



## Development of the piano performing school in the Republic of Kazakhstan (1980-2016)

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### ABSTRACT

The piano school in the Republic of Kazakhstan began to be formed in the 30s of the last century, in connection with the accession of Kazakhstan to Russia. Prior to this period, the piano education was of a nature of amateur music making, and learning to play the instrument was carried out privately. For less than 100 years the piano school of Kazakhstan has reached a high level: the names of Kazakh pianists - Guldana Zholymbetova, Zhaniya Aubakirova, Amir Tebenikhin, Yerzhan Temirzhanov, Gulzhamilya Kadyrbekova and others - are known abroad. Pianists perform in the most prestigious concert halls in the world.

**Key words:** mortality rate, disability rate, arterial hypertension, diabetes mellitus, atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease.

### INTRODUCTION

In 1932 in Kazakhstan, in Almaty, the first musical and drama technical school was opened, in 1955 it was renamed Tchaikovsky Alma-Ata Music College. To work in the school teachers of the former Soviet Union's best conservatories were invited - P. Chugunov (professor of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory), P. Preobrazhensky (professor of the Sverdlovsk State Conservatory), G. Petrov (professor of the Minsk State Conservatory),

E. Brusilovsky (composer from Leningrad), G. Matsutsin (graduate of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory) and others. Later, a music college was opened in Uralsk (1944).

In 1944, the State Conservatory was opened in Alma-Ata (Almaty). The first piano pedagogues were G. Petrov, M. Burdanova, Z. Ivanova, V. Lazareva.

Formation of the piano school in the Republic of Kazakhstan at the initial stage is connected with the name of Eva Benediktovna Kogan (1928-1985),

representative of the Koganovs' musical dynasty, Honored Artist of the Kazakh SSR, professor of the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory (Almaty). E.B. Kogan graduated from the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory (class of Professor G.R. Ginzburg). She continued the pedagogical traditions of her outstanding teacher. This involved work on the piece as a whole, fingering, pedal, sound production, and repertoire politics. For 20 years, E.B. Kogan headed the Special Piano Department of the Conservatory. Her high level of performing skills, pedagogical talent, organizational skills, relentless educational activity allow us to speak of her as an outstanding musician and person. Her students are N.Y. Bayakhunova, D.Z. Begimbetova, M. Vartanyan, A.Z. Dosayeva, G.B. Zholymbetova, S.V. Kostevich, A.K. Kusanov, S.A. Massover, A.K. Mukhitova, G.E. Uzenbayeva and others which are well-known musicians of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who make a huge contribution to the development of the piano school.

An invaluable contribution to the further development of the Kazakh piano school was made by Nelli Ivanovna Poteshkina (1936). N.I. Poteshkina graduated from the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory (class of Professor E.B. Kogan). She passed an internship with professors Y.V. Flier (a student of K.N. Igumnov), Y.I. Milstein (a student of K.N. Igumnov) and V.V. Gornostayeva (a student of G.G. Neuhaus). N.I. Poteshkina had a special pedagogical gift - to see in each student a gifted personality. All the pupils of N.I. Poteshkina were noted for their bright individuality and great love for music, which the teacher imparted to them.

In 1967, an organ was established at the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory. For the work in the organ class, Vladimir Ivanovich Tebenikhin (1942-1988), a graduate of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory, was invited. V.I. Tebenikhin was trained in the piano class of L.N. Oborin and in the organ class of L.I. Roizman. His active performing activity brought a noticeable revival to the concert life of the republic. The pupils of V.I. Tebenikhin – E.A. Perebeyev, A.E. and B.E. Serkebayev, E.I. Wangler, T.A. Urmancheyev, V.T. Uzbekov and others - continue the traditions of the teacher, concert, and pedagogical activity.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Thus, in the basis for the formation of the Kazakh piano school was laid the traditions of the Russian piano school. Until the 1980s, the Kazakhstan piano school was in a stage of formation and development. Since 1980, domestic piano performance has gained worldwide fame. A great role in this was played by the teaching staff of the Conservatory and Gaziz Akhmetovna Zhubanova, who worked from 1975 to 1987 as the rector of the Conservatory. G.A. Zhubanova paid great attention to the growth of professional skills of both teachers and students: she invited leading teachers of the conservatory of the former Union, organized a trip of a delegation of students and teachers to master classes and consultations to teachers of the Moscow Conservatory, intensified the work of teachers in various concerts, Competitions. Thanks to her efforts, there is a qualitative leap in the professional training of soloists-instrumentalists.

From the 1980s to the present - the stage of further development of piano education in the republic - is most interesting for study. A huge preparatory work was carried out on the origin, formation, and development of piano education in Kazakhstan. Since the 1980s, the piano school of Kazakhstan has entered into a competitive struggle to win recognition of the world community, connoisseurs of academic music.

The period under study was conditionally divided into decades.

