

## *Virginia Atanassova-Lialios*

(Short CV)

Dr. Virginia Atanassova - Lialios is presently one of the most famous Bulgarian conductors and musicologists. Born in Sofia, she graduated with honors the Bulgarian State Academy of Music in Sofia. She has specialized orchestra conducting at Weimar summer courses with Prof. Igor Markevitch (Germany) and Prof. Julius Calmar, Vienna (Austria), and choir conducting in Vienna with Prof. Felix De Nobel and Prof. Gunter Theuring. Virginia Atanassova - Lialios was awarded the special prize at the Master Conducting Courses in 1977-78 and participated at the first World Choral Symposium in 1987 in Vienna, Austria. She was the first Bulgarian conductor to give a cycle of lectures on Bulgarian choir music at the academy of music in Gothenbourg, Sweden in 1984 and at the University of Quimbra, Portugal.

Recently, she is a Full Professor in choral conducting at the Academy of Music, Sofia and former Assoc. Professor at the American College of Thessaloniki, Greece. She is also a Doctor of Music Art in Performance (1993) and Ph.D. (1996). As a choral conductor Dr. Atanassova - Lialios is awarded many prestigious prizes with Chamber Collegium, "Tutti Soli". Defended two dissertations on European early Baroque music in the field of choral music and performance practice. Doing lecturing and research on Renaissance and Baroque Music in Germany with a fellowship of DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) in 1990/91; in 1992 she made a research on Renaissance and Baroque Music as a Guest Professor in "Schola Cantorum Basiliensis", Basel, Switzerland. Her first dissertation was accepted in the Library of Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. She was also a Fulbright Honorary Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, Madison-School of Music in 1995/96. USA.

In year 2005 she gave a cycle of lectures on early Baroque music at the Universite de Paris, France.

Her Baroque monograph "Choral Traditions and Styles of Performance during the 17-th century" was accepted in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC in 1995, and her second book "A Path to the Past" was published in the year of 2000 by the Publishing House "Ango Boyanov", Sofia.

In year of 2004 was published by "Ango Bojanov" Publishing House an original collection of poems, illustrations and a CD as a supplement under her conducting and titled "A Time Journey", and in the year of 2009-her second poem book titled "Mirage" with illustrations by the famous Bulgarian artist Keazim Isinov.

She was awarded a Certificate and Diplome of Honor and is also included in the following encyclopedias:

*"International Leader in Achievement"* (ed. 3), 1997, Cambridge, England,

*"Who is who in the Bulgarian Culture"*, 1998, Slavena, Varna, Bulgaria,

*"2000 Outstanding Musicians of the 20th Century"*, 2000, IBC, Cambridge, England and

*"Top 100 Musicians of 2005"*, 2005, IBC, Cambridge, England, "Notable Bulgarian Women", Veliko Tarnovo, 2009 and others.

In the year of 2006 the collegium participated under her bottom at the International Music Festival organized by the "Aristotle University" of Thessaloniki, Greece as well as at the "Sofia Saloon of Arts" and the "New Year Festival" in Sofia, Bulgaria.

In 2007 the "Tutti Soli" chamber collegium took part in the prestigious International Music festival "Varna Summer" with a multimedia spectacle "Barka di Venetia per Padova" by A. Banchieri. In the years of 2008 and 2009 she conducted series of early Baroque spectacles at the "European International Festival" (in the cities of Sofia and Plovdiv), and at the "Sofia Music Weeks" (2009) directed by the famous Italian opera director Mr. Carmelo Agnello who is currently living and working in Paris-Universite de Paris 8, France. In the year of 2010 the collegium participated in the frame of the "Sallon of Arts" festival with a special participation of Ms. Elena Bertuzzi, Italy who is a specialist in Monteverdi's style of performance.

Last year of 2011 the Collegium participated again at the "European Festival" with spectacle titled "Il Divino Claudio" dedicated to Cl. Monteverdi's music works. The spectacle was filmed by Bulgarian TV, channel I and was broadcast on the TV as well. Last year (2012) the "Tutti Soli" ensemble performed French Baroque composers i.e.: Jean Baptist Lully, Andre Campra and Jean Jaques Rousseau's opera-ballet "Le Duvin du Village" dedicated to 300 years anniversary of composer's birth in the frame of the "Saloon of Arts" festival, which was held on 31 of May of 2012 and participated at the "Darmstadter

Residenzfestspiele” on 29 of July, 2012 with Italian Renaissance and early Baroque program. In November 2012 and June of 2013 she held successfully master-course in conducting on Western-European early music and gave papers on “Renaissance Games in the context of Monteverdi’s late madrigals and his opera Orfeo”, and “Bulgarian choral pedagogy in the context of Balkan and Eastern-European pedagogy” at the Leopold Mozart Center in Augsburg, Germany.

