Mario Rapaj handed in the second version of his diploma thesis with the same theme that is very close to his origin and his professional musical branch — history and the present day of choral music in Albania.

In the Introduction he informs about all necessary matters which should be mentioned in this part of thesis, it means about his motivation, sources which were available and he also describes literature dealing with similar theme which he could use.

In the first chapter, the author describes very briefly history, geography and culture of Albania, Albanian folk music — typical instrumental and vocal folk music and historical development of Albanian choral music which he divided in several chapters according to historical periods. In my opinion, this part doesn’t bring new information but is organised in a logical way from the general to the specific aspects and makes a serious basis for the centre of thesis.

The second part of the thesis contains short biographical chapters devoted to three Albanian composers of choral music of the 20th century — Cesk Zadeja, Vasil S. Tole and Kristo Kono. All three subchapters have the same logical structure — short biography, survey of the authors’ choral compositions, analyses of one choral piece and attempt to characterize their musical language. In my opinion, the author brings many new findings which haven’t been found out and published yet. Nevertheless, I have a small critical notice to the characteristics of composers’ language, especially of C. Zadeja — the analysed composition is not representative enough to allow the author make general conclusions. But he used for it other sources. On the other hand, the analysis of Tole’s composition is on very high level.

I must also appreciate the formal structure of thesis — it contains all necessary parts which are prescribed for such kind of thesis and also English, that is for both of us the foreign language, is in my opinion on high level.

I have only two questions which I expect to be answered during aural discussion:

- Could the author explain in a bit more detailed way the term “iso-polyphony” that is mentioned as one of typical features of Albanian music?
- I was very surprised by the information that there are “many professional choirs in Albania.” Is that really true? What does the author mean with adjective “professional”?
Conclusion:
I consider the theme of presented thesis very interesting in general and its treatise in Mario Rapaj’s thesis very successful. That is why I recommend it for aural discussion as the part of state exams.

Prague, the 17th of Mai, 2016

prof. PhDr. Stanislav Pecháček, Ph. D.