

Valentine,

on the other page I send you my review of your diploma thesis.

.Once more I repeat the offer of the Chopin's Society, which would be pleased if you can pass over your dissertation to them. At the occasions of exhibitions they will display your work as they have no any similar unique thesis till now. I shall tell you the contact at the state exam. It would be necessary to make one copy of your work more.

Once more congratulations to your last concert. With regards Olga Kittnarová

A question: it is not clear what examples are on the enclosed CD, can you write some title on it? (at state exams)

VALENTINE LOIZOU - FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN AS PIANIST AND TEACHER

REVIEW OF THE SUPERVISOR

When I was acquainted with Valentine Loizou's intention to write her magister diploma work about Frédéric Chopin, firstly I somehow deliberated on the possible result. Isn't the immense amount of literature, studies and articles on this theme the guarantee of the fact, that everything had been already said? Is it possible to find something new and unique? This thesis demonstrates that there are spheres which deserve to be examined and that the creative and diligent researcher can discover interesting material and arrange it according to the system. This dissertation uses scientific methods, it operates with wide sources and though it focuses on Chopin in the role of pianist and teacher it brings the entire hindsight and image of this personality

The important biographical dates are remained in the chapter 1. (1.1.,1.2..)where the student follows the Chopin's life and compositions in chronology. The tablet and list of Chopin's compositions appears also in the appendices (p. 88-91). The brief independent chapter 2. is devoted to characterisation of Chopin as a composer. When V. Loizou speaks about Chopin as a pianist I must appreciate plan of the concept, which is aimed towards master's style of playing, his disposal for improvisation and concerns his opinions about other musicians. There appears also the comparison of Chopin and other pianists of his time. Great contribution to the knowledge of Chopin brings a subchapter about his public concerts, including the notices about his reluctance to perform in public (3.4. 3.5.) From this chapter to the end of the proper text (7., 7.1.,7.2.,7.3.) V. Loizou works with many quotations, which illustrates and confirm her statements and which are scientific and engaging enrichments of the usually published and known material. In the chapter 4 we look into the Chopin's „class“ of students, we are acquainted with the manners and usage of his teaching practise and we recognise his choice of repertory which discovers his artistic taste. The specific qualities of his system are attractive both themselves and from the point of comparison with present practical training..

For Chopin's researchers and especially for future pianists and teachers the most important chapters are n. 5. and 6., concerning information about Chopin's Sketch for a method, which is later explained in more details in the system of Chopin's principles for playing the piano. Eleven pages of compact and unique text are divided into thirteen subchapters, mentioned in the contents(among them are for example posture and hand position, fingering, tone production and dynamics, legato and cantabile, ornamentation, use of pedal). The Chopin's recommendations how to play are confronted with the memories of Chopin's students, who remember the system of studying the repertory from the lessons with their teacher. V. Loizou also introduces lot of musical examples, testifying the theoretical informations. I assume that this text is the focus of the dissertation,, essence of the theme, it can really intensify the knowledge of Chopin and help the next interpreters to better understanding of the style and repertory. The work is furnished by the unique appendices, besides the already mentioned important is the list of contemporaries and people who came in contact with composer. Valentine Loizou's English language is excellent, she knows how to explain the problems to be clear, the formulations are logical and precise. Also the included graphs (p. 87,88) and CD show the student's serious erudition.

My questions to V. Loizou are: do you think that the performing style of Chopin's repertory has changed after his death and what influenced the possible changes in the 20. century? How can the contemporary pianists use the Chopin's advices from his Sketch for a Method?

Finally I must say that V. Loizou worked the whole time very independently, diligently, with bright conception and conciousness of the aim.From all these reasons I recommend the qualification

EXCELLENT

1st of May 2011

supervisor

PhDr. Olga Kittnarová