

OPINION

The opinion concerns the mid-term evaluation of Mr Jakub Borowczyk, MA.

Doctoral dissertation topic:

Adaptation of Minimalist Vocal Lyricism in the Context of Contemporary Countertenor Performance Practice, based on `Six Celan Songs` by M. Nynam and Selected Songs from the collection `Songs from Liquid Days` by P. Glass

Jakub Borowczyk, being one of the most distinguished and artistically compelling musical personalities of the younger generation, he is widely regarded as one of Poland`s leading countertenors. He possesses exceptional vocal qualities, which have already been demonstrated on the stages of such opera houses as Krakow Opera, Baltic Opera, Opera Nova, and Warsaw Chamber Opera, as well as in performances with numerous philharmonic orchestras, including the National Philharmonic in Warsaw. He has a broad range of interests related to vocal technique, with particular emphasis on the countertenor voice in contemporary music. The doctoral candidate presents a commendable ability to access invaluable academic sources and consults leading experts and internationally recognized authorities in the field. All this has highly beneficial impact on the development of his dissertation.

According to the supervisor, `Mr. Jakub Borowczyk demonstrates exceptional diligence and conscientiousness in fulfilling the objectives and requirements established in his Individual Research Plan. Every musical work undertaken by the doctoral candidate is discussed with me, not only in relation to the vocal component but also with respect to its broader artistic and interpretative aspects.`

In the supervisor`s assessment, the two years of study under the guidance of Professor Piotr Kusiewicz, PhD, DSc (Habilitation), have resulted in `a remarkable development of the candidate`s vocal abilities. This progress is reflected in the increased flexibility of the voice and a significant expansion of its range, which currently extends to three octaves. These accomplishments provide the doctoral candidate with the technical and artistic means to engage confidently with contemporary repertoire, including works at the boundaries of experimental music`. It is also worth emphasizing the exceptionally successful and productive collaboration between the doctoral candidate and his supervisor, which has made a significant contribution to his artistic and academic development.

Mr Borowczyk`s performance in all areas of the Doctoral School has been fully satisfactory and gives every indication of significant further development of his exceptional artistic and scholarly potential during the remaining years of his doctoral studies.

I positively evaluate Mr Jakub Borowczyk`s report concerning the artistic, academic, teaching, and organizational achievements accomplished in accordance with his Individual Research Plan.

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Gdańsk, 23.06.2026

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In response to your letter dated 3 June 2025 concerning the mid-term evaluation of Mr. Jakub Borowczyk, MA, I would like to state that the attached documentation relating to his scholarly, teaching, public engagement, concert organizational, and research activities over the past two years (4 semesters) demonstrates intensive and comprehensive engagement across a broad range of areas. Particular attention should be paid to the positive opinion provided by the supervisor Professor Piotr Kusiewicz, reflecting productive mutual understanding and inspiration characterizing their creative collaboration, focused primarily on the doctoral research project entitled: Adaptation of Minimalist Vocal Lyricism in the Context of Contemporary Countertenor Performance Practice, based on `Six Celan Songs` by Michael Nyman and Selected Songs from the Collection `Songs from Liquid Days` by Philip Glass.

The attached documentation allows to conclude that throughout the course of his doctoral studies, the doctoral candidate has successfully fulfilled all objectives specified in his Individual Research Plan. Work on the doctoral dissertation is progressing in accordance with the established schedule, and the current stage of preparation indicates a significant level of advancement.

The recording featuring works by Michael Nyman and Philip Glass has been completed; however, due to ongoing process of artistic development, the doctoral candidate has decided to introduce additional modifications so that the final artistic version may be presented in a new light.

In reviewing the documentation, I was particularly impressed by the artistic achievements of Mr Jakub Borowczyk, which reflect his extensive repertoire and remarkable stylistic versatility. Of particular significance are the artist`s participation in the world premiere of Zygmunt Krauze opera Bona Sforza at the Kraków Opera in May 2024; his interpretation of the countertenor role in the ballet Dangerous Liaisons, set to music by Arturs Maskats, at Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz in 2023 and 2024, and his performance of the solo part in Via Crucis by Paweł Łukaszewski at the Sudeten Philharmonic in March 2024.

In my assessment, Mr. Jakub Borowczyk`s artistic, research, organizational, and pedagogical accomplishments within the framework of his Individual Research Plan for doctoral studies have progressed very successfully and to a highly satisfactory standard.

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dr hab. Marcin Ciszewski, prof. AM

OPINION

This opinion concerns a mid-term doctoral evaluation of Mr. Jakub Borowczyk.

Proposed doctoral dissertation topic:

Adaptation of Minimalist Vocal Lyricism in the Context of Contemporary Countertenor Performance Practice, based on `Six Celan Songs` by M. Mynam and Selected Songs from the Collection `Songs from Luquid Days` by P. Glass.

The doctoral candidate consistently and conscientiously pursues the adopted artistic and research objectives, as demonstrated both by the quality of his artistic output to date and by the substantial progress made in the development of the artistic work. The current stage of the creative process indicates that the project is firmly grounded in the selected research paradigm and reflects the clarity and coherence of the artistic methodology adopted.

All activities are being carried out in accordance with the established schedule, which demonstrates high level of organization in the research process as well as a well-developed capacity for long-term planning.

Furthermore, the doctoral candidate demonstrates substantial involvement in areas complementary to the doctoral project, especially in the realm of artistic activity.

Throughout the doctoral process to date, the candidate has demonstrated a high level of activity in the fields of artistic, scholarly, organizational, and teaching practice. All of this reflects his commitment and his academic and artistic potential. His artistic activities include participation in opera productions, artistic projects and professional industry events. His scholarly engagement is evidenced by participation in conferences and symposia. In the organizational area he has undertaken community-oriented initiatives, contributed to the management of social media activities, initiated and co-organized artistic and academic events; moreover, actively participated in institutional life. His teaching activities show involvement in higher education and active support of students' educational development.

Such a broad spectrum of activities proves not only the interdisciplinary nature of the research being undertaken, but also a high degree of professionalism in the candidate's artistic and scholarly approach.

The entirety of the doctoral candidate's activities to date indicates a consistent process of development and a conscious commitment to achieving a high level of expertise within the chosen discipline.

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prof. dr hab. Dariusz Paradowski