

Christiana Mina

The Musical Development of the Child

The Supervisor's Report

I have taught Christiana Mina for four years. I have seen her work and progress privately in her conducting and vocal studies as well as her course work in Music Education, Music Psychology, and Vocal Pedagogy. She also worked with me as a student teacher where, I believe, she showed her greatest development. Christiana has always been a hard worker and keen to learn and grow as much as she can. I know that Christiana will make an excellent elementary music teacher one day.

I believe that it is because of her teaching experience that Christiana chose to work on a thesis in Music Education. Christiana's interest in the psychological aspects of Music Education can be seen in her work. Christiana initially approached her thesis diligently and with much interest. Her preliminary work and questions were comprehensive and passionate. The premise for her thesis was suggested by her and we discussed many great ideas together. Christiana always contributed many great plans and I tried to guide her in the right direction and help her to narrow her interests. Unfortunately, somewhere along the way various personal problems occurred and Christiana fell behind in her thesis work and the stress of having the work undone, I believe, made her less interested in the subject and her work ethic, that I have experienced for the past four years, suffered. The delayed timing was also more challenging for me.

My main criticism regarding her thesis is that of references. Christiana still does not understand when and how to use references – when to quote and when not to quote – and some important facts in her thesis are left without a reference. This is an area that needs to be revised and would take a long time to modify and redo. I believe this was not completed to my satisfaction because of the lack of time. I have many concerns about her lack of references throughout her work.

This thesis is intended to be a method book for Cypriot Music Teachers to use – my second concern with the thesis is that this method book cannot be picked up by an average teacher and used. The songs she used are a combination of Czech, English, and Cypriot. I am disappointed that the Czech Songs are not translated and adapted into the Cypriot language,

making them useful in a Cypriot classroom. Czech is a difficult language and I cannot imagine Cypriot children learning more than one or two Czech songs in a normal classroom.

On the other hand, the thesis was successful because, I believe, Christiana laid out the contents of the thesis in a very clear way which makes the thesis and proposed method easy to understand.

Christiana speaks English well however, she sometimes struggled with her sentence structure and writing – very common for a second language English speaker – and by no means a problem.

Christiana corrected all of the changes I suggested and re-worded the awkward areas. It should be noted however that some areas of her thesis were written exceptionally well, beyond what could be expected of a second language student.

I consider this thesis overall to be satisfactory and I think with some revisions and a lot more time this could be used as a method book of music education in Greek speaking countries. I propose the mark satisfactory - 3.

Ms. Jennifer Beynon-Martinez

Prague CZ December 15, 2009