A close-up, low-angle photograph of a piano keyboard. The keys are white and black, and the image is slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the texture of the keys.

# **THE SYSTEM OF MUSIC EDUCATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN IN RUSSIA: EVALUATION AND EXPLICATION**

**DAMILYA NADYROVA**

**Kazan State  
Conservatoire**



**KAZAN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY**

# AIM:

---

- ✘ *Recent researches in psychology and neuroscience demonstrated the special role of music lessons in human personality and brain development.*
- ✘ *Considering it, let's analyze the Russian experience of music education based on the principle that "music education is an education not only of a musician, but first of all of a human being" [Sukhomlinsky].*
- ✘ *The studying of the piano education phenomenon can become especially helpful nowadays.*

# INTRODUCTION

---

- ✘ Achievements of Russian piano school are recognized all over the world.
- ✘ Young performers of the past and present win prizes in prestigious international contests whereas
- ✘ The Teachers who received education in Russia successfully work worldwide.
- ✘ for example: The teachers who trained Van Cliburn and Lucas Debargue were Russian pianists educated in Russia: Rosina Lhévinne (the student of V. Safonov) and Rena Shereshevskaya (the student of L. Vlasenko).



# METHODS

---

- ✘ The analysis of the issue requires studying different data as a single complex from different angles:
  - ✘ 1) from a historical, psychological and pedagogical perspective;
  - ✘ 2) in terms of the organization of music education process;
  - ✘ 4) from the position of the specificity of specialized music schools for gifted children.

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ✘ The modern system of piano education is based on the traditions of the Russian piano school, especially - on the pedagogical activity, authority and enthusiasm of the Rubinstein brothers.



# MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RUSSIAN PIANISM

- ✘ "sing on the piano", which Anton Rubinstein considered to be principal for a pianist. To understand the vocal nature better, all piano students were required to take the course of vocal singing.
- ✘ Highly spiritual piano art, thoughtfulness of interpretations originate from the performing style of Rubinstein himself, which was cultivated among his students.
- ✘ Another source is the general influence of the Russian culture and art of that time which has specific mentality, tendency to philosophic reflection, self-knowledge and empathy, which is particularly evident in the Russian literature.



# NIKOLAI ZVEREV AND HIS STUDENTS

In 1870 Zverev opened musical boarding - the prototype of modern specialized schools.

*He studied:*

A. Ziloti,  
S. Rachmaninov,  
N. Igumnov,  
L. Maksimov,  
M. Presman,  
A. Skryabov



# PSYCHOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- ✘ A big role in the development of mass and professional musical education in the Soviet period was played by the works of famous psychology researchers and musicologists:
- ✘ Lev Vygotsky: the issues of children's creativity and talent [“Imagination and Creativity in Childhood”]





✘ **BORIS TEPLOV** [Psychology of Music Abilities], Grigory Prokofiev [Formation of the Performing Musician (Pianist). Moscow, 1956]. They demonstrated that a musical talent includes natural abilities and the result of work.

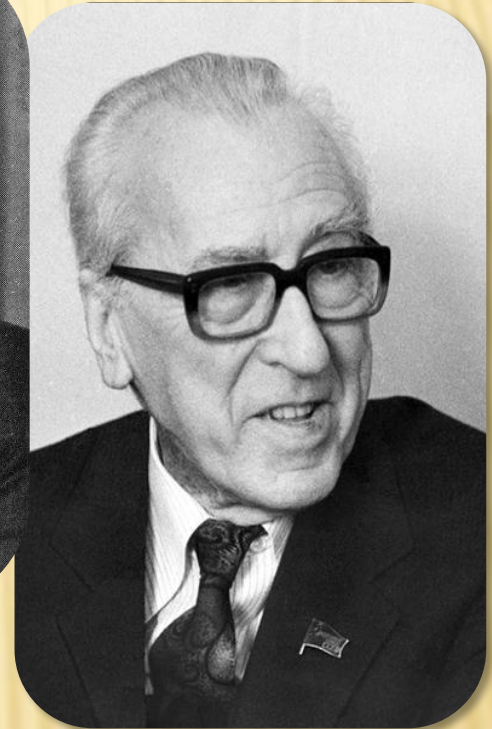


# NATALIA VETLUGINA

---

- ✘ Vetlugina N.A. reveals the theme of the influence of teachers on the musical development of preschool children ["The musical development of the child, 1968]
- ✘ The system of music education for pre-school children was developed based on the involvement of children into musical activity (which is on the principle of *embodied cognition*) – created by Natalia Vetlugina and her colleagues





- ✘ The Russian composers S. Prokofiev, D. Kabalevsky were actively involved in music education of children.



