

CHRISTIANA MINA: THE MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

OPPONENT'S REVIEW

The theme of Ch. Mina's diploma thesis is The Musical Development of the Child. As student writes in the introduction, one of the motivations of her research was to help the Cypriot teachers in improvement the process of creative musical education. I assume that the subject itself is needed as an notable, both musical and pedagogical contribution to the concept of diploma works in general. Her approach is logical, rational, enough detailed, following the evolution of the infant from embryo through several categories of the age to the eight years old child. Mina employs the right sources and literature and she proves the creative understanding, imagination and valuation of problems and she presents also sensitive thinking them out to the end. Style of the language, vocabulary and ability of opinion is of a good level; the whole work shows the efforts of future teacher of music.

In the chapter of prenatal period Mina follows the embryo from the conception, compare the heart's beat of mother and her baby and informs about the interesting experiments with first heard sounds (poems in specific rhythm). Further we observe how the newborn child next half and year creates the intuitive motherese and sings some infantile songs. Mina recommends some new activities with simple folk songs, body gestures and suitable toys for the next era (to the 3rd year of the age). The vocabulary and language development continues in the next category of 3 to 4 years old child. It is a time to begin with the games, pitching the sounds and enriching the child's range. For the first time there appears the listening(Mina prefers the repertory " with the story" - for ex. Saint Saëns Carnival of Animals). Toddler also tries to imitate the teacher's singing in simple intervals and learns the song by rote. The author also refers about the work with rhythmic instruments and moving with music. All these disciplines continue in the next category of age (from 4 to 5 years old children). There appears for the first time reading and writing music, connected with many games which differently achieve the needed aim. Besides the moving to music there appears also Cypriot Traditional Dance. The novelty in the category of 6-7 years old children is represented by singing in the choir which offers the instruction for a good singing posture and many types of vocal training. Mina places to this chapter also the art of playing the recorder. After the theory she recommends 12 lessons with songs of the Czech provenance. The last category (7 to 8 years old child) finishes this whole process; children have to deepen their experiences with writing, reading and listening the music and they start towards higher

level of improvisation, composing of music and playing the instruments. Their work is inspired by specific melodic, rhythmic, formal and other constructions.

The last chapter about the personality of the teacher and his strategies, about the class environment and about the pupils (including the children with special educational needs) is also suitable for such a type of a work.

At the same time the diploma thesis is a work which obliges some scientific rules. And in this work I miss some usage such as:

- . the declaration that you wrote this work quite independently working with acknowledged sources and literature
- . the résumé (conclusion) in Czech language
- . the alphabetic order of sources and literature according to the surnames and then to first names (not in opposite)
- . presence of some titles used in the text in the list of literature (Montgomery p. 102, Kirk,p. 103)
- . it is not used to print the diploma thesis on both sides of the page, we use only one side of paper.

Some questions:

By whom have you been inspired in the selection of repertoire for listening?(Categories of steady beat, tempo changes, dynamics, specific rhythms etc.)

Why do you recommend the Czech songs for the Cypriatic children? Do you want them to know and sing Czech songs?

Considering the above mentioned I recommend that the diploma work should be evaluated with the mark

very good

Opponent PhDr Olga Kittnarová

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