



## **Review of Bachelor Thesis**

Thesis Supervisor / Examiner

Student: Gabriella Asimenou

Title of the thesis: The Evolution of American Musical Theater: A Sociological Perspective

Thesis Supervisor: (Examiner) Edel Sanders

<b>Evaluation of the thesis</b>	<b>Mark (1 - 4)</b>
<b>Clarity of the thesis question and its realisation</b>	1
<b>Difficulty of the theme in relation to the theoretical knowledge</b>	1
<b>Difficulty of the theme in relation to practical skills</b>	2
<b>Methodology and adequacy</b>	2
<b>Literature review</b>	2
<b>Structure of the thesis</b>	2
<b>Language and terminology</b>	3
<b>Writing level</b>	2.5
<b>Originality of the thesis</b>	1
<b>Practicality of the thesis</b>	1

### **Other notes**

This thesis needs to be evaluated in the context of the discipline within which it was written: music within a historical and sociological context. It was a very difficult task for an undergraduate student. Gabriela went beyond the music itself to society at large. She tracked the evolution (the changes) that occurred in the art form due to changes in people, in society, and wove the music and drama within societal relevance. Additionally, she closed each chapter by coming back to the music itself with details and a discussion regarding how the musical elements conveyed the psychological and sociological ideas put forth.

I have supervised numerous theses, many of them at Columbia University in Music Education and others at the University of Cambridge in the areas of Sociology and Psychology. Naturally when the language is in one's native tongue, there are fewer obstacles to writing an excellent thesis. Thus, given that this is Gabriella's second language and given the challenge of the task (going beyond the music itself into cultural relevance, then coming back to the music), it was very good. Additionally, now that I am teaching at a university in Prague, I have seen how students struggle to convey ideas in a second language and discovered that many students plagiarize or pay someone else to write their work. In contrast, this work is entirely Gabriella's. I only provided guidance throughout, sometimes ideological, often scholarly and other times technical. She responded well each time. Therefore, she deserves recognition for honesty, sincerity, originality and hard work.

**Overall assesment of the thesis 2**



Univerzita Karlova v Praze – Pedagogická fakulta  
**Katedra hudební výchovy**  
M. D. Rettigové 4, 116 39 Praha 1

**Questions for discussion**

- 1) How might observations of the relationship between musical theater's developments and societal changes enable one to predict future developments within musical theatre?
- 2) Describe ways in which the music itself changed in musical theatre due to changes in society. Please provide one or two examples and explain why this might have occurred.

**Date 31.8.2015**

**Signatures of Supervisor/Examiner Edel Sanders**