

this nature. Another of their concerns is to facilitate participation in the courses by offering grants covering tuition and living expenses. These are sponsored by companies, institutions and people committed to the cultural development of our country. In short, the teaching of these great performers is made accessible to the greatest possible number of people, thereby transforming the Summer School into a focal point of musical activity.



PROFESSORS

Dimitri Bashkirov (Piano)

Here we have a person who is equally outstanding in both of his main dimensions: performing and teaching. Dimitri Bashkirov (Tiflis, 1931) started his training with the Georgian music teacher Anastasia Virsaladze, and in 1950 went to Moscow to work with Goldernweiser, a disciple of Siloti who, in turn, was a disciple of Liszt and Nicolas Rubinstein. At the age of 24 he won second prize in the Marguerite Long - Jacques Thibaud Competition in Paris. This was the first sign of a star which had appeared on the horizon. The top prize in the Robert Schumann Competition of Zwickau confirmed the name and prestige of Bashkirov, a virtuoso of great power and refined expression, on the musical scene.

He has given advanced piano lessons at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory since 1957 and not a few virtuosos are the product of his classrooms. They are now upholding the great tradition of piano playing throughout the world. Bashkirov's masterful renderings of Ravel, Liszt and Prokofiev have won him the applause of music and record critics the world over, and the great maestro and concert player is in constant demand at festivals, schools, international courses and competitions. It is therefore not surprising that attendance at one of his classes is an exceptional experience, with an impact as great as that of his most imaginative and fascinating performances. Dimitri Bashkirov has held the Banco Santander Chair of Piano at the Reina Sofía School of Music, in Madrid since 1991.