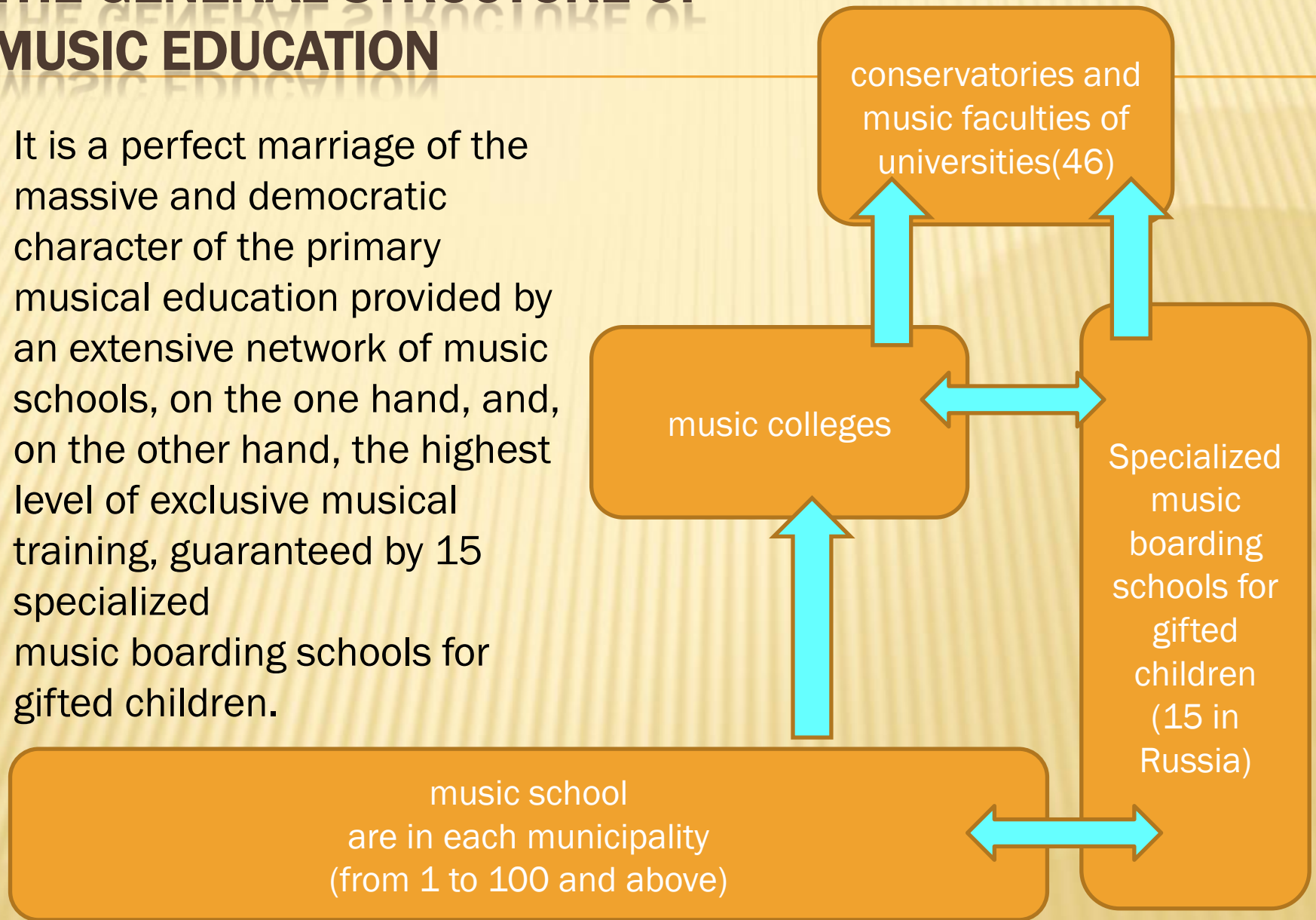
# THE GENERAL SYSTEM OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN RUSSIA

---

- ✘ A unique three-stage system of music education , which is the only one in the world, was formed in Russia. It includes
- ✘ 1) first stage: the system of music schools where children aged 7 to 14 studying to play musical instruments, choir singing, solfege, the fundamentals of theory and music history (elementary level);
- ✘ 2) second stage: music colleges where teachers and accompanists receive professional education in order to work at those music schools in most cases (intermediate level);
- ✘ 3) higher education institutions which are conservatories and music faculties of universities.
- ✘ Besides this since the year of 1935 conservatories have started to establish specialized music schools for talented children; these schools combined the first and second stages of music education, and also the musical and general education. The studying at those schools was professionally oriented with a focus on the future performing activities.

# THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

It is a perfect marriage of the massive and democratic character of the primary musical education provided by an extensive network of music schools, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the highest level of exclusive musical training, guaranteed by 15 specialized music boarding schools for gifted children.



# SPECIALIZED MUSIC BOARDING SCHOOLS FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

---

- ✘ Vast majority of successful Russian pianists studied at one of the specialized music schools, which they think is an important base for their professional formation. These schools can be called a real "forge of talents" or, as evil tongues say, "an incubator of talents."
- ✘ What is the secret of their success?
- ✘ The first and the most important fact is the compliance of the educational process organization with *psychological conditions under which talents are formed.*



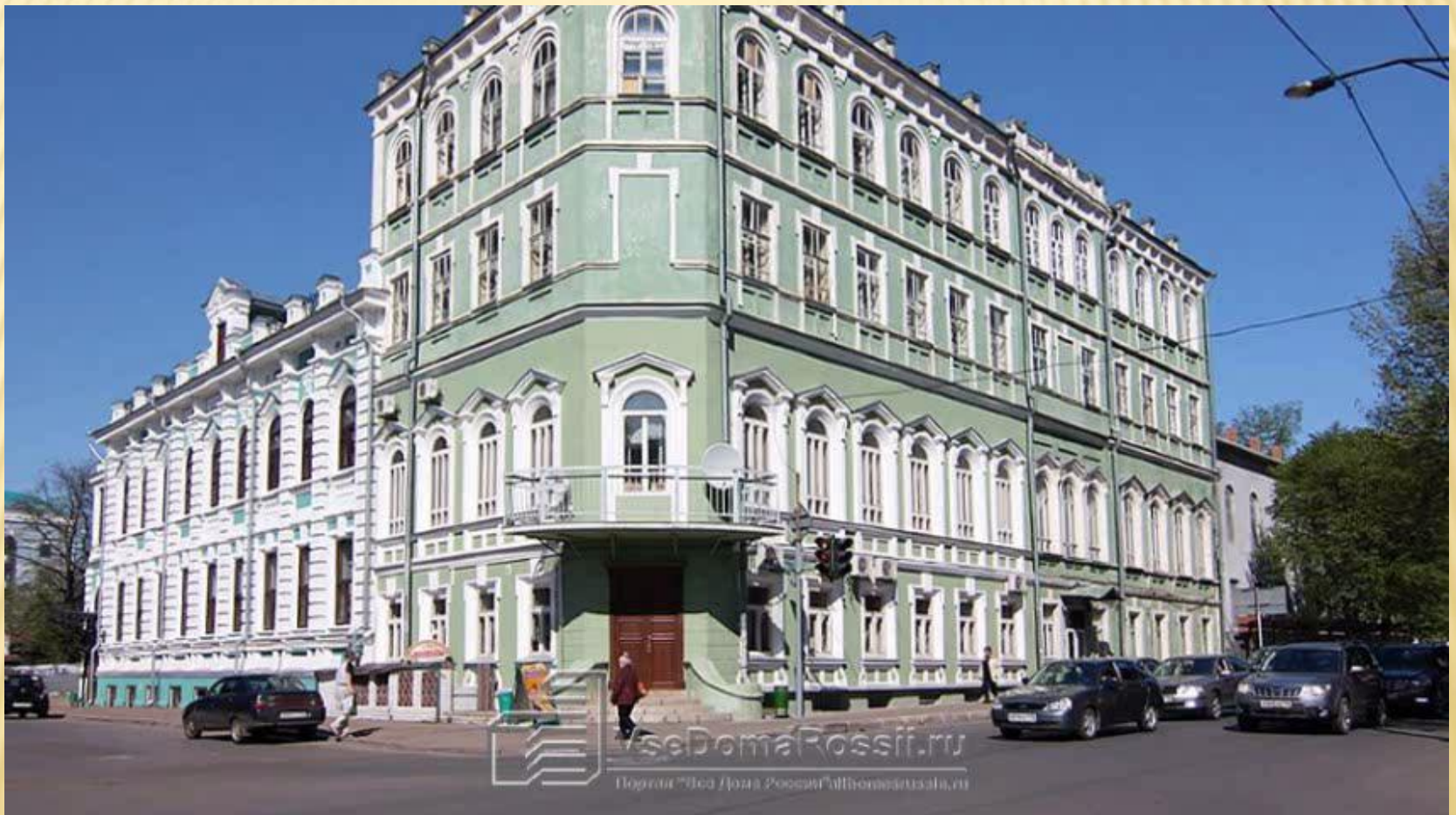
# PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH TALENTS ARE FORMED