### 1980-1990.

The cultural processes that developed in this period in Kazakhstan reflected the crisis of the Soviet system, on the one hand, and the socio-political renewal of the country, on the other. The events of the decade under investigation entailed a comprehension of the significance of the republic's independent existence in the world cultural space, in connection with which, the further development of the Kazakh pianistic performing school acquired a new significance. In this perspective, the process of gaining the status of an independent state, and at the same time the realization of new opportunities for the exchange of experience, creative contacts between instrumentalists of the CIS countries and foreign countries, acquire special significance.

At the end of the 20th century, the piano education in Kazakhstan reached its peak. This is due to the international recognition of the national piano school of Kazakhstan - the victories of G.B.

Zholymbetova, Z.A. Aubakirova, and G.I. Kadyrbekova at international competitions, their tours at the world's leading stages.

Since the end of the 1970s, the enrollment of musical schools, colleges, students of the Alma-Ata Conservatory has been carried out on a competitive basis: the number of those who wish to receive piano education considerably exceeds the number of allocated seats. The piano education in the country is considered prestigious. The annual republican contests of young musicians open new names. Based on the results of republican competitions held during this period, it is necessary to emphasize the student's level of preparation in musical schools in Almaty, Karaganda, demonstrating the high professional skills of the teachers of the Bayseitova Musical School, Republican Kazakh Zhubanov Specialized Music School for the Internet for gifted children, specialized music boarding school of Karaganda, music schools in Almaty and Karaganda.

At the end of the twentieth century, music schools function in all district and regional centers, and music college in all regional centers of the republic. Secondary special educational institutions live an active creative life: leading pedagogues from conservatories of Almaty and CIS countries are invited to conduct concerts and master classes. This positively affects the qualitative level of pianist training.

An important factor that contributes to the improvement of the professional skill level of the Kazakh piano school was the creative trips of teachers and students of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory (ASC) in Moscow, internships of pedagogues in leading conservatories of the CIS, concerts and master classes of leading pianists of CIS at the Conservatory of Almaty.

The Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory was established in 1944. At the Department of Special Pianos of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory, the only specialized higher education institution in Kazakhstan at that time, which provided training for professional performers, in this period worked as teachers who continued the traditions of the Moscow and St. Petersburg school of pianism: V.I. Tebenikhin (a graduate of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory, the class of L.N. Oborin and L.I. Roizman), G.I. Kadyrbekova (graduate of the Moscow Tchaikovsky

Moscow State University, the class of G.B. Akselrod), Z.Y. Aubakirova (a graduate of the Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory and an alumnus with Professor L.N. Vlasenko), N.T. Izmailov (a graduate of the Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, class of V.I. Nosov, N.P. Emelyanova, assistant-traineeship of the Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, class of E.G. Gilels), A.K. Kusainov (graduate of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory, class of E.B. Kogan, assistant internship, Moscow Tchaikovsky State Pedagogical University, the class of S.S. Alamyanyan), R.Z. Yermekov (graduate of the Moscow Tchaikovsky State University, the class of G.B. Axelrod), etc. Thanks to the efforts of the teaching staff of the Conservatory's Department of the Special Piano in this difficult period of change, work was continued to preserve and increase the traditions of the Kazakh piano school. The result of this work was the following:

- concert activity of the Conservatory's teachers promoting the piano art of Kazakhstan (for example, G.I. Kadyrbekova in 1980 became a laureate of the 31st International Piano Competition in Italy named after G. Viotti; in 1983 Z.A. Aubakirova received a second Grand Prix and a special prize "For the Best Performance of Contemporary French Composers" at the Margaret Long and Jacques Thibaud International Competition in France, and in 1985 the Grand Prix of the International Competition of Chamber Ensembles in France;

- faculty competitions and concerts, piano music evenings - concerts for the 110th anniversary of the birth of A. Skryabin (1981), the 100th anniversary of G.G. Neuhaus (1988), the 100th anniversary of F. Schubert (1988), 115th anniversary of M. Ravel (1990), an evening of memory of Y.B. Kogan (1988);

- Strengthening contacts with Russian musicians (creative meetings and open lessons with students).

A positive factor was the replenishment of the special piano department of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory with young teachers: G.S. Nurlanova (a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, class of Professor M.S. Voskresensky and assistant internship at the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory, class of Professor A.Z. Dosayeva); G.T. Nesipaev (a graduate of the Moscow

Tchaikovsky State with specializations: piano (Professor G.G. Mirvis), organ (Prof. L.I. Roizman) and assistant internships at the Moscow State Conservatory by organ specialization (Prof. L.I. Roizman), G.E. Uzenbayeva (a graduate of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory, specializing in piano (professor Y. B. Kogan, associate professor L.R. Zeltser), composition (professor G.A. Zhubanova) and assistant internship at the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory (Professor J.Y. Aubakirova), T.A. Urmancheev (a graduate of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory and internship assistant, V.I. Tebenikhin and B.Y. Aubakirova), B.B. Aigalkaeva (graduate of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory and assistant training at the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory, class of Professor A.Z. Dosayeva).

