

George Skarparis:
Jazz as a historical phenomenon and its influence upon Classical music

OPPONENT'S EVALUATION

As the title reveals this thesis has a very attention-grabbing subject. The author in the beginning of the diploma work deals with the origin and development of Jazz music, a topic that has been exhausted by many musicologists. I have to admit though that he wrote about it in a very comprehensive way and it was a pleasure reading it. Further on, he writes about Jazz in Czech Republic, this in contrast with the above mentioned section is not common at all. If we consider that the literature concerning Czech Jazz is very poor (if it exists at all), then we have to evaluate this part as very important and as one of the positives of this thesis. This section also includes an interview with Mr. L. Doruzka. I really appreciate the fact that Mr. Skarparis arrange to meet Mr. Doruzka and I am sure that this helped him a lot with understanding in depth the various aspects of his topic. The next chapters are concerned with "The elements of Jazz" (as the author calls them). Here an analysis of Melody, Harmony, and Rhythm is presented as well as explanations of the terms improvisation, "Walking bass" etc. After reading this part of the diploma work it becomes obvious that the author has a deep understanding of the discussed topics and above all, he has a personal approach, something that is unfortunately very seldom found in students' thesis. In the final section of his thesis the author analyzes compositions of "Classical" composers that were influenced by Jazz and according to these compositions he writes the conclusion of his thesis.

Unhappily Mr. Skarparis's thesis has a lot of mistakes, for example: page 1 1st line, page 46 2nd line, page 47 2nd paragraph, page 52 2nd paragraph 1st line, page 65 5th line etc. Sadly the above mentioned are just some of the mistakes that concern language. Beside this there are also errors that concern the structure as well as explanations of the music theory, for example: The summary of the thesis is at the beginning and in the end, the summary in Czech has more mistakes than sentences. In page 60 there is an error concerning music theory (last paragraph), in page 76 the author writes that other versions of "Summertime" can be found in the CD included, no CD is included though.

After reading this final thesis I didn't understand the difference between "drops" and inversions. Further on, I would like to mention that I disagree with Mr. Skarparis's opinion that "It is a fact that Jazz was the new serious music of the 20th cen." (epilogue). I would like the author to explain how did he reach this conclusion.

Considering the above mentioned I recommend that this diploma work should be evaluated with the mark **very good**.