---

- ✘ the **early detection** of abilities which ensures the development of giftedness in the childhood which is the period of maximum plasticity of the nervous system;
- ✘ providing *a beneficial environment* for the development of skills;
- ✘ involvement into *active work* directly related to a particular ability;
- ✘ *creative nature* of this work;
- ✘ the optimal level of *learning difficulties*;
- ✘ proper motivation and positive *emotional background* of studying.
- ✘ ***Look at the example of Kazan Specialized Music School***

# KAZAN SPECIALIZED MUSIC SCHOOL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzHyiygwato>





# EARLY FORMATION OF TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ✘ the technical skill training - distinctive feature of specialized music schools,
- ✘ and it is simultaneously one of the most important **traditions of the Russian** piano pedagogy.
- ✘ For example, the educational curriculum of the Kazan School includes compulsory performance of the most difficult etudes by Czerny, Clementi, Chopin and Liszt.



# HIGH LEVEL OF LEARNING DIFFICULTY

---

- ✘ The high level of learning difficulty, which is different from non-specialized music schools, is optimal for gifted children because classes at a lower level will not contribute to the full reveal of potential abilities. It is interesting to note that children who study music don't often think that music is work and perceive it just as a game (Matsuev and others).
- ✘ The emotional factor is also very important: if a child is fond of music, music classes bring him joy even if he has to work hard. Therefore, it is very important that only truly talented children attend such schools.

## CREATION OF A SPECIAL CREATIVE ATMOSPHERE, “FULL IMMERSION” IN THE MUSIC;

- ✘ Children communicate with great performing teachers, professors conservatives who also works in the Secondary Special Music School
- ✘ with their talented schoolmates, they try to be as good as the best older students.





# YURI YEGOROV

- ✘ Soviet-Netherlands pianist, was the first graduate to gain the world fame
- ✘ Winner of the contest named Marguerite Long (1971), Tchaikovsky (1974), Queen Elizabeth (1975).
- ✘ A favorite of the public. He took part in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, which not reached the final, but the manner of Egorov delighted audience gathered for him the sum of 10 000 dollars, the equivalent of the material filling the first prize.
- ✘ He died at age 33 years.
- ✘ In 2015, Kazan hosted The I All-Russian open contest of young pianists named after Yuri Yegorov.





**YURI YEGOROV**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/IV27LM4KUXW](https://youtu.be/IV27LM4KUXW)



# MIKHAIL PLETNEV

- ✘ One of the first students,
- ✘ the well-known pianist and conductor
- ✘ Student of of Lyudmila Shishkina



**MIKHAIL PLETNEV** <https://youtu.be/BkC52qwfWyk>





# REHM URASIN, THE SO-CALLED “FANTASTIC TARTAR”



Winner of the International Competition:  
Chopin (Warsaw, 1995), in  
Japan (Hamamatsu 1997),  
«Monte-Carlo piano masters»  
(USA, 2001), Australia  
(Sydney, 2004)

REHM URASIN

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/DATYMOHXR4A](https://youtu.be/DATYMOHXR4A)



# BROTHER AND SISTER HAYROUDINOFF, AMERICAN AND ENGLISH PIANISTS



## ***Rustem Hayroudinoff***

He was the very first student from Soviet Union to come to study at the Royal Academy in London, where he is now a Professor of Piano.



