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Professor Wojciech Niedziela

Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice

OPINION

concerning the mid-term evaluation of doctoral student (Doctoral School student) Mr. Dominik Kisiel with regard to the implementation of the doctoral training programme and his artistic and scholarly activities

This opinion, after careful and thorough review, has been prepared on the basis of the documentation provided to me.

Mr. Dominik Kisiel commenced his studies at the Doctoral School of the Academy of Music in Gdańsk in October 2022. Throughout the period of study completed thus far he has fulfilled all prescribed requirements and has consistently aimed at the development and implementation of the objectives set forth in his Individual Research Plan (IRP).

Particular attention should be paid to the student's participation in specialist courses undertaken within the elective component of the IRP in connection with his doctoral dissertation topic, Abstraction, Intentionality, and Polystylism: Techniques of Shaping Artistic Expression in Contemporary Jazz Piano Performance. These courses included Abstraction in Art: The Philosophical Dimension of Music, led by Dr Danuta Stankiewicz, and The Aesthetics of Quantum Theory, taught by Associate Professor Andrzej Łukasik of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

The doctoral student has revealed himself as an inquisitive and committed artist. Although his activities are primarily local in scope, they encompass a broad range of endeavors, including survey-based research concerning the reception of his pedagogical work, observation of classes conducted by Professor W. Nahorny, participation in and organization of concerts featuring improvised music, and interviews with improvising musicians. He is also actively involved in projects led by other artists, including the Irka Zapolska Quartet and the Magda Kuraś Quintet. Furthermore, he has been awarded in music competitions and has engaged in scholarly activity, including participation in the Twelfth National Conference of Doctoral Students of Polish Music Academies (Bydgoszcz, 2023).

It is also important to emphasize the exemplary cooperation between the doctoral student and his supervisor, Professor Leszek Kułakowski. Equally noteworthy is the supervisor's assessment indicating clear progress in the student's research and the absence of any risk to the planned timetable for the completion and defense of the dissertation.

As a reviewer appointed to conduct this mid-term evaluation, I would nevertheless welcome a more precise definition of the terminology employed in the project. In particular, it is important to clarify what the student understands by the concept of polystylism and how, in

his view, it relates to the idiom of jazz music. Within the proposed research framework, quantum theory and its aesthetics, abstraction, and the philosophical dimension of music appear to shift the emphasis of the study toward contemporary humanities scholarship and questions of musical aesthetics and philosophy.

At the opposite—and, in my view, more fundamental—pole of the research stands the more than century-long history and legacy of jazz, in which improvisation occupies a central role while remaining embedded within a framework of specific musical values, including rhythm, pulse, harmony, melody, expression, and many others. I would also recommend considerable caution in equating broadly understood improvised music with the distinct heritage and tradition of jazz music rooted in American culture.

In conclusion, I assess Mr. Dominik Kisiel's achievements positively and find that the tasks entrusted to him within the doctoral programme, as well as the implementation of his Individual Research Plan, have progressed successfully.

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Professor Wojciech Niedziela

Professor Wojciech Szlachcikowski

Academy of Music in Gdańsk

OPINION

Concerning the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Individual Research Plan (IRP) of Mr. Dominik Kisiel with regard to his artistic, scholarly, and organizational activities

Mr. Dominik Kisiel, while preparing his doctoral dissertation entitled *Abstraction, Intentionality, and Polystylism: Techniques of Shaping Artistic Expression in Contemporary Jazz Piano Performance*, has consistently pursued the objectives outlined in his Individual Research Plan (IRP).

During the period under evaluation, he has undertaken a broad range of activities, including:

- Conducting survey-based research among students and educational workshops participants;
- Participating in national and international scholarly events, and beyond the activities envisaged in the IRP, presented papers at three national academic conferences;
- Conducting interviews with improvising musicians, including Jakub Klemensiewicz and Dr Tomasz Chyła;
- Observing Professor Włodzimierz Nahorny's Jazz Piano classes and subsequently serving as a teaching assistant in the mentioned courses;
- Teaching the course *Improvised Jazz Concerts* over four consecutive semesters as part of his teaching practice. The reports submitted demonstrate a logical structure of the course content and a creative approach to the subject matter;
- Leading a workshop entitled *Entering a Creative State and Developing One's Own Concept of Improvisation* at the Lublin School of Jazz and Popular Music (Upper Secondary Level);
- Organizing a series of sixteen concerts under the title *Creative Improvisation Encounters*;
- Participating in numerous concerts featuring improvised music and taking part regularly (two to three times per week) in improvisation sessions in ensembles ranging from duos to quintets. (Many of these collaborations resulted in concert performances and recorded albums);
- Participating in artistic events in Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Gdańsk, Gdynia, and Sopot;
- Conducting performance-based experiments connected with a concept of improvisation inspired, among other sources, by "analogies to the philosophy

emerging from contemporary theories of quantum physics.” This concept formed the basis of the album *Pieśni* (Songs), which he recorded and released;

- Recording and releasing a second album, *Late Summer*, together with guitarist Krzysztof Pawłocki. Additional artistic outputs from the evaluation period include the single *New Life* (accompanied by a music video) and the three-part *Improvised Suite* (a live concert recording);
- Contributing as a performer to the production of eight albums by other artists.

