

## PEER REVIEW

by

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in connection with the occupation of the academic position of “**PROFESSOR,**” announced in State Gazette, Issue 44 dated 19.05.2023 under Professional field 8.3, 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

One candidate participates in the announced competition from the Piano and Accordion Department. This is Associate Professor Doctor Zornitsa Petrova.

Zornitsa Petrova was born in 1965 in Plovdiv in the family of musicians. She finished her secondary education at Dobrin Petkov National School of Music in Plovdiv with a gold medal in the piano class of Prof. Georgi Petrov and subsequently piano at the Bulgarian State Conservatory in the class of Prof. Lili Atanasova and chamber music in the class of Prof. Vladimir Avramov. She also studied Applied Composition under the mentorship of Simeon Pironkov.

Since 1991, after a competition, she has been teaching piano, and since 2000 – accompaniment at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Assoc. Prof. Petrova defender her doctoral dissertation on the topic “*The Songwriting of Franz Liszt.*” Since 2013, she has been an Associate Professor of Piano and Accompaniment at the Academy. She is currently the Head of the Piano and Accordion Department and teaches the disciplines “Piano,” “Piano Accompaniment,” “Chamber Music,” “Methodology and Pedagogical Practice of Piano Accompaniment.”

It is evident from the certificate presented in this way that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova meets all the requirements described in the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for occupation of the academic position of “PROFESSOR.”

As her main creative achievements, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova offers her author’s concert Retrospection “Sans Résonance” on 26.11.2022, Plovdiv (Hall of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, at 11 AM) and on 12.12.2022, Sofia – New Bulgarian University (UniArt Gallery – 5:30 PM), during which she performed her own solo and ensemble compositions; the piano recital “The Big World of Mikrokosmos” (on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the birth of Béla Bartók), performed on 15.06.2021; the piano recital “Fr. Chopin – Nocturnes,” 11.08.2021, Art Gallery in the City of Kazanlak; the Chamber concert with Jamie Damon (tenor, USA) and Zornitsa Petrova on the piano – “Troubadours of Love,” 05.07.2019, Concert Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts; Opera Con Pianoforte – Christoph Willibald Gluck, “Orpheus” Opera – concert performance of the Paris version from 1774. For the first time in Bulgaria. Soloists: Tsvetelina Maldzhanska, Andrey Naydenov, Hristina Vencheva. Piano accompaniment and interpretation: Zornitsa Petrova, 12.05.2015, Hall of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

These achievements present the candidate in the most diverse light – as a solo performer, ensemble player, and creator. The performances are of a high artistic value.

No less significant are the so-called “collateral” achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petrova – the chamber concert with works by Ludwig van Beethoven with the violinist Momchil Enchev, the concerts with works by Saverio Mercadante and the bel canto composers Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti (together with the tenor Andrey Naydenov), the concert with the mezzo-soprano Valeriya Mircheva, the chamber concert with the violin sonatas of Paul Hindemith, together with Prof. Nedyalcho Todorov, as well as the two CDs – with works by Bulgarian composers, together with the violinists Nedyalcho Todorov and Verka Stefanova, edition by the Union of Bulgarian Composers and with “Poem” by Amédée-Ernest Chausson, issued by Orange Factory.

Associate Professor Dr. Zornitsa Petrova also indicated the required number of citations in refereed and indexed editions.

As an educator, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zornitsa Petrova treats her students extremely responsibly. She is the author of a number of important projects for the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, such as the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth National Academic Competitions “Johann Sebastian Bach and His Contemporaries,” as well as the First International Competition “Johann Sebastian Bach Soli Deo Gloria” (2022).

She also restored and directs the activity of the academic club “Contemporary Piano Culture.”

My personal impressions of Associate Professor Zornitsa Petrova are the result of many years of creative contacts in many common appearances. She is an example of a well-rounded musician: pianist, distinguished chamber performer and piano accompanist, singer, composer, pedagogue, and researcher.

In conclusion, I can say that with her applied impressive performing, pedagogical and scientific-theoretical research activity, the candidate Zornitsa Petrova can and should occupy the academic position “Professor” in the specialty “Piano (Piano Accompaniment and Piano)” in the Faculty of Music Pedagogy at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts.”

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Prof. Dr. Galina Apostolova