

**Iliya Gramatikov: “Hidden Letters –
Dreams Revealed. Reflections on the Piano Works
of Albena Petrovic Vrachanska with a Survey
of Comparable Phenomena in Musical History”**

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The text presents the latest monograph by Iliya Gramatikov, which is the result of his sustained active engagement with and affinity for contemporary piano music. The choice of research subject – the mature piano work of Albena Petrovic Vrachanska – is due to the awakened interest in her individual style and the cryptographic approaches she employs, which make it possible to interpret compositional ideas in the widest possible historical context. The monograph is assessed as a phenomenon in contemporary humanities and in publishing practice due to the electronic access provided to the scores and audio recordings made specifically for the purposes of the study, as well as the included abstract paintings that create a visual plan parallel to the text. The participants in the creative community formed during the research process are presented: the artist Nikolay Vlahov and the young, talented pianists Gergana Nestorova, Ines Simeonova, Aleksandra Dicheva, and Mila Mihova. The novelty of the text is presented by highlighting: 1. the original structure and the chapter headings drawn from musical terms related mainly to genres of piano music; 2. the rich historical context created and significant problematisations arising from it; 3. the comprehensive methodology of the research. Special attention is paid to the analytical approach, the new term introduced for the initial constructions – “moto”, and also the examination of the works through the prism of the performing style of the pianists who inspired the respective opuses. The study is also assessed as innovative for its consistently pursued idea of interpreting music in the real historical life of different times and the composer’s social role in them.

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