

Mario Rapaj – CHORAL MUSIC IN ALBANIA

Report of Oponent

The diploma thesis deals with choral music in Albania. It is the second version, where are integrated remarks of Supervisor and Oponent from the first version. The diploma thesis starts with Introduction. We can read especially about structure of this thesis. It is interesting, but in my opinion too detailed. It is like a summary and that's why the better place will be in the conclusion. The diploma thesis is divided into two chapters, first contains general information about historical, geographical and cultural backgrounds of Albania and the second one is about the most important 20th century Albanian choral music composers.

First chapter about Albania contains information about history, geography and culture in Albania. There is very interesting subchapter about Albanian folk music, supplemented by coloured pictures. M. Rapaj pays special attention to vocal folk music. It is logical step, because of his specialization to choir conducting. I appreciate information about different characteristics of Albanian folk music in the north and in the south.

Directly to the theme goes the subchapter 1.4 Historical development of Albanian choral music. First chapter is only introductory and the length of it is adequate – not too detailed, not too general. The text is supplemented by some photos. Second chapter goes to concrete Albanian composers – Çesk Zadeja, Vasil S. Tole. Kristo Kono. I appreciate clearly structure, at first some basic information about biography, secondly subchapter Representative choral compositions, the analysis of one composition is next and in the end characteristics of the language of composer. The analysis are accompanied by scores and short music demonstrations in the text. Conclusion summarizes satisfactory the results.

With pleasure I can pronounce, that the diploma thesis has much higher level than previous version. I recommend it for the discussion as a part of state exam.

Question: How do you propagate Albanian music in your new home – in the United States of America?

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PhDr. Leona Strítěská, Ph.D.

