

PEER REVIEW

by

Prof. Dr. Boryana Asenova Lambreva

Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy

for the documents presented by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Dimitrova Petrova

in connection with the competition for occupation of the academic position "Professor,"

announced in State Gazette, Issue 44 dated 19.05.2023

under Professional field 8.3. "Music and Dance Arts," specialty "Piano (Piano Accompaniment and Piano)," for the needs of the Piano and Accordion Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

Data about the competition and the candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova is the only candidate in the competition for occupation of the academic position of "Professor" in the specialty "Piano (Piano Accompaniment and Piano)," for the needs of the Piano and Accordion Department at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The documentation she presents contains: Reference on the minimum required points by group of indicators, Reference on the contributions of the artistic activity as habilitation work, List of the most important creative performances, other documents and evidentiary materials relating to the artistic and scientific activity, as well and a creative CV of the candidate. All of them reflect the activities of Zornitsa Petrova in the period after her appointment as Associate Professor in 2013.

In accordance with the requirements and in compliance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, all stages of the competition have been passed correctly. The candidate meets the conditions of the minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position "Professor," which were established at the first meeting of the scientific jury.

Zornitsa Petrova is a graduate of the Music School in Plovdiv, where she graduated with a gold medal in Georgi Petrov's piano class. She received her Master's degree with a specialty in "Piano" at Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Music Academy in the class of Prof. Lili Atanasova. In parallel, she also studied Applied Composition under the guidance of Simeon Pironkov. During her studies at the National Music Academy, she was awarded the one-year scholarship "Prof. Andrey Stoyanov" for excellent success and active concert activity. Since 1991, she has been teaching piano, and since 2000, piano accompaniment at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. There she also defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic "*The Songwriting of Franz Liszt*," and in 2013 she won a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the specialty "Piano and Piano Accompaniment."

Zornitsa Petrova is a musician with an active and wide-ranging activity as a pianist, singer, composer, educator, publicist, and public figure. It is difficult to determine in which of these areas she is the most successful, because everywhere she achieves remarkable results. As an accompanist, Assoc. Prof. Petrova performs with various soloists on the concert stage

and in recording studios. With this activity, as well as with her performances as a concert pianist and singer, she demonstrates an affinity for concert cycles and integrals, which speaks eloquently of her desire for completeness and integrity of the creative projects she realizes in the long term. Another significant feature that stands out among the activities of Assoc. Prof. Petrova is the interest in less well-known and performed music, such as the concert cycles "Old European Music," "Masterpieces of Chamber Music of the 20th Century," "Unknown Bel Canto Pages," etc.

Assoc. Prof. Petrova is currently the Head of the Piano and Accordion Department and is a teacher of the disciplines "Piano," "Piano Accompaniment," "Chamber Music," as well as "Methodology and Pedagogical Practice of Piano Accompaniment."

Assessment of the submitted Reference for the minimum required points by group of indicators:

The reference on the minimum required points by group of indicators has been prepared correctly, it is supported by the necessary evidentiary material and meets the conditions set by Decree No 122 on amendments and additions to the Regulations for the implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, which entered into force on 06.07.2018. It gives an overall picture of a large-scale activity and presents Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova as an extremely active musician, dedicated to her work and looking for diverse forms of expression. In support of this statement, the large volume of activities in all groups of indicators, some of which significantly exceed the required number of points, should be noted. Groups of Indicators A and C represent the important reference points and achievements in the field of scientific and artistic activity of the candidate. They are the main lines that outline the appearance of Assoc. Prof. Petrova's creative pursuits and priorities, while at the same time defining the more significant contributions of her activity:

1. The dissertation work "*The Songwriting of Franz Liszt*" (as well as the book published on the basis of this work, reflected in **Group D - Indicator 6**) has a pronounced contribution character, as the first attempt in Bulgaria to systematize the knowledge of Liszt's chamber-vocal works. The author makes an in-depth analysis of the songs from a musical-aesthetic point of view, elaborates in detail the problems related to the selection of texts, as well as the specificity and role of the piano part, which defines one of the most distinct and vivid characteristics of the composer's reforming style in the field of the chamber-vocal genre.

2. In **Group C**, Assoc. Prof. Petrova presents several concerts equivalent to a habilitation thesis. According to **Indicator 4**, she participated in the "Sans Résonance" Concert. This is a completely author's concert, in which she is also the performer of her pianistic and ensemble compositions, and which can definitely be defined as one of her creative performances with a marked contribution character.

- According to **Indicator 5** in the same group of indicators, 4 concerts are noted, which reflect the wide field of performance of Zornitsa Petrova as a chamber performer – two chamber piano concerts, one vocal – with tenor Jamie Damon, and something very interesting – a concert performance with piano of the Paris version of "Orpheus" Opera by Christoph Willibald Gluck.

As a lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova creates conditions for the development and improvement of the skills of her students

through laboratory work in class and participation in various musical events. Her students have been awarded prizes at national competitions.

The creative activity of Zornitsa Petrova also covers territories outside of performing, scientific, and teaching activities. She developed as a successful administrator and manager of ambitious and responsible artistic projects, such as several successive editions of the National Academic Competitions "Johann Sebastian Bach and His Contemporaries," the International Competition "Johann Sebastian Bach Soli Deo Gloria", "Piano Art at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts," and others. This activity of the candidate testifies to her organizational and administrative qualities, as well as to her ability to find and develop new fields of realization.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize my high assessment of the overall activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova and confidently state that she **fully fulfills the minimum national requirements** for teaching and artistic activity for occupation of the academic position of "Professor." Her candidacy is fully in line with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and fully meets the criteria of the announced competition. Taking into account everything that has been said so far, ***I would strongly like to suggest to the respected scientific jury in the current competition that they award Zornitsa Dimitrova Petrova the academic position of "Professor" under Professional field 8.3. - "Music and Dance Arts."***

Sofia, 11.09.2023

Prof. Dr. Boryana Lambreva

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