

OPINION

by Galina Apostolova,

Professor of Chamber Singing (PhD) in the Department of Singing at the Vocal Faculty of *Prof. Pancho Vladigerov* National Academy of Music,
Member of the scientific jury appointed by the Order of the Rector of AMDFA
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in connection with the appointment of an academic position of **PROFESSOR**, announced in the State Gazette, issue 44 of 19.05. in the professional field 8.3, major Piano (mandatory piano) for the needs of the Department of 'Piano and Accordion' at the Faculty of 'Music Pedagogy' of *Prof. Asen Diamandiev* Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv

The competition for the position of **PROFESSOR**, announced by MADFA-Plovdiv, has one candidate - Associate Professor - Velislava Karagenova, PhD.

Velislava Karagenova graduated from AMDFA - Plovdiv with a degree in piano studied under prof. Georgi Petrov and chamber music under prof. Nedyalcho Todorov. She holds a Master's degree in two majors - Music Pedagogy and Piano. Since 1996 she has been an assistant professor and currently an associate professor of piano at the AMDFA.

In addition to teaching Piano major, she teaches Piano Teaching Methodology, conducts lecture courses in the Analysis and Interpretation of Piano Literature, Chamber Music, and Harpsichord. She teaches piano master classes in Italy, Trieste, Tartini Conservatory, Romania, Iași, University of Arts, *P. Pipkov* National School of Arts, Pleven.

As a pianist, Associate Professor Velislava Karagenova has an active artistic career with a preference for ensemble music making. As a chamber musician she

has partnered prof. Nedyalcho Todorov – violin, prof. Zhivka Licheva - percussion, prof. Magdalena Chikcheva - cello, prof. Prof. Romeo Smilkov - piano, Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Kuzmanova - piano, Assoc. Prof. Edward Sarafian - clarinet. The most numerous are her performances with pianist Katya Vasileva, with whom she has 20 years of concert activity - recitals, recordings at Radio Plovdiv, performances at festivals, as well as with prof. Borislav Yassenov - flute. The repertoire with prof. Yassenov covers all styles and eras.

Associate Professor Karagenova has participated in a number of festivals in Bulgaria and abroad. She has given concerts in the USA, Italy and Germany.

He shows particular interest in contemporary Bulgarian music, where he performs works by a number of our composers from the past and present. She premieres and records Bulgarian music at the Bulgarian National Radio.

Besides piano, Velislava Karagenova is also a performer on organ and chembalo.

She is the author of five books – ‘Albéniz and ‘Iberia’ through the eyes of the pianist’, the basis of a defended dissertation, ‘The Leimer-Giesecking Method’, a translation with commentary of Leimer’s book ‘The Shortest Path to Perfection’, ‘Nikolay Stoykov - six metamorphoses on etudes by Czerny and two views on them’ (co-authored with Sv. Karagenov), the studies ‘Einojuhani Rautavaara and the Fire Sermon Sonata in Pedagogical and Performance Readings’ and ‘The Vocal Cycle ‘Proverbs of Hell’ by Dmitri Smirnov’.

It is evident from the reference thus presented that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Velislava Karagenova meets all the requirements described in the DASRB for holding the academic position of PROFESSOR.

As her leading artistic achievements Assoc. Prof. Velislava Karagenova, PhD offers two concerts with the flautist prof. Borislav Yassenov – ‘Masterpieces of European Flute Music of the 20th Century’ and ‘Baroque Messages’ (here she performs the keyboard part of the cembalo, the concerto is with the participation of Yordan Vichev, cello), a solo recital of Bulgarian piano music at the Tartini

Conservatory in Trieste, Italy, three concerts as a piano duo with Katya Vasileva – ‘French Palette’, ‘Piano Cycles for Four Hands’ and ‘Oh, Spain’, featuring Assoc. Prof. Liliya Ilieva, mezzo-soprano and a concert in the Days of Chamber Music - Gabrovo 2021 with Festival Ensemble Gabriela Garcia - harp, Giovanni Piscas - clarinet, Mariana Panova - soprano and Velislava Karagenova – piano.

These achievements present the candidate in a most diverse light - as a versatile ensemble player and soloist. The performances are at a high artistic level.

Equally significant are the so-called ‘accompanying’ achievements of Assoc. Prof. Velislava Karagenova, PhD. Due to their large number, I will highlight some of them - the concerts with Prof. Borislav Yasenov, PhD ‘Flute Protuberances’, ‘From the Flute Music of Germany’, ‘Rhetoric and Romance’, with the participation of Katya Vasileva - piano, where Assoc. Prof. Karagenova performs the parts of the organ and the chembalo.

Her active participation in the organ concerts ‘Bulgarian Music for Organ’, ‘Great Organ Concerto’, ‘Lyrics in Organ Art’ should also be noted.

The scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Karagenova, PhD in her studies ‘On the vocal cycle ‘Proverbs of Hell’ by Dmitri Smirnov’ and ‘Einojuhani Rautavaara and the Fire Sermon Sonata Op. 64 in performance and pedagogical interpretation’ cannot be overlooked.

On the basis of the overall impressive artistic, creative and scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Velislava Karagenova, PhD I confidently propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award her the scientific position of ‘PROFESSOR’.

Sofia, November 18, 2024

Prof. Galina Apostolova, PhD