In general, this period marked the dawn of the Kazakh piano school: in all educational institutions conducting pianists' training, there is a competition of applicants for admission; The work of the pianist class teacher is considered prestigious, and the successes of G.I. Kadyrbekova and Z.Y. Aubakirova inspire musicians to conquer new peaks.

#### **1990-2000.**

The fall in production in Kazakhstan caused serious costs in the material, technical and financial support of cultural and educational institutions. Meanwhile, the acquisition by Kazakhstan of the status of an independent state has opened to professional executors new prospects for reaching the international level. So, participating in 1990 in the regional competition of pianists, the winners were three alumni of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory – G.S. Nurlanova, T.A. Urmancheev, A.M. Sagatov.

In the period under study, the teachers of the special piano department of the Kurmangazy Alma-Ata State Conservatory (renamed at this time into the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory) Z.Y. Aubakirov and G.I. Kadyrbekov made an invaluable contribution to the development of the Kazakh piano school. They successfully combined pedagogical work with concert activity. In concert performances, a huge layer of works of a world and national piano literature was promoted both in performances with the orchestra and in solo, chamber concerts. Their indisputable merit was the demonstration of the high professionalism of the

Kazakh piano school, as well as the propaganda of the domestic composers abroad music.

In general, the piano music of Kazakhstan sounds in the program of performances of any domestic concert pianist. Piano works by Kazakhstan composers are compulsorily included in the curriculum at music schools, colleges, universities. Thanks to the propaganda of domestic piano literature, Z.Y. Aubakirova and G.I. Kadyrbekova acquainted the world community with the best examples of piano works by Kazakhstani composers.

The results of the fruitful public, pedagogical and concert activity of the teachers Z.Y. Aubakirova and G.I. Kadyrbekova, who brought up a whole galaxy of laureates, were appreciated by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Z.Y. Aubakirova - the title of People's Artist of the Republic of Kazakhstan (1991), Laureate of the State Prize in the field of art (2002); G.I. Kadyrbekova - the title of People's Artist (1991), awarded the Order "Kismet" (2000), awarded the Order "Parasat" (2010).

One of the significant events in the music education of the Republic of Kazakhstan was the opening of the Kazakh National Academy of Music (KazNAM) in 1998, renamed in 2009 to the Kazakh National University of Arts (KazNUA). The Honored Artist of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Professor A.K. Kusainov, honored worker of culture, Professor N.T. Izmailov; honored worker of culture D.A. Mambetova and others continued their pedagogical activity at the piano department of the new educational institution.

For the further growth of instrumentalists' professional skills, their participation in various kinds of competitions plays a huge role. It is all the more gratifying that the International Festival of Creative Youth "Shabyt", founded in 1997 in Astana, includes a competitive contest of talented youth in the category "Classical Music" (chamber ensemble). In this connection, the master classes with the participation of the masters of world art, as well as the concerts of the jury members, acquire special significance.

It should be emphasized that in this difficult period for the country, due to the continuity of the generations, the Kazakh piano school was able to preserve and increase the traditions of piano performance, and the second specialized university,

established in Astana, opened new prospects for development.

### 2000-2015.

Today in Kazakhstan there is a three-level system of piano education: a school, a college, a university. It should be noted that the implementation of this approach is carried out at the Kazakh National University of Arts in Astana. The educational institution has a positive experience in the training of pianists, and continuity in teaching contributes to the preservation of creative individualization in the process of formation of the trainee.

Today music and art schools function in all regional centers of Kazakhstan. Music colleges can be found in Astana, Aktyubinsk, Almaty, Atyrau, Zhezkazgan, Kokshetau, Kyzylorda, Pavlodar, Rudny, Semei, Taldykorgan, Taraz, Uralsk, Shymkent.

Currently, the piano training of specialists in universities is carried out within the framework of two specialties: 5B040200 - Instrumental performance, 5B010600 - Music education.

The training of personnel in a specialty "Instrumental Performance" at the bachelor's level is carried out by two national universities - the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory in Almaty, Kazakh National University of Arts in Astana and three state universities - in Pavlodar, Uralsk, Shymkent. These educational institutions train specialists for performing concert activities in cultural and art institutions, as well as educational activities in music colleges, specialized schools, studios etc.

