Elena Gonata:  
Saxophone And Its Role in Jazz Music  
The Supervisor's Report

I have known Elena Gonata for five years, since the very beginning of her study at the Faculty of Education. She has always shown great independency in all areas of her study and I must say that she approached to her diploma thesis the same way. The choice of the theme concerning saxophone was her own decision and was given by her personal attitude to this instrument. I could only help her with the structure of the thesis and at the end of our collaboration with technical and formal essentials. I have to appreciate that she was able to find the literature and build individual chapters by herself. On the other hand, I did not have the opportunity to tell her my critical notices concerning different aspects of her text.

The first chapter informs about the history of saxophone, its construction and different types and sizes of this instrument. The second chapter is devoted to jazz music – its history, kinds of bands and orchestras and to short pictures of the most important jazz groups. The last chapter brings basic information about most famous saxophonists. Most of data are documented with many black and white and also coloured photos.

I have several critical notices and questions to the described content and also to the formal aspects which should be answered at the state examination:
- In chapter 3 (Well known saxophonists) and partly also 2.1 (Bands and orchestras) the author concentrates only on the area of U.S.A. and we do not know anything about musicians in other part of the world, especially in Europe. I think that it was given by the origin of literature.
- It is not clear, on which principle the saxophonists are ordered in chapter 3. It could be alphabetical, chronological etc.
- Sax really could show his first instrument in 1814? (p. 9)
- Sopranino saxophone is the smallest or only one of the smallest members of the family? (p. 16)
- The paragraphs sometimes follow immediately, sometimes with a gap.
- I have never met the numbering of chapters using zero, e.g. 2.0, 2.0.1 etc. Where did you find it?
- Some quotations are not correct in formal way. If you quote an important idea which is better to be given in original way instead through your words, it is necessary to name where precisely it can be found (the book, the page, pp. 34, 41 etc.).

I must appreciate the language which is on a high stylistic level, there are only several mistakes. On the other hand, I think that this positive quality is given by the author’s dependence on the literature.

In spite of the fact that the thesis shows almost all structural and formal qualities which are supposed in this kind of dissertation, I evaluate it with the mark very well. The main reason why I do not consider it to be excellent is that in my opinion it only repeats the information given in the literature and does not bring almost anything original.

Prague, 11th May, 2009