

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. STEFAN IVANOV HARKOV, Doctor of Arts

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Sveti Kliment Ohridski Sofia University

regarding the candidacy of

Chief Assistant Dr. NADEZHDA KOZMA KUZMANOVA

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv

for occupation of the academic position

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PIANO (MANDATORY INSTRUMENT)

Higher Education field: 8. Arts; Professional field: 8.3 Music and Dance Arts

in a competition announced by

**PROF. ASEN DIAMANDIEV ACADEMY OF MUSIC, DANCE AND FINE ARTS – CITY
OF PLOVDIV,**

Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Piano and Accordion Department

(State Gazette, Issue 40 of 17.05.2019)

DATA ON THE CANDIDATE:

Nadezhda Kozma Kuzmanova graduated from the Music School in the City of Stara Zagora with full honors and a gold medal in 1987. Two years later she enrolled as a student at the Higher Music and Pedagogical Institute – Plovdiv (today “Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv”), where she graduated with honors in 1994 in two majors: “Music Pedagogy” and “Instrumental Art – Piano”. Her famous piano teacher in Plovdiv was the renowned Bulgarian pianist and teacher Prof. Georgi Petrov. During her studies and in the years immediately following, Nadezhda Kuzmanova specialized in piano performance with two other emblematic figures – Prof. Gunda Köhler-Scharlach and Prof. Peter Feuchtwanger.

Immediately after her graduation in 1994, Nadezhda Kuzmanova was appointed to a full-time job at the Academy in Plovdiv, where she has been working for a quarter of a century. At first she was an Accompanist at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Singing, and since 1996, after a successful competition, she has taken a full-time position as a Piano Teacher. She specialized in

“Piano Training Methods” at the P. Vladigerov National Music Academy – Sofia (2010) and in “Pipe Organ” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (2013 – 2017).

Nadezhda Kuzmanova has developed active concert activity in Bulgaria and abroad. In 2014, she presented and defended a dissertation on the topic: “The Chamber Music of Gabriel Fauré” (published in 2019) before a scientific jury, for which she received her degree of “Doctor”.

ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY OF THE CANDIDATE

Dr. Nadezhda Kuzmanova participates in the competition for “Associate Professor” with the following artistic production:

I. Ten concert programs implemented in Bulgaria and abroad (Japan, Romania) in the period 1997 – 2018, presented by Dr. Kuzmanova as equivalent to a habilitation work;

II. Four leading creative (concert) performances realized in the City of Plovdiv in the period 2000 – 2018;

III. Five supporting creative (concert) performances realized in the cities of Plovdiv, Sofia and Istanbul in the period 1998 – 2018;

Among the artistic and creative performances presented, I would like to particularly highlight:

(1) Soloist participation in the first integral performance in Bulgaria of the six piano concertos by Johann Sebastian Bach for two, three and four pianos and orchestra (BWV 1060 - 1065), performed jointly with Georgi Petrov, Rayna Petrova and Arno Hovagimyan in 2000.

(2) The first integral performance in Bulgaria of piano music for four hands by Franz Schubert, realized in collaboration with Rayna Petrova in a series of five concerts in 2001.

(3) Premiere performances (two world premieres and eight premieres for Bulgaria) of works by composers from Bulgaria and abroad.

TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITY OF THE CANDIDATE:

It is clear from the enclosed information on the teaching workload (prepared by the Training Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts) attached to the competition documents that Chief Assistant Dr. Nadezhda Kuzmanova teaches mainly on the subject “Piano (mandatory instrument)”. During the 2018 – 2019 school year, her workload in this discipline alone was 429 hours of exercises.

Dr. Kuzmanova organizes regular class meetings with concert performances by her students. Some of these meetings have a specific thematic focus: “Baroque and Pre-Classical Music”,

“Romanticism at Three”, “Fauré for Three”, etc. Dr. Kuzmanova’s students have won awards from academic and national competitions.

CONCLUSION:

Dr. Nadezhda Kuzmanova’s many years of teaching experience in the “Piano (mandatory instrument)” discipline, combined with her undeniable achievements as an active concert pianist, give grounds for confidence in her capabilities for teaching activity at a higher level – the level of a habilitated teacher. I strongly recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to elect **CHIEF ASSISTANT DR. NADEZHDA KOZMA KUZMANOVA AS “ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN PIANO” (MANDATORY INSTRUMENT)** (Higher Education field: 8. Arts; Professional field: 8.3 Music and Dance Arts) at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

31 July 2019

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Prof. Stefan Harkov, Doctor of Arts)