**Prof. Dimitar Nenov**

1902 (Razgrad) - 1953 (Sofia)

Dimitar Nenov is among the most telling figures of the Bulgarian cultural life from the first half of the 20th century.

He was a man of many talents: a brilliant concert pianist, an original composer, a music pedagogue and a public figure. At the same time he left a legacy as a graduate architect. He was extremely well-read, knowledgeable beyond an amateur in mathematics, astronomy, natural sciences, medicine, history, literature, philosophy and, naturally, in aesthetics and all aspects of art history. It seems like he was a descendant of those universally educated minds, whose most distinctive prototype is the celebrated author of the “La Gioconda”.

Influenced as a pianist by the traditions of Liszt-Busoni and the student of the latest Egon Petri, Dimitar Nenov was a herald of new ideas for piano performance. His modern concept cultivated wide-shaded dense sound in service of monumental, architectonics construction of the music form.

He performed pieces in all music genres with the same enthusiasm and passion and had a distinguished affinity to the masterpieces of J. S. Bach, Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, Debussy, Ravel and Scriabin. His repertoire included piano concerts from all centuries and he was the only one in Bulgaria to introduce and employ three piano concertos in one program.

Despite the dozens of annual concerts in Bulgaria and abroad, as well as his work as a piano professor at Sofia’s National Academy of Music and his numerous public engagements, he managed to find the time to create valuable and original music compositions. They include piano pieces, solo numbers, choral symphony and symphony music.

The aesthetics of Nenov’s work fitted into the main trends and styles of his time. Their ambition was to bring a Bulgarian sounding to the music through folklore stylizations and generalizations, based on national cultural heritage. This is found mostly in the specific harmonic language that uses freely constructions in bitonality and polytonality, as well as rhythmical and metrical polystructures, adapted by and most often derived from the nature of the Bulgarian folklore.

In that regard the composer Nenov’s achievements can only be measured to those of the two great masters in this field - Bela Bartok and Igor Stravinsky.

Dimitar Nenov’s work of art and respectable style had an impact on the most popular musicians from the next generation, such as the composer Lazar Nikolov, the composers and conductors Konstantin Iliev, Vassil Kazandjiev and a number of others.

The International Competition for piano and orchestra named after prof. D. Nenov has the noble task of discovering and encouraging music talents from Bulgaria and abroad and bringing them closer to the great Liszt-Busonial traditions, kept alive and continued by Nenov’s great talent and dedication.