

PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Zornitsa Dimitrova Petrova**

Teacher of piano and piano accompaniment

in the Department of Piano and Accordion

at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy

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

for the materials presented for participation in a competition

for occupation of the academic position “Professor of Guitar”

cipher 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”

at the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing

of

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova

from the City of Plovdiv, 13, Enisey Str.

teacher at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Blagoeva Miteva-Dinkova is the only candidate in the competition for “Professor of Classical Guitar”, announced for the needs of the Department of Orchestral Instruments and Classical Singing at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. For more than 22 years, the prestige and artistic achievements associated with classical guitar training have been identified with her personality, her concert practice and her pedagogical activity. Just a few touches from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinkova’s creative biography are enough to characterize the high value of her artistic and scientific and theoretical work. Immediately after her Bachelor’s degree at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, she was appointed after a competition for a Classical Guitar Assistant and since then her name as an active concert educator has been associated with all specialized national forums for this instrument, as well as with a huge number of stage performances abroad (USA, Great Britain, Greece, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Spain, France, etc.). It is no accident that Classical Guitar magazine classified Stela Dinkova as “an extremely talented and charismatic performer”. To these words I will add my own, based on my long-standing personal impressions. She is a musician with a deep and creative attitude to the profession, an interpreter with brilliant instrumentalism, a distinguished and heartfelt educator, a brilliant organizer and visionary with a sense of innovative challenges. The multiple personal awards, as well as the prestigious honors, are the fruits of her teaching activities.

The tremendous workload of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Dinkova, combined with continuous organizational and teaching activity, is very impressive. As a result, the specialty “Classical Guitar” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts enjoys a well-

deserved interest among young instrumentalists, prestige among the professional college and numerous competitive honors for her students.

With respect to the reference for meeting the minimum national requirements, it fully, truthfully, clearly and in detail reflects the impressive artistic and creative palette of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova, formed in the period from 2009 until 2019. A specific feature of the concerts applied as “leading creative events” is their grouping around significant unifying signs. In this way, instead of a creative expression of leading character, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinkova refers to a group of recitals, united and centered around a common artistic idea:

1. Recitals abroad – 6 (six) pcs. (in Switzerland, Poland, Greece, USA, Greece and France). This vivid concert swing is highly respectable, but even more on the persistent goal of promoting Bulgarian guitar work, alongside world-class masterpieces for this instrument;
2. Chamber concerts for flute and guitar – 3 (three) pcs.

They were implemented with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov in Kazanlak, Skopje and Plovdiv. In them, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinkova reveals the possibilities of the guitar to be an ensemble instrument, by applying a wide range of cyclical works for flute and guitar

3. Chamber concert with ensemble works for guitar, violin and clarinet. This recital deepens the idea of a guitar ensemble. In partnership with the great Bulgarian musicians – the violinist Yosif Radionov and the clarinetist Rosen Idealov, Stela Dinkova successfully realized the Bulgarian premieres of Trio Op. 16 by J. Kreuzer and Quartet Pp. 8 by F. Gragnani (03.04.2014, Kyustendil).
4. Concert for guitar and orchestra – performance of “Fantasía Para Un Gentilhombre” by Joaquin Rodrigo in Kyustendil (at the Acad. Marin Goleminov 16th International Classical Guitar Competition) and in Plovdiv in 2012. The orchestra accompaniment was presented in the form of piano extract. Stela Dinkova’s partner was the pianist Evgeniya Tagareva. This work exemplifies the exceptional capabilities of the classical guitar for instrumental virtuosity and range, equivalent to all other solo instruments.
5. Concert for two guitars and orchestra: In 2015, a new arrangement for two guitars with orchestration by Petar Radevski of A. Vivaldi’s iconic work “Four Seasons” was presented in a program of the Blagoevgrad Chamber Orchestra. In this concert Stela Dinkova appeared with her colleague from Macedonia – the guitarist Darko Bageski.
6. Concert for three guitars and orchestra – on 01.12.2016 in Pleven (as part of the Third International Guitar Festival) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinkova performed „Fantasia Concertante” by Rosen Balkanski in partnership with Georgi Vasilev and Boyan Doychev. In this guitar trio she plays bright and completely equal to one of the “luminaries of the world guitar”, such as the teacher from Switzerland – Georgi

Vasilev. In this case, guitarists of different generations are united in presenting one of the most virtuoso Bulgarian works for a guitar ensemble.

After everything applied under the Group C indicators, the conclusion is associated with an extremely rich, diverse and permanent concert activity – an activity of indisputable contribution and merit:

- to the guitar instrument, the high qualities of which are deservedly promoted;
- to the Bulgarian composer guitar school;
- to the Bulgarian guitar community, which in the person of Stela Dinkova has a brilliant organizer and enthusiastic style and ensemble performer;
- to audiences in Bulgarian and abroad, who have access to highly artistic designs created for this instrument in different eras, styles and genres.

These conclusions are supported by the numerous peer reviews accompanying the reference.

The concert activity of supporting character is presented in an identical way. It highlights intriguing ensemble configurations:

- voice and guitar (together with the soprano Prof. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak);
- piano and guitar (together with Prof. Dr. Romeo Smilkov);
- two guitars (together with Georgi Vasilev, Kostadin Dinkov, Rosen Balkanski);
- violin and guitar (together with Prof. Al. Spirov);
- guitar quartet (together with Tsvetan Andreev, Nikolay Mihaylov and Boyan Doychev);
- Academica Guitar Ensemble – under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinkova.

The following is also evident: under Group D indicators, programs under numerous prestigious concerts and festivals implemented in Bulgaria and abroad.

Also important in this section of the Reference is the book on the basis of defended dissertation work on the topic: “Theoretical and Performing Aspects of Guitar and Orchestra Concerts by Joaquin Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez, Fantasía Para un Gentilhombre, Concierto Para Una Fiesta)” published in 2019. Along with the subsequent 9 articles published in Bulgarian and international scientific publications, the book reveals another side of Stela Dinkova’s professional experience – her affinity for original scientific development. A musician with rich theoretical knowledge, she discovers her own “niches” for scientific inquiry, which she approaches with her extensive performing experience. Thus, what she writes has considerable cognitive utility and practical applicability.

Under Group E indicators, the following has been noted: 11 peer reviews in the academic edition “Art Spectrum”, “Musical Horizons” magazine, “Classical Guitar” magazine and others. In addition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Dinkova is a participant in two and the head of 7 national projects, has published 2 university teaching aids and has conducted 16 master classes in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Poland, and Greece.

In conclusion, having become acquainted in detail with the entire activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova, I am fully convinced that the minimum point system of state requirements is too “narrow” for her rich artistic, scientific and pedagogical activity. Therefore, I make a fully deserved proposal to the distinguished Scientific Jury, and through it

to the Faculty Council, for the selection of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Miteva-Dinkova for the academic position of “Professor of Guitar” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

24.08.2019
Plovdiv

Prepared by:
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova