

Jury 2023



Tomislav Nedelkovic-Baynov (Germany)

Prof. Tomislav Nedelkovic-Baynov was born in Sofia, Bulgaria into a family of musicians. Since 1982 he was a teacher in a number of music institutions in Germany and in 1999 was appointed Professor at the National Music Academy in Trossingen, Germany. He has been a jury member of many international competitions in Italy, Canada, Germany, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, USA, etc. In 2002 the University Qing Dao, China awarded him the title of Honorary Professor. Prof. Baynov is the founder and the head of the unique Baynov-Piano-Ensemble, which is performing a wide repertoire of piano ensemble music throughout the world. His successful concert activity (with a repertoire of more than 40 piano concertos) includes performances in many countries in Europe, Asia, North and South America, Australia and Africa, as well as 20 CD recordings.



Tamara Poddubnaya (U.S.A.)

Tamara Poddubnaya holds a PhD in Piano Performance from Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory, St. Petersburg. She is a Professor and a Dean of Music Department at Long Island Conservatory of Music, Albertson, New York. Dr. Poddubnaya has adjudicated as a chairperson numerous international competitions and festivals and held master classes all over the world, in Germany, Netherlands, South Korea, England, Italy, Israel, Russia, France, USA, Belgium, Bulgaria, Turkey, Spain etc.. She has performed in Russia, Georgia, USA, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, South Korea etc. Dr. Poddubnaya has received numerous first prizes and Grand Prix'es for solo and chamber music performances and had appeared in TV and radio programs throughout Europe and US. She was a co-founder of "Peter the Great Festival" in Netherlands, Portland(ME) International Piano Festival, "Music without Borders" International Piano Festival at Gould Academy, Bethel, ME. She is a holder of the Golden Muse and St. Sophia Awards in Bulgaria.



Bogomil Bonev (Bulgaria)

The artistic director and co-founder of the International Music Festivals-Competitions «Hopes, Talents, Masters» (1996-2012), «Folklore Without Borders» (2001-2012), Bogomil Bonev studied in Sofia at National Academy of Music «Pancho Vladigerov» both as a pianist and musicologist, also graduated from Leningrad Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory. His teaching experience includes St. Petersburg Musical Pedagogical College and Krupskaya Institute of Culture. He is an author of numerous articles about musician's educational and professional problems, published in mass media. He translated works of his teacher — Michael Druskin from Russian into Bulgarian, as well as other important musical literature, published in «Musical Horizons» Bulgarian magazine. He is a member of Union of Concert Workers of Russia (Leningrad district division) and Union of Bulgarian Composers.



Georgi Spasov (Bulgaria)

Professor at National Academy of Music «Pancho Vladigerov», Sofia. Holder of the Golden Muse Award. Georgi Spasov performs and gives master classes all over the world. He adjudicates at numerous international competitions and festivals in Europe, U.S.A., South Korea etc.

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Zhou Qiang (China)

Conductor and Clarinet player. Director of the Wind Music Professional Committee of the Chinese Musicians' Association, member of the Shanghai Musicians Association, and vice president of the Wind Music Conductor Research Association of the Shanghai Musicians Association. At present, he is the art director and conductor of Anshi Experimental Middle School affiliated to Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Jinyuan High school in the United States, Shanghai Information Technology School, Shanghai Caoyang Middle School, Jasminum sambac Symphony Concert band of Shanghai Federation of Trade Unions and other units.



Zhou Men (China)

Jazz piano player and composer, Jazz piano professional teacher of Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and Nanjing University of the Arts, member of Jazz Professional Committee of Jiangsu Pop Music Association. Past performances include Shanghai Summer Solstice Music Festival, Jazz Shanghai Music Festival, West Songs and East Rhyme Jazz Concert, American Blue Note, etc. In 2019, he was invited to Sichuan Conservatory of Music for academic lectures and exchange activities. Received the title of Excellent Instructor at the First Swiss International Music Competition in 2021.



Pavlin Panayotov (Bulgaria, Czech Republic)

As a student, he became a laureate of several competitions and received various awards. („Golden Diana“ National Competition –Jambol 1987, Bulgarian National Clarinet Competition - Targoviste 1987, Brahms Academic Competition, Sofia 1993). Currently first clarinetist and leader of the clarinet group in the orchestra of the Silesian Theater in Opava. He is also a professor at the Conservatory of the German Order and in the art school in Krnov, where he created and leads the ClariArt clarinet ensemble. Mr. Panayotov is a representative artist of RZ Clarinet Manufactory, a world renowned Czech manufacturer of handmade clarinets and performs exclusively on RZ clarinets.



Galina Koycheva-Mircheva (Bulgaria)

Violinist, she performs as a soloist in the Varna Philharmonic Orchestra, Shumen Philharmonic Orchestra, Pleven Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphonietta Sofia, Dobrich Chamber Orchestra, Burgas Philharmonic Orchestra, Bulgarian National Radio Symphonic Orchestra, and the Classic FM Orchestra. From 1999 to 2010 she played in the Lot Lorien Art Formation with whom she released four albums. Since 2005 she has been a member of the Ardentza Trio together with the pianist Daniela Dikova and the cellist Geoffrey Dean with whom in 2009 she was awarded a Crystal Lyre by the Union of Bulgarian Musicians and Dancers. Since 2007 she has been the concertmaster in the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra. She also currently is an associate professor of violin at the Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music.