In the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory, a special piano training is conducted at the Instrumental Performance Department of the Instrumental Performance Faculty. The head of the department is the Honored Education Worker of Kazakhstan V.M. Ibrayeva, who was educated at the Kurmangazy Almaty State Conservatory (the class of Professor L.L. Kelberg) and postgraduate study of the Minsk State Conservatory (class of Professor V.M. Epstein, Professor G.I. Shershevsky). V.M. Ibrayeva issued more than 100 graduates, among them laureates and diploma winners of international competitions held in Kazakhstan and abroad. Currently, leading teachers are working at the department: professors - People's Artist of the Republic of Kazakhstan Aubakirova Z.Y., People's

Artist of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kadyrbekova G.I., Masover S.A.; Associate Professors - Honored Worker of Kazakhstan Baysakalova A.B., Honored Worker of Kazakhstan Ermekov R.Z., Candidate of Arts Mukhitova A.K., Honored Artist of Kazakhstan Nesipbaev G.T., Nurlanova G.S., Uzenbaeva G.Y.; teachers - Abdullayeva A.O., Romanenko A.A., Nesipbayev A.G., Khiduanova Z.M. and others.

In the Kazakh National University of Arts, the preparation of instrumental performance's bachelor is carried out at the Department of Piano at the Faculty of Music. The head of the department is the Honorary Education Worker S.S. Asabayeva, who graduated from the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory (a class of Professor V.K. Merzhanov) and an assistant trainee at the Ashrafi Tashkent State Conservatory (a class of Professor O.Y. Yusupova). Her students have repeatedly become laureates of International competitions of pianists and chamber ensembles. At the present time the following teachers work at the department: professors - Honored worker of Kazakhstan Izmailov N.T., Honored Artist of Kazakhstan Kusainov A.K., Mambetova D.A., Uzbekov V.T.; associate professors - holder of the breastplate Altynsarina Ali D.K., Aidabulova G.M., Latyshova L.V., Shotkalieva R.E., Cherednichenko A.G.; teachers - Abilkhanova S.A., Vasiliev S.V., Yesimkhanov D.T., Ivanova I.K., Kulseitova S.B. etc.

Unlike the specialty "Instrumental performance", the bachelor of music education is called upon to solve the general musical education's problems of the younger generation in educational and cultural institutions. Currently, three national universities - Kazakh National University of Arts, Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory, Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University, are preparing the bachelors of music education; State universities in Aktyubinsk, Almaty, Atyrau, Arkalyk, Kostanay, Kyzyl-Orda, Pavlodar, Petropavlovsk, Semipalatinsk, Taldykorgan, Taraz, Uralsk, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Shymkent, as well as private universities in Kyzylorda, Shymkent, Zhetysay.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thus, the piano education in the system of university specialists' training is carried out in two directions. An important role in the formation of a

future specialist is played by studying the piano repertoire of domestic authors.

The piano music by the composers of Kazakhstan is mandatory in the programs of international competitions held in the republic. It should be emphasized that the competitive life in Kazakhstan at the turn of the century has noticeably intensified: the number of international competitions held in the republic has increased, the geography of participants has expanded, the requirements to the programs and the financial conditions of participation have changed (extramural form), new nominations have been added – an ensemble performance (piano ensemble), a composition, a teacher-student, a teacher-soloist. This period is characterized by a quantitative and qualitative growth of the international level's creative projects, pianist competitions, classical music festivals both in Almaty and Astana.

So, since 2000 the International Pianists Contest of Central Asia and Kazakhstan is being held, the founders of which are the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory, and the "Classic" music agency. Six international competitions held at the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory: I International Pianists Competition of Central Asia and Kazakhstan (2000), where 8 laureates from Kazakhstan were registered in different age groups; the second competition (2004) - 8 laureates; the 3rd competition (2006) - 3 laureates; the 4th competition (2008) - 2 laureates; the 5th competition (2011) - 2 laureates, diploma; the 6th competition (2013) – an award winner.

Since 2005, the National Youth Delphic Games have been held in Kazakhstan. According to the results of the competition, a national team of Kazakhstan is formed to participate in international games. The nomination "Performing Arts", the direction of the piano, is evaluated in the position of the competition.

Since 2009 the International competition of young performers "Astana-Merey" is held, where participants of the age category from 7 to 18 years are allowed. The contest is held annually in December by the Republican Scientific and Practical Center "Daryn" in conjunction with the Kazakh National University of Arts with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of

Kazakhstan. The competition includes the nominations "Piano", "Piano Ensemble", "Composition".

Since 2013, large-scale international projects have been held in Astana with the participation of the People's Artist of Russia, art director of the contest Denis Matsuev. The organizers of the competition are the Akimat of Astana and the Public Fund "Accordi di Astana". Three large-scale international projects "Astana Piano Passion" were held: I Festival-contest in 2013; II contest in 2014 (4 laureates); III contest in 2015 (2 laureates, a diploma winner). Noteworthy, in order to promote the Kazakh culture on the international arena, increase the interest of the Kazakh youth in piano art, one of the mandatory points of the "Astana Piano Passion" competition program is the performance of the Kazakh composer's work, and also there is a special prize for the best performance of this play.

In connection with the creation of the Center for Creative Initiatives "Art aspect" in 2013, the creative life in the republic was noticeably invigorated. So, thanks to the efforts of the Center, with the support of the Branch of the Kazakh Composers Union in Astana, the Public Association of Karaganda Region Composers "Balausa" in 2013 in Astana, the 1<sup>st</sup> Republican contest "Musical Souvenir" was held, the nomination "Piano" (solo, duets for one piano) was provided. The program requirements of the competition include a compulsory performance of two previously published works of Kazakh authors.