## ***Halida Dinova (Hayroudinoff)***

Concert Artist and Piano Coach in US and Internationally, Cleveland



# Rustem Hayroudinoff

<https://youtu.be/6o7VuXKM8Jg>



# SOFYA GULYAK

- ✘ The winner of more than 20 competitions
- ✘ Student of of prof. E. Burnasheva



**SOFYA GULYAK ГУЛЯК**

**[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/U2F05SNMBGW](https://youtu.be/u2f05snmbgw)**





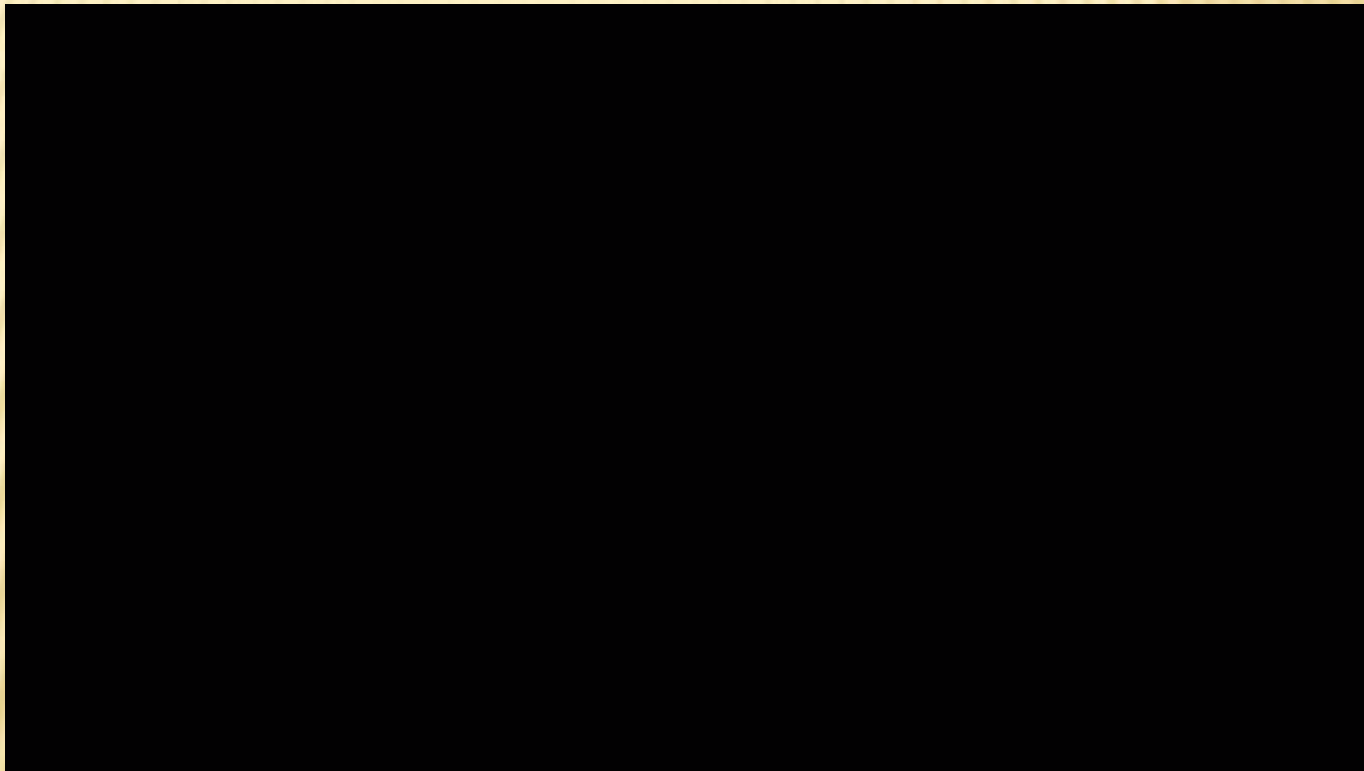
# NEW GENERATION - WINNERS OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS, TOURING ARTISTS



- ✘ Tatiana Halturina,
- ✘ Rustem Saytkulov,
- ✘ Daria Rabotkina,
- ✘ Zulfat Fahraziev
- ✘ and others

**HERE IS A COMMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
KAZAN SPECIAL SCHOOL DENIS MARSHANSKIY:**

<https://youtu.be/k-e29I8mbug>



# CONCLUSIONS

---

- ✘ the Russian system of music education has demonstrated its effectiveness in reveal and development of music talents.
- ✘ The major role in this system is played by the institution of specialized boarding music schools for gifted children.
- ✘ The study and development of this unique experience will help to preserve high-level musical traditions both in Russia and in other countries



Thank you for your attention



KAZAN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY

Kazan State  
Conservatoire