMDFA Plovdiv and participation in master classes on piano interpretation in various European centers, Nadezhda Kuzmanova has developed a solid professional biography over the years of her creative development. She performs active concert activities in parallel with her pedagogical piano work at the Academy in Plovdiv (since 1996 as a full-time tutor). N. Kuzmanova's main focus is in the field of chamber music and appearances in different types of chamber formats. In collaboration with distinguished musicians, she gained experience as a chamber performer – from piano duos of 4 hands and 2 pianos, piano quartet, voice and piano duo, violin and piano duo, and unconventional organ-piano duo. She is a piano soloist of symphony orchestras as in recent years she has developed as an organ player (after completing 4 years of specialization in organ at AMDFA).

In the *ART AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES section – GROUP “C”, item 5* – as her *habilitation work* Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kuzmanova, Ph.D, presents 10 concerts from different stages of her professional development – a representative sample of creative performances (some of which were reviewed in dedicated music editions), conscientiously documented with printed material and recordings. Of these the following stand out with their significance and scale: the performances of Concerts for 2, 3 and 4 pianos by J.S. Bach with the pianists Georgi Petrov, Rayna Petrova, Arno Hovagimyan, Collegium Musicum – Bankya with conductor E. Yanev (2000); an integral performance of the piano music by Franz Schubert for 4 hands with the pianist Rayna Petrova (2001 in 5 evenings); Forgotten Masterpieces for 4 Hands with Prof. Albena Dimova (*premiere* performances of Symphony in B minor by Cl. Debussy and 7 Chants de Terroir op.73 by Vincent D’Indy) in 2018. In 2011 for the *first time* in Bulgaria she performed the whole work of the composer Gabriel Faure for violin and piano (*premiere* of G. Faure – Sonata for violin and piano No. 2) together with Prof. Nedyalcho Todorov. The French author

became the main subject of research in her doctoral thesis *The Chamber Music of Gabriel Faure*, defended in 2014. (Sen. Asst. Kuzmanova, Ph.D., publishes a book based on a defended dissertation thesis for awarding an educational and scientific degree of Doctor of Science – *The Chamber Music of Gabriel Faure (Through the Pianist's Eyes)*, BLACOM Publishing House, p. 116, ISBN 978-954-2963-42-4, 2019 –*Group D, Item 7.*)

Regarding the habilitation work, my attention was also drawn to the interestingly structured concert Keyboard Dialogues for Organ and Piano with Prof. Albena Dimova in 2017. In addition to the works by J.S. Bach and V.A. Mozart, they also premiered the Rhapsody and Fantasy for organ and piano by the American composer Clifford Demarest and the *world premiere* of The Sonata for Piano and Organ by Velislav Zaimov. Another contribution is the transcription of Morning Serenade (Aubade) by Francis Poulenc (choreographic concert for piano and 18 instruments), where N. Kuzmanova realized the original idea for her own interpretation for organ, based on the original piano and the concert was performed in an unconventional piano and organ performance format.

In the spirit of the original creative ideas is the concert Baroque and Romantic Music for Organ in AMDFA, Plovdiv in 2016 with the participation of the famous Bulgarian organ and harpsichord player, Stefan Dalchev (*premiere* of Sonata for 4 Hands and 4 Feet by Gustav Adolf Merkel). N. Kuzmanova's performances in the field of vocal music are also interesting, especially the ones with the singer Neli Koycheva, Ph.D. (alto), that take us to the world of Charles Ives, a number of Bulgarian, Slavic and Japanese composers.

In group "D", item 13. Leading (or independent) creative performance in the field of arts, outside her habilitation work, N. Kuzmanova submits 4 concert performances. I will outline: Music for Two Pianos, performed together with Velislava Karagenova – 2000 (*premiere* of One American in Paris by George Gershwin in transcription for 2 pianos by Svetoslav Karagenov); Russian Piano Music for 4 Hands, 2002 with the pianist Rayna Petrova (includes the rarely performed Sonata by M. Mussorgsky); Concert program Harmonie du Soir, together with singer Neli Koycheva and Concert in memory of Krikor Chetinyan, with Albena Dimova, choir and instrumental ensemble of the Plovdiv State Opera with Krastin Nastev as conductor, 2018.

I must add the following performances the the Bulgarian *premiers*: Sonata for 2 Organs by Gaetano Piazza, together with Vanya Baleva; Sonata for Organ in D minor by August Ritter; Adoration by Felix Borowski, transcription for organ and piano of Hail, Virgin Mary by F. Liszt, together with Prof. A. Dimova and mixed academic choir Gaudeamus, A. Dimova and N. Kuzmanova, Anahid Tateosyan - harp, conductor Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Gelev.

In item 14 (Group "D") Supporting creative performance or participation in a collective product in the field of arts, I emphasize mainly the last performances of Nadezhda Kuzmanova: in concert Americana with Prof. Dr. Madlen Bachvarova (USA) (*premiers* in Bulgaria of Grand Aria for organ and piano by Clifford Demarest and 2 pieces for 4 hands by Leroy Anderson – Blue Tango and Fiddle Faddle) – AMDFA, 2017, as well as a concert with Assoc. Prof. Liliya Ilieva in Turkey, 2018 on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition Bulgarians Trained in Galatasaray, the Crypt Hall of the Iron Church in Istanbul.

In addition to the *pedagogical work* of Sen. Asst. N. Kuzmanova, Ph.D., in parallel with her work with students at the Academy (including the organ class at AMDFA, Plovdiv), with a positive sign in *Group "F" Participation in a national scientific, educational and artistic project*, I would like to emphasize her contribution as head of the Three Events of the Contemporary Piano Culture Club with the Department of Piano and Accordion at AMDFA – 2011; The Role of the Pianist in Creating Interpretation and Ensemble Master Class, 2015 at Rameau Theater, Kobe, Japan, and Music of the Old Times Workshop Concert, 2019, Plovdiv.

Everything specified in this peer review is a good reason to give my professional support to **Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova, Ph.D.** and suggest that the distinguished scientific jury must award her with the academic position of Associate Professor in Piano (compulsory instrument) in the Professional Field 8.3 Music and Dance Arts.

Sofia
14.08.2019

Signature:

Prof. Evgeniya Simeonova, Ph.D.