Mr. Kisiel’s artistic achievements have been recognized and awarded by the City of Gdańsk Scholarship (twice) and a scholarship from the Marshal of the Pomeranian Voivodeship. His work has also received distinction in numerous national and international competitions, resulting in awards including a Grand Prix, an Absolute Winner title, an Honorable Mention, and three First Prizes.

The supervisor, in both the questionnaire and formal opinion submitted as part of the evaluation process, confirms productive cooperation with Mr. Dominik Kisiel and indicates that there are no concerns regarding the timely completion and defense of the doctoral dissertation.

In my assessment, the implementation of the Individual Research Plan by the doctoral student, Dominik Kisiel, during the past four semesters should be evaluated as very good. I highly regard and assess very positively his achievements associated with this work.

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Professor Wojciech Szlachcikowski

Dr. Habil. Sławomir Jaskułke

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OPINION

Concerning the Mid-Term Evaluation of Doctoral School Student Mr. Dominik Kisiel with Regard to the Implementation of the Individual Research Plan and His Artistic, Scholarly, Organizational, and Teaching Activities

During the first four semesters of his doctoral studies, Mr. Dominik Kisiel has demonstrated a high level of activity in the areas of artistic, scholarly, organizational, and teaching work. The implementation of his Individual Research Plan (IRP) has likewise proceeded in accordance with the established schedule. Having reviewed the documentation and reports concerning the activities undertaken in the aforementioned areas, it may be concluded that the doctoral student's achievements are highly satisfactory.

Among his most significant accomplishments are the following:

Artistic Activity (Concerts and Recordings)

Academic Years 2022/23 and 2023/24:

- More than 60 concert performances;
- Participation in 16 recording sessions and recording projects, both as a leader and as a sideman.

Competition Participation

Academic Years 2022/23 and 2023/24:

- Jazz Contest (Tarnów);
- 1st National Meeting of Young Jazz Pianists (Krynice-Budy);
- Consonances – Improvised Music Competition (Warsaw);
- 2nd National Meeting of Young Jazz Pianists (Krynice-Budy).

Scholarly Activity

Academic Years 2022/23 and 2023/24 – participation as a presenter and attendee:

- Improvised Compositions – How to Improvise Consciously and Open Oneself to Music: Improvising without Pre-Composed Material, School of Jazz and Popular Music (Level II), Lublin;
- Improvised Music – Conscious Creation of Sonic Spaces, including participation in an accompanying concert, Academy of Music in Poznań;

- Forum of Doctoral School Participants at the Academy of Music in Gdańsk, presentation entitled Creating a Personal Sonic Experience through Entering a State of Improvisation;
- Webinar Publishing a Scientific Article in a Prestigious Journal: Journal Selection and Communication, Science Watch Polska Foundation;
- 11th National Conference of Doctoral Candidates of Polish Music Academies, Academy of Music in Poznań;
- Canadian Music Week, Virtual Voices Webinar: Meet the Agents, RBC Emerging Artist Project;
- National Academic Conference Worlds of Music, presentation entitled Improvised Music – The Essence of the Creator, Facta Ficta Research Centre, Wrocław;
- 12th National Conference of Doctoral Candidates of Polish Music Academies, presentation entitled The World of Improvised Music: Abstraction, Intentionality, and Polystylism, Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz.

Teaching Activity

Academic Years 2022/23 and 2023/24:

- Improvised Jazz Concerts – an introduction to creative approaches to improvised music performance; group classes conducted for students of the Department of Jazz and Popular Music at the Academy of Music in Gdańsk;
- Lecture and workshop for students of the Department of Jazz at the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz;
- Lecture entitled Your Individual Voice – How to Find It and How to Cultivate It, accompanied by workshops and a concert of improvised music, Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz;
- Workshop Entering a Creative State and Developing One's Own Concept of Improvisation, School of Jazz and Popular Music (Level II), Lublin.

Organizational Activity

Academic Years 2022/23 and 2023/24:

- Establishment of a cooperation agreement with the Pomeranian Cultural Incubator concerning the organization of a jazz concert series;
- Cooperation with the "Source of Creation" Foundation in organizing workshops within the framework of the 3City Piano Days Festival;
- Establishment of cooperation with the artistic centre Matemblewo Kulturhaus;
- Organization of the improvised music concert series Creative Improvisation Encounters;
- Cooperation with the Lublin School of Jazz and Popular Music in organizing workshops for pupils and students of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

The achievements documented and summarized in this opinion are impressive. The breadth and diversity of the student's artistic activities prove his considerable commitment to both

creative and pedagogical endeavors. The implementation schedule and execution of the Individual Research Plan have progressed without reservation.

In conclusion, I assess the doctoral student's mid-term achievements positively.

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Dr. Habil. Sławomir Jaskółke