

The opponent's report of diploma dissertation by Konstantina Valai
View on the Greek Traditional Music

The thesis gives a clear and fairly comprehensive look at selected issues. Already in the preface it is a clear personal commitment of the author. She grew up in the environment which is very close to the topic. Now, the author combines in her work the knowledge and skills gained in a European environment with the traditions of Greek music. The author's aims are understandable: to bring the approach of Greek music, of its history and development.

The dissertation has a clear structure; it describes and characterizes songs, instruments, Greek traditions and culture, dances and traditions connected with music.

The first chapter describes and reminds the ancient traditions and bases of Greek and European music in general. There are very important Christian traditions – the Byzantine sacred music, in this chapter. It is characterized appositely as folk songs in the second chapter. I consider this characteristic very important and useful because it stresses main attributes of Greek folk songs and presents the songs as specific genres what are researched above all in 20th century. The characterization of Greek traditional instruments is necessary in this context and it is a very interesting object of music education, above all in the presentation of world music. The number of instruments is great here and it can inspire a music teacher to prove and follow development of contemporary instrument with pupils. Next chapters are important and useful above all for the contemporary project-style of teaching music. They prove, there are very important folk traditions in Greek music in general. But they also prove connections of Greek and European music in neo-folkloristic trends of music in 20th century. I also appreciate very good examples of music lessons with application of Greek music. These elements prove the relation of the author to her national culture and show the possibilities what are often ignored in our country. But I'm sure, in conditions of globalization these tendencies are more important than teaching facts.

The thesis contains a lot of well elected note examples; it is structured logically and clearly. Considering the topic, form and careful process of job I propose the evaluation of diploma dissertation as excellent.

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