Virginia Atanassova-Lialios is a member of the Board for nominations at the ABC, North Carolina, Fulbright educational program, and is a chief conductor of the “Tutti Soli” Chamber Vocal-Instrumental Collegium, Sofia.

Under her baton the vocal-instrumental Chamber Collegium "Tutti Soli" has won a number of prestigious international and national prizes.

#### RECORDINGS:

2003: *Master Pieces from European Early Baroque*, Documentary recording made by the Turkish Radio/TV Istanbul at the Baroque Festival, Turkey, 2003

1998: *Italian early Baroque Musica Sacra and Musica Profana*, Sofia, CD.

1993: *European Musica Sacra at the West and East*, Unisson Art, Sofia, CD.

1990: *Orthodox Chants*, BTT c 3004, audio cassette, Sofia.

1984: *Johannes Brahms, Liebeslider*, Op. 52 and *Neue Liebeslider* Op. 64, *Waltzes*, Bka-110 25, audio cassette and record, recorded by the firm Balkanton with vocal chamber collegium Aleko.

A number of recordings by Bulgarian Radio Sofia, Radio Eskilstuna, Sweden, Radio Koln and Schwabisch Gmund, Germany.

#### PRESS REVIEWS:

"Fantastic ensemble and discipline! Perfect contact between the singers, conductor, and audience."

"Politiken" Newspaper, Kopenhagen, Denmark

"The Collegium possesses an elegant style, wonderful vocal traits, and master ensemble technique."

Prof. Vasil Arnaudov, International Choir Festival – Varna

*Tutti  
Soli*

The Collegium "Tutti Soli" consists of eight to twelve promoted, professional musicians, including both singers and instrumentalists, and lately a ballet ensemble. The ensemble has toured successfully in many European countries, including Denmark, Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Greece, Turkey, etc. It has J. Brahms, and two CD's of Italian sacred and secular music from the early Baroque period (Al. Grandi, Cl. Monteverdi, L. Rossi etc.). Broadcast credits include Radio Schwabisch

Gmund in Germany, Radio Eskilstuna in Sweden, Radio Kempfen in the Netherlands, Radio Sofia, etc. Famous soloists of the ensemble are: Julia Milanova, Irina Haralampieva, Marcho Apostolov, Emil Ugrinov, Tanja Kazandjieva-Shosh, Snejina Kumanova, Joanis Kortzoglou (countertenor, Greece), Georgios Filadelfevs (Greece), Plamen Beikov, Iliana Selimska and the instrumentalists: Atanas Athanassov (Dean of Instrumental Department at the Academy of Music, Sofia), Dimiter Danchev, Nikolai Gagov, Eli Kazakova, Gergana Deliiska, Rosen Idealov, Goefrey Dean (Violoncelist, USA), Zefira Valova, Ivan Iliev, Javor Jeleu (blockflute/recorder) etc. During the last five years the "Tutti Soli" chamber collegium participates also with a ballet ensemble in order to achieve a synthesis of the three arts: music, verbal art and dance. Presently, the collegium continues to enrich its repertoire.

In the last four years (2008/09, 10 and 11) the "Tutti Soli" ensemble collaborates with the famous Italian opera director Mr. Carmelo Agnello who is currently living and working in Paris-Universite de Paris 8, France. In the year of 2010 the "Tutti Soli" chamber collegium participated in the frame of the "Sofia Saloon of Arts" with J.S. Bach's cantata #147 and Italian baroque program with the special participation of the Italian cembalo performer Michele Benuzzi. Last year of 2011 the Collegium participated at the "European Festival" with spectacle titled "Il Divino Claudio" dedicated to Cl. Monteverdi's music works. The spectacle was filmed by Bulgarian TV, channel I and was broadcast on the TV as well. The last performance of "Tutti Soli" ensemble was the concert program consisting of French Baroque composers i.e.: Jean Jaques Rousseau's opera-ballet "Le Duvin du Village" dedicated to 300 years anniversary of composer's birth in the frame of the "Saloon of Arts" festival in May of 2012 and in April of 2013 at the Academy Music, Visual Arts and Dance in the city of Plovdiv. In July of 2012 the "Tutti Soli" ensemble participated very successfully at the "Darmstadter Residenzfestspiele" (28.07-12.08.12) with a program consisting of Italian Renaissance and early Baroque music.