

Aesthetic of Arts

A review and an expert's account of the bachelor's thesis

The name of the candidate: Athina Garila – student of choir conducting

I got to know this student several years ago during the practical process of instruction and classes. We met together every week. She worked hard with great and steady effort all the time. Now I am not surprised at the choice of her interesting theme for her bachelor's thesis. She did not choose this subject from the list of prescribed or proclaimed themes for students at our music department. Her special interest has required her to contact the supervisor at the Department of Philosophy. I emphasize that she contacted not an **instructor** but the **supervisor**. This is because the cardinal idea of these theses developed from an internal sense of necessity to think more deeply about not only the aesthetic problems of proper interpretation of musical opuses but also to think of these general problems of our everyday life in the complicated contemporary world.

I strongly appreciate this intention of Ms. Garila's Bachelor's thesis. I also was able to read the evaluation and statement made by the philosophy department supervisor. She is an erudite and experienced philosopher. I completely agree with her conclusions.

For that reason now I'll use only the list of requirements and criteria for the thesis in short form. This list has been created by the Music department.

Criterion	Degree of evaluation
1. The candidate designed the format of her thesis well and included a short introduction. The aim was fulfilled very well in the following chapters. (30 pages).	2
2. The theme is very exacting and complex.	1
3. The candidate is very competent and proficient in music, literature of arts and in general history. But in this thesis her knowledge is not so apparent. To connect skills and art with such a theoretical approach to the problem is not easy. The student did not attempt it.	3
4. The methods used: working with literary sources (analyses, comparison, deduction, etc.), pictures and descriptions of artistic works. Experimental and other practical methods are not expected in a short bachelor's thesis. As a matter of fact it is an essay.	1

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| 5. The analysis necessary for the conclusions at the end of work was correct and deep enough. | 1 |
| 6. The candidate used only 5 monographs, 3 web sources and one source of pictorial material. I think this is not very much but I suppose she is well oriented in the subject, especially in the history of philosophy. | 2 |
| 7. The logical structure and layout are very adequate. | 1 |
| 8. The language and mainly the orthography are bad. There are many mistakes that were not corrected. This is the weakest point of the essay. | 3 |
| 9. The terminology and nomenclature are in order. | 1 |
| 10. The form is very nice, all the usual parts of an author's independent essay are present. | 1 |
| 11. This work gives the facts and then at the end shows the reality of contemporary life, aesthetic and ethical points of view and their changes through the long history of the human culture in relation to new modern sorts of art. | 1 |
| 12. The candidate will use the results of her study in her professional career, which I suppose will be teaching. | 1 |

I suggest correcting the wrong transcriptions of philosopher's and others' names. Many of them are written using Greek orthography. The author should slowly read the thesis once again and correct and correct.....

I think the essay is acceptable in all points and requirements and I recommend it for the next procedure. The resulting degree I propose

“B”, e.g. very well

For discussion: The candidate could speak about the **artifacts, products of arts and aesthetic objects**. Describe the relations among them, give examples. She could also speak about special aesthetic problems in the music. Does she see any there?

Prague, 25.5. 2008

ŘNDr. Zbyněk Blecha, CSc.