

Prof. dr hab. Leszek Skrla
Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music
in Gdańsk

Gdańsk, 04.07.2024

Dear Professor Aleksandra Grucza-Rogalska
Director of the Doctoral School

In response to your letter of 13 May 2024, and having reviewed the documentation submitted for the mid-term evaluation of doctoral student Mr. Tomasz Raff, I hereby conclude that the report presented by Mr. Raff concerning his activities during the past two years (four semesters) reflects a substantial body of artistic, scholarly, teaching, organizational, and research-dissemination achievements.

These accomplishments are confirmed by the positive opinion of the supervisor, who expresses appreciation for the student's extensive organizational and research-dissemination activities. Particular attention is paid to the subject of the planned doctoral dissertation, entitled *Longing for Freedom and Transience in Mieczysław Weinberg's Vocal Works for Bass Voice and Piano: The Performative Evolution of the Artistic Work*.

I assess positively Mr. Tomasz Raff's report and the artistic, scholarly, teaching, and organizational achievements presented therein, which arise from the implementation of his Individual Research Plan.

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Prof. dr hab. Leszek Skrla

OPINION

on the implementation of the Individual Research Plan (IRP) by Mr. Tomasz Raff 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. Tomasz Raff has demonstrated extensive activity in the artistic, scholarly, organizational, and teaching areas. Having carefully reviewed the reports submitted by the doctoral student, it must be stated that the high standing of the events in which he has participated as a vocalist, presenter, and organizer over the past two years is deserving of recognition.

In my opinion, particular appreciation should be given to his concert, outreach, and scholarly activities of an international character, including cooperation with German institutions. Equally noteworthy is the student's active involvement in the local Tricity musical environment, as well as his collaboration with distinguished musicians and numerous institutions, including efforts aimed at securing funding for scholarly initiatives directly related to the implementation of his Individual Research Plan.

I assess the achievements presented by Mr. Tomasz Raff very highly.

In my opinion, all activities established within the framework of the Individual Research Plan during the four semesters of study at the Doctoral School have been implemented appropriately and in accordance with the established objectives.

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Professor Paweł Kukliński

OPINION

Concerning the Mid-Term Evaluation of Mr. Tomasz Raff

Proposed doctoral dissertation topic:

Longing for Freedom and Transience in Mieczysław Weinberg's Vocal Works for Bass Voice and Piano: The Performative Evolution of the Artistic Work

Artistic component:

Recording of a CD album featuring the following song cycles:

- *From the Poetry of Afanasy Fet*, Op. 134
- *From the Poetry of Vasily Zhukovsky*, Op. 116
- *Three Romances for Bass Voice*, Op. 78

The doctoral student submitted a research plan together with a timetable for its implementation and has been carrying it out without interruption or delay. He has already completed the recording of part of the material intended for the album.

The presentation of Weinberg's little-known songs is of exceptional value, as this repertoire remains largely unexplored. Through the student's efforts, these works have the opportunity to be rediscovered and brought to wider attention. The recording of these songs is an undertaking of considerable importance for Polish culture and, at the same time, constitutes a meaningful contribution to world musical heritage.

Work on the doctoral dissertation is progressing in accordance with the planned schedule and the objectives originally established. The current stage of development reflects a significant degree of advancement in the project.

The documented artistic achievements include opera productions, vocal recital performances, recordings, and participation in academic conferences, all of which confirm the student's active professional engagement.

A particularly original aspect of the project is the student's maintenance of a *Performance Practice Journal* documenting the process of preparing Weinberg's song cycles for concert performance and recording.

Mr. Tomasz Raff has also demonstrated commitment to pedagogical and organizational activities.

Furthermore, he has achieved notable success in securing funding for research-related projects.

In conclusion, the doctoral student has fulfilled the objectives established for this stage of the programme. The current state of the project demonstrates substantial progress in the preparation of both the artistic work and its accompanying commentary, and the project continues to proceed according to schedule.

The doctoral student has demonstrated satisfactory artistic, scholarly, pedagogical, and organizational activity.

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Professor Urszula Kryger