In 2014, the Center for Creative Initiatives "Art aspect" is carrying out a number of international and republican projects. Thus, with the support of the Cultural Association "Melos" (Italy) in Rome, the International Contest of Music Art "Primavera Romana" is held, which provides for the participation of contestants without age restrictions. "Art aspect" holds the republican contest of pianists "Piano Stile", which received the international status in 2016. With the support of the Branch of the Kazakh Composers' Union in Astana and the Public Association of Karaganda Region Composers "Balausa" in Burabay, on the basis of the Republican Educational and Health Center "Baldauren", the International Art Assembly "Talents of the XXI Century" is held. The competition provides for the participation of

contestants in the nominations "Pianists Competition" and "Competition of Young Composers". Creative meetings with composers of Kazakhstan, master classes of leading teachers of the Republic, as well as exhibition and sale of music collections and CDs are held within the framework of the project.

Since 2015 the Center for Creative Initiatives "Art aspect" has continued work on organizing large-scale projects. With the support of the Kazakh Composers' Union, a republican contest in the field of interpretation folk instrumental and song music "Oner! Dostyk! Beibitshilik!» is held. With the support of the Cultural Association "Melos"(Italy), the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory (Italy) in Venice, the International Contest of Music Art "Virtuosi a Venezia", which provides the participation in the nomination "Piano" (solo, duets for one instrument). With the support of the Branch of the Kazakh Composers' Union in Astana and the Tchaikovsky Almaty Musical College hosts the International Pianists Competition, dedicated to Aida Isakova.

Since 2015, the Kazakh National University of Arts hosts the international piano training contest "Eurasia Piano Forum".

Such activity of Kazakhstan in conducting international competitions, in addition to strengthening professional and cultural ties between the participating countries, contributes to the preservation and development of the country's cultural potential, the identification of talented youth, and the professionalization of young musicians. With each new competition, the professionalism of performers is increased, the geography of participants is expanded. This helps the Kazakh piano school to enter a qualitatively new level of professional development.

Thus, with the purpose of introducing positive changes in the republican musical life today, there are many pianist competitions, which are different, with requirements for the level of training, with age categories. Undoubtedly, such a variety of projects will have a positive impact on the further development of piano education in the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the support of instrumentalist soloists will activate the creative potential of the youth, and outline further prospects in the development of piano art in general.

A special place in the formation of the Kazakh piano school is taken by festivals "Concerts in the Motherland", held in Almaty and Astana. Festivals of classical music provide a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the creativity of talented compatriots who have achieved recognition and success abroad and proudly glorify Kazakhstan beyond its borders. So, within the framework of the festival appeared: in 2006 Temirzhan Yerzhanov – the laureate of international competitions, the honored worker of Kazakhstan (currently resides in San Francisco, USA); in 2007 Amir Tebenikhin – the laureate of International Pianists' Competition, the honored worker of Kazakhstan (Hannover, Germany); In 2008 Zhibek Kozhakhmetova – the laureate of the International Pianists' Competitions (Switzerland).

The development of the piano performing school in Kazakhstan is inextricably linked with the promotion of piano music by domestic composers. Thus, pianists, performing with concerts abroad, demonstrating a high level of composer's writing of piano compositions by domestic composers.

Today the pianism school has gained worldwide fame. The successes of Kazakh pianists have been confirmed at the most prestigious and major competitions of the world.

Thus, we should elaborate on the creative biography of Kazakh leading pianists.

**Zholymbetova Guldana Bazylkhanovna** graduated from the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory (class of E.B. Kogan), postgraduate studies and training at the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory (class of Professor V.K. Merzhanov).

G.B. Zholymbetova was the first Kazakh woman to be awarded the title of Laureate of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Interzonal Competition of Musicians and Performers of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. The pianist's play was marked by the nobility of sound, sensitivity, penetration, convincing interpretation of works. After graduating from the Moscow Conservatory, she worked for a long time at the Department of Special Piano at the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory.

Since 1973, the period of studying in the graduate school of the Moscow Conservatory, G.B. Zholymbetova was fascinated by jazz. Studying in graduate school, she performed the "Rhapsody in Blues style" of George Gershwin, which became the

visiting card of the pianist. Since then, jazz has become a part of her life.

During 20 years as a representative of the Kazakh musical art, G.B. Zholymbetova acquainted artists and students with the homeland of jazz. With her help, a large number of Kazakh musicians performed in the United States, having demonstrated their art. Zholymbetova G.B. lectured on the Musical Culture of Kazakhstan at the International Conferences, in the Hollywood Music Institute, in Berkeley College (Boston), in the University of Minnesota. Since 1995 she has been an annual participant in the International Jazz Conferences. G. B. Zholymbetova supervised such projects as "Jazz master of PRO", the international children's contest "Kolibri", "Kazakhstan - the crossroad of Europe and Asia". Within the framework of these projects, more than 300 Kazakh performers visited the master classes, music forums, concerts in the USA.

