

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Yordan Goshev, D.A. – tutor of harmony and piano in
SWU N. Rilski, Blagoevgrad

regarding the open procedure for Associate Professor in Piano (compulsory instrument), Professional Field 8.3. Musical and Dance Art with the Department of Piano and Accordion at AMDFA, Plovdiv

Only one candidate, **Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova**, applied in the procedure for Associate Professor in Professional Field 8.3. Musical and Dance Art, announced in the SG.

The candidate has submitted all the documents required under the DASRBA and the Regulations for its implementation – Application, CV, Fulfillment of the Minimum National Requirements Statement, reference of author's scientific contributions and citations, reference of creative achievements in the country and abroad, length of service certificate, supporting documents, etc.

Nadezhda Kuzmanova has graduated with honors from the Secondary Music School in Stara Zagora and the AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev, Plovdiv. During her training she participated in a number of piano interpretation master classes in Germany, Switzerland, and the Great Britain, and in 1992 she was a guest piano student in the class of Prof. Gunda Köhler-Scharlach in Weimar, Germany. She was a soloist of symphony orchestras in Bulgaria, Romania and Germany. From 1994 to 1996 she was a tutor at the

Department of Orchestral Instruments and Singing, and since 1996 she has been a full-time piano tutor at AMDFA, Plovdiv. The Candidate has successfully defended her PhD thesis in 2014 with a dissertation topic: The Chamber Music of Gabriel Faure.

The documentation submitted by Nadezhda Kuzmanova, Ph.D. for the open procedure presents her artistic, academic, and pedagogical work with which she applied for the academic position. We are impressed by the active concert activity in the field of chamber music, the presentation to the audience of unknown works by Charles Ives, Gustav Merkel, Clifford Demarest, Velislav Zaimov, Francis Poulenc Claude Debussy, Vincent D'Indy, and traditional Japanese songs, integral presentation of the works of Gabriel Faure for violin and piano together with Prof. Nedyalcho Todorov and the work of Franz Schubert for 4 hands in a series of 5 concerts together with the pianist, Rayna Petrova, the concerts for two, three and four pianos by J. S. Bach, together with Collegium Musicum – Bankya with conductor Emil Yanev. This active concert activity with works of different ages, musical styles and composers of different nationalities is a proof of the professional qualities of Nadezhda Kuzmanova. Even more, many of the concerts she presents as artistic and creative activities, equivalent to habilitation work, have considerable success and repeated realization on stages in different cities of Bulgaria, as well as recording some of them for the BNR. The reviews in the press and specialized music editions are an additional indicator of the artist's qualities and her rank as musician with deep and artistic interpretive abilities.

Of additional value is the presented extra concert activity, which is not related to the artistic and creative work that replaces the habilitation work. Nadezhda Kuzmanova performs the premiere concert performances in Bulgaria of compositions by Clifford Demarest, Leroy Anderson, Gaetano Piazza, August Ritter, Felix Borowski, as an organ player and pianist, as a chamber performer of works by French, Russian, American authors together with Prof. Georgi Petrov, Arno Hovagimyan, Rayna Petrova, Prof. Albena Dimova, etc. In addition to the wide range of composers, representatives of different schools and ages, the variety of her performing realizations makes great impression – pianist, organ player, tutor, orchestra soloist, and chamber performer. All this gives a clear idea of the candidate's qualities, of being a stage partner desired by a number of well-established Bulgarian musicians, a performer who promotes the music art, of the precision and depth of her interpretations, of the emotional devotion in reproducing music images.

The realized master class The Role of the Pianist in Creating Interpretation and Ensemble, in Kobe, Japan and the Music of the Old Times Workshop Concert, the reviews of respected music specialists for her concert performances in dedicated music journals Musical Horizons and Art Spectrum, participation in a number of established music festivals is a sufficient proof for the professional qualities of Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kuzmanova, Ph.D. I believe that the materials presented clearly prove the candidate's achievements and meet the criteria set out in the minimum scientometric data.

In conclusion, I would like to express my positive opinion on awarding Sen. Asst. Nadezhda Kuzmanova, Ph.D. with the academic position of Associated Professor in the Professional Field 8.3. Musical and Dance Art at the AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev, Plovdiv. The presented artistic, creative, academic, and teaching activities meet the state requirements and have a great contribution to the music art of Bulgaria.

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Blagoevgrad

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