

**DANIELA SHTEREVA, violin**

*The Washington Post* described her Kennedy Center debut as “shot through with fantasy and fire”. She quickly captivates audiences with an abundant palate of tone-colors that conveys the vibrant emotions of her charismatic personality. Born in Bulgaria, Shtereva made her debut with orchestra at the age of six. As the fifth-generation in a family of musicians, she has been endowed with a natural passion and talent for music. Her innate skills have been further cultivated by world-class pedagogues, Prof. Mardirossian and Prof. Forough, who were trained by prominent violinists and pedagogues like Yfrah Neaman, Arthur Grumiaux and David Oistrakh. Upon graduating from the National Music Conservatory in Bulgaria, Shtereva was invited to the United States where she earned her Master of Music from Louisiana State University and Artist Diploma in Solo Performance from Carnegie Mellon University.

Shtereva has won many competitions, including the Washington International String Competition and the National Society of Arts and Letters – Lynn competition. There she was recognized by Elmar Oliveira, the first American to win the Tchaikovsky Violin Competition, Aaron Rosand, the legendary Curtis Institute of Music pedagogue, and Joseph Silverstein, the venerated concertmaster of the Boston Symphony, who revealed for *the Strad*, that “Daniela won us over completely with her sensitive artistry”. Shtereva’s playing at the Michael Hill International Violin Competition in New Zealand, was described as “absolutely spine tingling” (*The Strad*). And the Austrian Prof. Michael Frischenschlager, President of Fritz Kreisler International Competition and juror for her prizewinning performance at the Szeryng International Competition, was “amazed by the authenticity of style in her interpretation of Mozart.” Her achievements also include winning prizes at the Andrea Postacchini and Pancho Vladigerov International Competitions.

As a soloist, Shtereva has appeared with the Redlands Symphony, the Classic Chamber Orchestra, the Plovdiv Symphony, the Pazardjik Symphony, the Stay in May Festival, and the Varna International Music Festival, among others. Her chamber music collaborations include the double Grammy award-winning violinist, James Ehnes, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic principal cellist, Robert deMaine. Recordings of Shtereva are maintained in the Bulgarian National Television and Radio archive. In the US, she has five albums released on the Music Minus One label. Two more albums were released independently, *Angel’s Dreams*, and *The Beauty of a Violin & Piano*. Since 2008, Shtereva has held the David and Cecile Wang Chair with the Naples

Philharmonic Orchestra in Florida. She performs on an 1850 Franco-English violin purchased for her by generous Naples area investors.

**DANIELA DIKOVA, piano**

Pianist Dr. **Daniela Dikova** is a dynamic and versatile musician, committed to performing and teaching in the full spectrum of collaborative musical genres. Dr. Dikova is an Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano in the Chamber Music and Accompaniment Department at the National Academy of Music – Prof. Pancho Vladigerov and has been the staff pianist for the Violin Department at the same institution since 1988. Her extensive chamber music experience includes performances in various chamber formations with partners like clarinetist Petko Radev, violinist Ginka Gichkova, cellists Stefan Popov, Gavriel Lipkind and Angela Park, soprano Elena Baramova. Dr. Dikova is a sought-after accompanist for all international and national competitions held in Bulgaria. She has participated in the same capacity also at the “Belvedere” - Vienna, the “Tchaikovsky” – Moscow, “A.Popa” – Romania, “Rai Uno” – Italy and others.

In 2004, after many years of duo collaboration with the American cellist Geoffrey Dean, she became the founder of the “Ardenza” Trio, bringing in violinist Galina Koycheva. In 2009, the ensemble was given the “Crystal Lira” award by the Bulgarian Union of Music and Dance Artists. In 2008, Ardenza Foundation ([www.ardenzamusic.org](http://www.ardenzamusic.org)) was born, where Dr. Dikova acts as the Executive Director. She is also the founder and artistic director of “VIVAPIANO” – International Competition for Non-Professional Pianists, the first of its kind on the Balkans. For that, in 2012 she was presented by Classic FM Radio and the Sofia Municipality with the “Golden Feather” award for her considerable contribution to Bulgarian arts and culture. The Ethno Workshop/Festival “Rila Music Exchange” and “ARTdenzieta” – a creative arts after school program – are projects through which she explores interdisciplinary collaborations among artists.

Dr. Dikova has been a jury member for national and international competitions: “Lake Pearls” – Struga, Macedonia 2013, 2014 and “Hot Heart” – Moscow 2014. She has made numerous recordings for the Bulgarian National Radio and Television, and performed at concerts in Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Korea and other countries. In 2014 she released her first compact disk, titled “Nani-nani”, with lullabies for piano by Bulgarian composers, followed in 2016 by “Lullabies for violin and piano” together with violinist Daniela Shtereva.

*A pianist with an excellent sense for transformation of sound... Her keyboard mastery combines the high register of a violin with the low register of the cello, joining them in*

*the process... with the color of sound rhetoric in K. Iliev's "Pages from an Album",  
Dikova powerfully mastered the space and seemingly formulated symbols of contiguity  
with the musical substance...*

*Kultura weekly*

**PROGRAM 1/18/20**

***Honoring the 130th anniversary of Czech-American composer Bohuslav Martinu  
And the 120th anniversary of Bulgarian composer Pancho Vladigerov***

*Bohuslav Martinu: Sonata in C major, 1st movement*

*Bohuslav Martinu: Sonata no. 3*

*Bulgarian music:*

*Works from Vladigerov and other Bulgarian composers*