Since 2003, Guldana Bazylkhanovna Zholymbetova is a professor at the Kazakh National University of Arts in Astana, the head of the department of jazz and bandstand art. In this post, G.B. Zholymbetova worked for three years.

G.B. Zholymbetova is the organizer of the International Jazz festivals "Astana-Blues", bandstand and jazz concerts in Astana and other cities of Kazakhstan. G.B. Zholymbetova as a solo artist performed concerts with the orchestra in the USA, Canada, Australia, Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Armenia, Russia, and Kazakhstan.

At the moment Guldana Bazylkhanovna is an honorary member of the International Jazz Association (USA), she lives in Los Angeles. She develops a technique of music therapy with the help of certain tone's music and continues an active pedagogical and creative activity.

So, on January 30, 2013, within the framework of the project "Kazakhstan - the crossroad of Europe and Asia", a concert, aimed at popularization of Kazakh art in the United States, was held in a concert hall in Los Angeles. The concert program included the works of F. Schubert, F. Chopin, P. Tchaikovsky, M. Taymikeev, A. Varlamov, D. Gershwin. In November 2014 G.B. Zholymbetova conducted a tour around the cities of Kazakhstan: Aktobe, Karaganda, Pavlodar and Almaty. She performed works by composers of Kazakhstan, Japan (Joshaisaisi), USA ("Rhapsody in Blues

style" by D. Gershwin). In April 2016, G.B. Zholymbetova organized a concert tour in the cities of Russia and Kazakhstan, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of A. Babadzhanyan and the 95th anniversary of the birth of his father. G.B. Zholymbetova performed in the cities of Kazakhstan (Aktobe, Kostanay) and Russia (Kurgan).

**Aubakirova Zhaniya Yakhliyayevna** graduated from the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory (class of E.B. Kogan), the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory (class of Professor L.N. Vlasenko) and postgraduate studies (class of Professor L.N. Vlasenko). Z.Y. Aubakirova is the owner of the Grand Prix and a special prize "For the best performance of works by contemporary French composers" at the Marguerite Long and Jacques Thibault International Contest (France, 1983) and the Grand Prix of the International Contest of Chamber Ensembles (France, 1985), together with Gaukhar Murzabekova.

Z.Y. Aubakirova was awarded many prizes: People's Artist of Kazakhstan (1991), Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Literature of France (1998), Laureate of the Independent Prize "Platinum Tarlan" (2001), Laureate of the State Prize of Kazakhstan (2002), winner of the G. Maler European Union of Arts (2003), Chevalier of the Order of Catherine the Great for the strengthening of friendship between Kazakhstan and Russia (2008), Cavalier of the "Parasat" order (2008), Order of Merit to the Culture of the Republic of Poland (2009), Order of the President of Poland "Golden Cross of Merit" (2011), Laureate of the State Prize of Peace and Progress of the First President of Kazakhstan (2012).

Aubakirova was awarded many prizes: People's Artist of the Republic of Kazakhstan (1991), Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Literature of France (1998), Laureate of the Independent Prize "Platinum Tarlan" (2001), Laureate of the State Prize of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2002), winner of the European Union of Arts. G. Maler (2003), Chevalier of the Order of Catherine the Great for the strengthening of friendship between Kazakhstan and Russia (2008), Knight of the Order of Parasat (2008), Order of Merit to the Culture of the Republic of Poland (2009), Order of the President of the Republic of Poland "Golden Cross Merit" (2011), Laureate of the State Prize of Peace and

Progress of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2012).

Aubakirova is the official artist of the company "Steinway & Sons". She conducts active educational and performing activities. Aubakirova cooperates with Marta Argerich, Marat Bisengaliev, Alexander Vedernikov, Valery Gergiev, Jean-Guyenne Keiras, Christophe Mangué, Mikhail Pletnev, Alexander Sladkovsky, Alexander Trostiansky, Denis Shapovalov, the quartet "Danel", the Russian National Orchestra, French Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra and others.

Solo concerts and performances by Zhaniya Aubakirova with orchestras, which sound both worlds academic music and works of Kazakh composers, are regularly held in Kazakhstan, the largest concert halls of France, England, Germany, Japan, Russia, Poland, Italy, the USA, Israel, Greece, Hungary, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, South Korea, Spain, China, Singapore, Malaysia.

In 1994, Z.Y. Aubakirova founded the school – "Author's School of Zhaniya Aubakirova". Since 1997 she has been appointed rector of the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory. In 1998, on the initiative of Zhaniya Aubakirova, the music agency "Classic", designed to ensure the advertising and entry of talented young musicians of Kazakhstan into the big stage, was organized.

