

**The opponent's report of diploma dissertation by Christos Ioannou**  
*Music as a Medium for the Rapprochement of the two Communities in Cyprus*

The thesis is based on the proposition that political conflicts can be solved by improving cultural relations, here specifically with relations in the field of music. The author also provides evidence that this indeed can be so. He bases this statement on reality, taking into account his experience and research. However, he comes from a historical perspective and shows impliedly that the division of Cyprus is historically short-term phenomenon, which, moreover, appears to be unsustainable in the long term. Indeed, the people of the Greek and Turkish side, who were in contact with the author, have no interest in that state. Finally, the author argues that in past, the division of the land between two nationalities living together was basically no problem. As it used to be, such stage is suitable until someone implements the human thinking the feeling that the current situation must be radically changed.

So the author shows at first the cultural and above all musical co-existence of Greeks and Turks before splitting the country. He proves it through examples from newspapers and especially through interviews with witnesses. He has also found other evidence in a book dedicated to the by author pursued problem. The author also gives examples of co-existence of Greek and Turkish music in the ceremonies and even in music education. He has found clear common features of Greek and Turkish songs, but has also disclosed differences, what mean mutual enrichment of two national cultures. Examples of practice show that the perception of music did not make problems either side.

The author also shows that the division of the country meant a severe harm for its culture. As a way out of this situation he shows the current education policy in Cyprus with a view fostering of peaceful co-existence and reunification of the homeland (see page 57). The author also shows what actions have been undertaken in accordance with this intention. As a proof he gives example of an interview with the teacher, who has involved in the realization of this project.

The presented work is important above all for the specific area from which the author comes. It is worth in relation to characteristic of the historical context and current situation in Cyprus, but it is important primarily by showing how the current situation is resolved.

Although it seems that the resolution would be possible only by force, Christos Ioannou shows that there are also other ways available in Cyprus what are not so radical, and what are certainly slow. But we can hope that the results of such “slower” solution will be stable and will not need casualties. Such solution is completely in compliance with today's trends in conflict solution in Europe but it is always difficult and complicated. Therefore, I also highly appreciate the topic and my question is:

What are similar efforts, which are described in this work in other types of art, for example in the visual arts, theater, etc.? (If the author knows.)

If the author has purposes to get out this interesting and useful text I recommend to remove some visible shortcomings:

**Czech abstract:** grammatical mistake – ending in predicate (in past tense) depends on the voice of subject.

**Key-words** have to be authentic subject words; single adjectives are not quite eligible.

**“Introduction”** – in contents and as the title.

14: “Another example o a blind musician.”

21: “...so if **your** asking me how it was.”

23: “written **recourses**” or “resources”?

However, considering the topic, form and sure useful work I propose the evaluation of the thesis as **excellent**.

Michal Nedělka

Music Department

May 25, 2010