

PEER REVIEW

**by Prof. Dr. Yavor Svetozarov Konov, Doctor of Sciences
in connection with a competition for occupation of the academic position
“Professor”**

announced in State Gazette, Issue 44 dated 19.05.2023
**under Professional direction 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts,”
specialty “Piano (Piano Accompaniment and Piano),”
for the needs of the Piano and Accordion Department**
to the Faculty of Music Pedagogy
of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

I believe that the current procedure for occupation of the academic position of “Professor” procedurally meets the legal requirements.

Professional and biographical data of the candidate

Only one candidate participates in this competition, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Dimitrova Petrova – a long-time lecturer in the Department that announced the competition.

Zornitsa Petrova was born in Plovdiv in 1965 in a family of musicians. Her mother, Mrs. Ivanka Mihaylova, was an opera singer and teacher at the Plovdiv Music School, the Plovdiv Opera, and the Higher Music and Pedagogical Institute (now Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv). Her father – Mr. Dimitar Petrov, was a double bass player, leader of the group in the Plovdiv Philharmonic, and a teacher at the music school in the city. Both are from the era of the great conductor Dobrin Petkov.

Zornitsa Petrova graduated with a gold medal from the music school in the city (today Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance Art) in the piano class of Prof. Georgi Petrov, an educator also at the Higher Music and Pedagogical Institute (today Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts). After that, she graduated from the Bulgarian State Conservatory/State Academy of Music (today Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy in Sofia) in the piano class of the famous Prof. Lili Atanasova, as well as in the chamber music class of the no less famous violinist Prof. Vladimir Avramov (I would like to mention the iconic Avramov String Quartet). In short: Zornitsa Petrova grew up as a highly qualified and educated pianist and musician.

Also in those years, she completed a course in composition with the very interesting – musically and culturally – composer Assoc. Prof. Simeon Pironkov (father, 1927-2000). Zornitsa Petrova is also a composer, which I personally did not know about until recently – until the moment when she asked me to play her Piano Suite, which I learned with interest and pleasure and played twice at the Retrospection “Sans Résonance” – Author’s concert by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova: first in the packed Concert Hall at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv on 26.11.2022, Saturday, at 11 AM, (see the full video recording of the concert at <https://youtu.be/FejpUoyhpgM>), and after this at the UniArt Gallery at the New

Bulgarian University in Sofia on 12.12.2022, Monday, at 5:30 PM (see the full video recording of the concert at <https://youtu.be/3IW0y4dNikA>).

Z. Petrova is a laureate of the piano competition in Senigallia (Italy) in 1980 (Zornitsa was in the 8th grade at that time). At the National Music Academy, she received the Andrey Stoyanov Scholarship – for excellent success and active concert activity.

Zornitsa Petrova has participated and taking part in concerts since she was a schoolgirl, in a variety of formations (from solo concerts to chamber music concerts and piano accompaniment) with the most diverse repertoire (from Baroque to Contemporary, as well as foreign and Bulgarian composers).

Since 1991, she has been working at the Academy of Music and Dance Art (for several years under the patronage of Prof. Asen Diamandiev) in Plovdiv – by teaching piano, and since 2000 – piano accompaniment. In 2011, she defended a dissertation on the topic “*The Songwriting of Franz Liszt*” (subsequently published as a monograph of the same name: Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2019, ISBN 979-0-707681-63-3, 130 pages). In 2013, Petrova qualified as an Associate Professor of piano and piano accompaniment, subsequently becoming (and still occupying) the Head of the Piano and Accordion Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy.

Scientometrics

The candidate for occupation of the position of Professor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Dimitrova Petrova, fully meets the scientometric requirements, even exceeding them in a number of directions. I would like to specify the following:

According to item C.5 *Leading (solo) creative expression in the field of arts (the main asset of the candidate for her participation in this competition): 140 points out of the required 35: these include 4 concerts, the first 3 of which – two solo piano recitals of the candidate, and a singing recital in which Z. Petrova was on the piano – they are uploaded to the Internet as full video recordings, which I watched and LISTENED to from end to end not only with interest, but also with pleasure: wonderful musicianship!* (Here are the full descriptions of these concert programs: 1. Piano recital “The Big World of Mikrokosmos,” on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the birth of Béla Bartók; 15.06.2021, Ethnographic Museum Hall, Plovdiv, 6 PM, <https://fb.watch/IJ3YL1Tnmk/>; 2. Piano recital “Fr. Chopin – Nocturnes,” 11.08.2021, Art Gallery in the City of Kazanlak, 6 PM, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9K4SOVQMR6U>; 3. Chamber concert of Jamie Damon (tenor, USA) and Zornitsa Petrova at the piano – “Troubadours of Love,” 05.07.2019, Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, 6 PM, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBolcJLC 54>.

The fourth appearance presented as a leading in the field of art is the first performance in the country of the “Orpheus” Opera by Christoph Willibald Gluck in its Paris version of 1774 (held on 12.05.2015 at 11 AM in the Concert Hall of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts). The concert is entitled “Opera Con Pianoforte” and in it Zornitsa Petrova performs the piano adaptation of the orchestral score, personally

reworking the instrumental interludes, as well as the numerous choral and ballet scenes of the iconic pre-classical work. The performance was documented by Radio Plovdiv, but the recording (searched repeatedly in the archives of the Bulgarian National Radio and Radio Plovdiv) turned out to be missing.

According to item D.13 *Leading (or independent) creative expression in the field of arts, which is not the main habilitation work*: 70 points out of the required 35;

According to item D.14 *Supporting creative expression or participation in a collective product in the field of arts*: 70 points out of the required 10;

According to item E.17 *Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review*: 20 points out of the required 10;

According to item E.18 *Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review*: 10 points out of the required 5;

According to item E.19 *Reviews for realized author's products or creative performances in specialized editions in the field of arts*: 60 points out of the required 10;

According to item F.24 *Management of a national scientific, educational, or artistic project*: 150 points out of the required 30;

According to item F.28 *Management of a master class, studio, or workshop in the field of arts*: 40 points out of the required 20).

Comments on the professional asset submitted in connection with the competition and the contributions of the candidate

In the current competition for occupation of the academic position of "Professor," Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova applied mainly with the concerts described in the Scientific Table under item C.5, which I already presented above in my review: wonderful musicianship, what more can I say! However, to this I would like to add her already enormous and decades-long experience not only as a concert pianist in a variety of formations and repertoire, but also her successful teaching practice – due to the fact that for several years I have been teaching pianists at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts the subjects "Methodology of Piano Training" and "History and Repertoire of Pianism," every year I work with students of Zornitsa Petrova and I know from personal experience their respect, love, and gratitude to their lecturer Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova. I would also like to add here her lectures, master classes, the organization of the international competition "Johann Sebastian Bach" in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts and her objective participation in its judging (during the last edition, I was also on the jury, so I saw and got to know things from the inside as well).

Criticisms and recommendations

I do not have any.

Personal impressions of the candidate

Wonderful – since her university years. We hadn't communicated for decades, but after I started working at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts a few years ago, I found out how collegial Zornitsa Petrova is towards educators, students, and the

administration of the Academy: responsive, with the most appropriate professional and human reactions.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the above, I convincingly vote for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Dimitrova Petrova to be appointed to the academic position of “Professor” of Piano at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. I believe that this will also be the decision of the other members of the scientific jury.



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(Prof. Dr. Yavor Svetozarov Konov, Doctor of Sciences)