Every year Z.Y. Aubakirova holds a concert season. So, in 2014, the pianist participated in 11 concerts - the Great Hall of Conservatories in Almaty (in March), the International competition-festival "Revival", Gyumri (in April), the X International competition "Hope-2014", Krasnoyarsk (in April), the International competition "Astana Piano Passion", Astana (in May), Festival of Contemporary Music, Beijing (in May), a concert "Bridges of Times", the Great Hall of the Conservatory, Almaty (in June), the International Festival "Progetto Martha Argerich", Lugano (June), The Great Hall of the Conservatory, Almaty (in September), Keimyung Art Center, Daegu (in September), Sung Shin University, Seoul (in September), Seoul National University, Seoul (in September).

Her pianism differs sincerity and openness, warm and confidential sounding of the instrument. As Z.Y. Aubakirov claims: "Perhaps I have a

Brahms type of pianism - with his texture, his reactions, his intonations" (Ilyasova 2016).

Among her students are laureates of regional, republican and international competitions - Amir Tebenikhin, Timur Urmanchev, Zhanar Suleymanova, Zhumabek Bekishev, Aktokty Raimkulova and many others.

**Kadyrbekova Gulzhamilya Ikhsanovna** graduated from the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory (class of Professor G.B. Axeldor). Since 1974 she has been working in the Almaty Conservatory. In 1980, she was awarded the title of 1<sup>st</sup> laureate of the 31st Viotti International Pianists' Competition, Vercelli (Italy).

Kadyrbekova G.I. was awarded the following titles and awards: the honored artist of the Kazakh SSR (1982), the People's Artist of the Kazakh SSR (1991), the order "Kurmet" (2000), the order "Parasat" (2010).

Kadyrbekova G.I. successfully combines the pedagogical work with the concert activity. For a long time, she was a soloist of the Zhambyl Kazakh State Philharmonic, speaking in performances with the orchestra, and in solo and chamber concerts. Her undoubted merit is the promotion of world musical literature and academic music of domestic composers in Kazakhstan and abroad works.

Her concerts highlighted widely in Italian social and political newspapers ("Stampa Sera", "La Repubblica", "La Sesia", "L'Eusebiano"), where flawless pianism, creative innovation, subtle artistic taste and high spirituality of performing skills of the Kazakh Pianist were observed. G.I. Kadyrbekova is compared with the outstanding performers of the 20th century. According to music critics, her play is distinguished by high musical culture, generosity of performing style, integrity and persuasiveness of interpretations, fluency in the form of the work, artistic charm.

Kadyrbekova G.I. participates in the jury of republican and international piano competitions (Astana, Almaty, Paris, Russia, Austria), where she conducts master classes.

Kadyrbekova G.I. released more than 100 graduates who work in various regions of Kazakhstan, Russia, Germany, the United States. Laureates and diploma winners of various republican and international competitions in Kazakhstan, Italy, San Marino, Germany, France, Austria are among them.

**Tebenikhin Amir Vladimirovich** graduated from the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory, later the post-graduate course of the Tchaikovsky Almaty State Conservatory (class of Professor M.S. Voskresensky). Since 2004, Tebenikhin A.V. was educated at the Hannover Higher School of Music (class of Professor Karl-Heinz Kemmerling).

Studying at the senior year of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory Tebenikhin won the Grand Prix of the Viana da Motta International Piano Competition in Lisbon (1999).

Tebenikhin A.V. was awarded the titles of Laureate of International pianists competitions held in Hamamatsu (Japan, 2000), Geneva (Switzerland, 2001), Sendai (Japan, 2001), Viseu (Portugal, 2002), Queen Elizabeth Competition (Belgium, 2003), the competition of the Chopin Society in Hanover (Germany, 2004), the pianists' competition in Glasgow (Scotland, 2004), the First International Piano Competition in Panama (2004), and the winner of the Grand Prix of the National Pianists Competition in Temirtau (Kazakhstan), laureate of the First Award of the Khalmamedov International Competition in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan). In 2006, Amir Tebenikhin received the second award and a special prize at the Bechstein International Pianists Contest in Essen, Germany, and in 2007 he was awarded the First Prize of the A. Rubinstein Piano Competition in Dresden, Germany. In 2009 he received the first award at the D. Enescu Pianists Competition in Bucharest (Romania).

A. Tebenikhin was awarded the title of Laureate of the independent award of Kazakh Maecenas "Tarlan" in the category "Music", "For contribution" (2002), "Honored Worker of Kazakhstan" (2007), recognized as the best pianist of Germany at the Deutscher pianistenpreis competition (2011).

Amir Tebenikhin performed with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, the German orchestra Suedwestdeutsche Philharmonie, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Youth Orchestra of the European Union, the "Moscow Virtuosi" Orchestra and others.

