

Professor Jerzy Kaszuba

Gdańsk, 6.07.2023

Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music
in Bydgoszcz

OPINION

Concerning the Mid-Term Evaluation of Mr. Jakub Stefaniak, Doctoral Student at the Doctoral School of the Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdańsk

Mr. Jakub Stefaniak has completed the fourth semester of education at the Doctoral School and is therefore subject, in accordance with the Regulations of the Doctoral School of the Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdańsk, to a mid-term evaluation conducted by a committee to which I have been appointed.

The doctoral student's semester reports were submitted on time and contained information regarding his artistic, scholarly, and organizational activities. All reports were approved by his supervisor, dr hab. Paweł Zagańczyk. Although some reports did not specify the dates and locations of particular events, these activities were known to the supervisor, which enabled him to issue positive written evaluations.

The questionnaire concerning cooperation between the doctoral student and the supervisor, together with the questionnaire concerning cooperation between the supervisor and the doctoral student, presents a coherent and consistent picture. This demonstrates the high quality of the supervisor's scholarly and artistic guidance and confirms the appropriate functioning of the doctoral student-supervisor relationship.

Particular recognition should be given to the recording project devoted to the music of Paweł Sławiński, completed by the doctoral student during his studies at the Doctoral School. The resulting album constitutes an excellent example of Mr. Stefaniak's musical artistry and culture. This achievement is all the more valuable because it was not originally included in the student's Individual Research Plan (IRP) and testifies to the breadth of his artistic interests.

All of the facts and observations presented above allow for an unequivocally positive assessment of the student's work during the period under review, which is fully consistent with the position I personally expressed during the deliberations of the Mid-Term Evaluation Committee.

At the same time, having become familiar with the student's Individual Research Plan and the current stage of its implementation, I would like to offer several recommendations for consideration by both the supervisor and the doctoral student. I am aware that the process of preparing the doctoral dissertation will now enter a considerably more intensive phase; therefore, the following suggestions may prove helpful in the continuation of the project:

- A greater concentration of the student's efforts on the core research and artistic activities directly related to the dissertation, in consequence, a possible reduction of certain other forms of professional activity in favour of the objectives outlined in the IRP.
- An expansion of the bibliography, discography, and professional contacts with distinguished performers of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach in Poland and throughout Europe. Analysis of the proposed sources may lead to the revision of certain theses and hypotheses formulated in the IRP, as many of these issues are addressed in the recommended materials (a list of suggested sources is attached).
- A modification of the terminology used in the IRP concerning research methods, replacing the phrase "source criticism" with "critical analysis of sources."
- A reconsideration of the concept, outlined in the IRP, of preparing a "manual containing practical guidance for pupils, students, and teachers (...) an itinerary for the development of Polish accordion performance practice." This ambitious undertaking would require a more precise definition of its intended audience. A publication designed for pupils would necessarily involve a selective presentation of issues in a simplified form. Whereas, a work addressed to students and teachers would open an extensive field of inquiry exceeding both the temporal and substantive scope of the present dissertation and might more appropriately constitute a project for a broader research team.

I would therefore recommend that the works included in the IRP be professionally recorded and released as a CD album, while the accompanying analytical and methodological commentary be published in print. Being acquainted with the student's artistic abilities and scholarly reliability, I am convinced that such an undertaking would result in an important contribution to Polish discography in this area, while the published study could serve as a valuable source for future researchers.

The experience and expertise of the supervisor provide a strong guarantee that the proposed approach to the implementation of the Individual Research Plan will culminate in a successful doctoral project and will constitute a meaningful contribution to the further development of research undertaken by future scholars and performers.

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Professor Jerzy Kaszuba

Professor Elżbieta Rosińska

Gdańsk, 3.07.2023

Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music
in Gdańsk

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Mid-Term Evaluation of Doctoral School Student Mr. Jakub Stefaniak

OPINION

Throughout each successive semester of his studies at the Doctoral School, Mr. Jakub Stefaniak has consistently expanded both the scope and quality of his artistic, scholarly, and organizational activities.

He has presented several recital programmes showcasing a broad spectrum of accordion repertoire, including early music, which constitutes the principal subject of his planned doctoral dissertation, as well as original accordion literature, including works composed in recent years. A particular focus of the doctoral candidate's artistic interests is concentrated in the music of Paweł Śławiński, which he has recorded on a CD album released by Requiem Records.

Mr. Stefaniak's wide-ranging artistic interests are further reflected in his arrangements of music from various historical periods for the Arti Sentemo Chamber Orchestra, as well as in his compositions inspired by folk traditions created within the framework of the Lublin Project.

His scholarly activity also deserves recognition. He has participated in several academic conferences, presenting papers closely related to the subject of his planned dissertation. Equally noteworthy is his organizational engagement, including his activity in music associations, service within the doctoral students' council, contributions to the *Accordion Notebook (Akordeonowy Notes)* online platform, and his work as secretary of accordion competitions.

The current level of advancement in the implementation of the Individual Research Plan is sufficient to ensure the submission of the doctoral dissertation within the prescribed timeframe.

I therefore recommend a positive outcome of the mid-term evaluation.

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Professor Elżbieta Rosińska

OPINION

on the implementation of the Individual Research Plan (IRP) by Mr. Jakub Stefaniak and on the artistic, scholarly, organizational, and teaching achievements accumulated during two years of study at the Doctoral School

During the first four semesters of his doctoral studies, Mr. Jakub Stefaniak has demonstrated extensive activity in the artistic, scholarly, organizational, and teaching domains. Having reviewed the reports submitted by the doctoral candidate, it may be concluded that the planned artistic and scholarly activities have been successfully carried out. The number and high calibre of the events in which Mr. Stefaniak has participated over the past two years deserve particular recognition.

In my opinion, special appreciation should be given to his extensive international concert activity, encompassing solo recitals, numerous chamber music performances, and appearances as a member of an accordion orchestra. The breadth and creativity of the activities described in his reports—including the promotion of accordion music, performances of early and contemporary music, as well as the organization of concerts with innovative repertoire and recording projects—demonstrate the candidate's determination and valuable commitment to artistic development.

Equally important is his substantial participation in academic conferences, both as a presenter and as an active participant in accompanying concert events. Worth noting as well is the candidate's close engagement with the accordion community in his region, where he has served as an organizer and promoter of artistic initiatives.

I assess the achievements presented by Mr. Jakub Stefaniak very highly.

In my opinion, the activities envisaged within the Individual Research Plan during the first four semesters of study at the Doctoral School have been implemented to a very high standard.

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dr hab. Paweł Kukliński