Amir Tebenikhin's solo concerts and performances with orchestras, which sound both worlds academic music and works of Kazakh composers, are regularly held in Kazakhstan (Almaty), the largest concert halls of the USA (Carnegie Hall), England (Wigmore Hall), France

(Alfred Corto and Pleyel), Germany (Gewandhaus), Poland, Portugal, Russia, Macedonia, Japan, Brazil.

Amir Tebenihin promotes the Kazakh piano music. So, the disc, called "The Legend of Dombra" and recorded in 2007 in Germany at a concert where the works of F. Schubert, S. Prokofiev, N. Mendygaliev, R. Schuman were performed.

In his pianism, musical critics note an amazing sense of form, a wonderful touch, beautiful, picturesque sound, diverse in color and character, excellent phrasing, high level of technical skill.

In 2002, Amir Tebenikhin moved to his permanent residence in Hanover (Germany), where his wife, Sofya Gaysina (flute), continued her studies. The family of Tebenikhin retains the Kazakh citizenship. Amir Tebenikhin is proud that, as a citizen of Kazakhstan, he can represent his country on world concert venues within the framework of various festivals, forums of classical music and competitions. To date, Amir Tebenihin is one of the world's brightest concert pianists.

**Yerzhanov Temirzhan** graduated from the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory (class of Professor M.S. Voskresensky). As a student, in 1993, Temirzhan Yerzhanov won the First Award at the XI International Schumann Piano Competition (Germany) and the Gold Medal in Zwickau (Germany).

Temirzhan Yerzhanov was awarded the title of "Honored Worker of Kazakhstan" (2011), "Best Performer of 2007" in the opinion of the newspaper "San Francisco Classical Voice".

T. Erzhanov speaks with Zwickauer Philharmoniker, Sacramento Philharmonic, San Luis Obispo Symphony, Tchaikovsky Moscow Radio Symphony, Russian symphony orchestras of the regional philharmonic societies, Kazakh State Symphony Orchestra, Abai symphonic orchestras, the Bayseitova Opera and Ballet Theater, Karaganda Regional Philharmonic.

Temirzhan Yerzhanov's solo concerts and performances with orchestras, which sound both worlds academic music and works of Kazakh composers, are regularly held in Kazakhstan, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, the Czech Republic and the USA.

His concerts were played in Berlin Konzerthaus, Gewandhaus zu Leipzig, Schumann Haus, Tchaikovsky Memorial House, Neue Welte, Paris Chopin-Pleyel, San Jose Le Petite Trianon,

Dresden Zempgalerie, San Luis Obispo Cohan Center, Palm Springs Annenberg Theater, Sacramento Convention Center, Merkin Concert Hall, Bombay Arts Society, Big, Small and Rachmaninov concert halls of the Tchaikovsky Moscow Conservatory, halls of the Moscow and Saint-Petersburg Philharmonic.

Each concert of Temirzhan Yerzhanov is premiered: Little Solemn Mass by G. Rossini and Shostakovich's II Piano Concerto, Almas Serkebaev's Concert in New York, the American premiere of "Boris Godunov" by Igor Khudoley in San Francisco, works by S. Prokofiev during 1942-1943 in Almaty. All works are very difficult in the technical and interpretative terms and rarely appear in concert posters.

Music critics note Temirzhan Yerzhanov's excellent possession of various music styles, impeccable technical level combined with subtlety and nobility of performance.

After graduating from the Moscow Conservatory, since 2002, Temirzhan Yerzhanov lived in the USA, and from 2009 to 2011 - in London. From 2011 to this day he lives and works in the USA.

## CONCLUSION

In general, the following tendencies characterizing the state of the piano school in Kazakhstan can be singled out:

- Propagation of piano music by Kazakh composers;
- Creative contacts of pedagogues and students with leading piano teachers of the CIS and foreign countries in the form of concert tours, training, internships, master classes, consultations;
- Creative work of teachers and students (concert activity, organization, holding and participation in international contests, projects, festivals of classical art).

In Kazakhstan, Gulzhan Uzenbaeva, Nurlan Izmailov, Altai Kusainov, Timur Urmancheyev, Rustem Yermekov and others successfully work and tour abroad. In Germany, Saule Tatubayeva is the professor of the conservatory. At universities and colleges in Florida and Alabama, she teaches and conducts an active concert work of Khadish Onalbayev. In 2013 K. Onalbayeva was awarded the honorary title of Steinway Artis.

For the last decades, the instrumental performance of Kazakhstan demonstrates new achievements in the field of piano art. This is evidenced by the appearance of talented and promising pianists, laureates of various international competitions, such as Zhibek Kozhakhmetova, Zhanar Suleymanova, Sergei Khegai, Askar Kulsharipov, Leila Akshpekova, Sabina Atageldiyeva, Laura Alpysbayeva, Daniyar Yesimkhanov and others. Graduates of specialized music schools and colleges, receiving a grant or being a Scholar of the presidential scholarship "Bolashak", continue their education in prestigious music universities of Europe. The Kazakhstan piano school has brilliant prospects for its further development.

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