

Assessment Report worked out by the Opponent

Diploma Thesis: Reflections on Chinese Pop Music Singing Higher Education

Author: Wanshu Zhang
Study programme: N7504 Teaching at Secondary Schools
Field of study: Teaching at Secondary Schools – Specialization in Music Education
Teaching at Secondary Schools – General
Specialization: Playing a Musical Instrument and Solo Singing Focused on Teaching at
Primary Music Schools
Supervisor: PhDr. Mgr. Ludmila Kroupová, Ph.D.
Opponent: Mgr. Kateřina Andršová

In the submitted thesis, the author deals with the history and development of Chinese pop music teaching at prestigious music schools (conservatories and universities) in Chinese provinces, and she puts these issues in an appropriate way into the context of the world pop music development. The contents of the first three chapters are more general. Then the author presents in detail the ways of pop music teaching at Shenyang Conservatory of Music. She analysed the history, teachers' profiles, the contents and ways of teaching, curricula, the process of entrance examinations, as well as end-of-term examinations and final examinations. The author presents her considerations related to both artistic requirements imposed on the graduates, and the graduates' future career. The final fifth chapter presents valuable recommendations aiming at teaching reforms resulting in a higher effectiveness of teaching. On the basis of comparing the methodology of teaching classical singing and pop music singing, the author draws attention to the frequently neglected fundamentals of the singing technique which are shared by classical singing, Chinese singing and pop music singing – this concerns mainly the work with breath, proper placement of the tone, the use of resonance and exercises leading to the alignment of the vocals. In connection with these, Lili Lehman's historical work *How to sing* is referred to, and its conclusions are used for proving the common and shared technique fundamentals of both classical and natural singing.

The text of the thesis (52 pp.) is clear and well-structured, its contents and its form are very well-balanced, its language level is very good. The quotations comply with the standard declared in the appropriate Rector's decree. The text presents new information which is hardly available in our country. The author's personal opinions are valuable. As a graduate from

Chinese music schools, she is able of presenting a deeper insight into the given issues, and thus she is able to compare the Chinese music and western trends. The main objective is not a mere imitation of the pop music coming from the Anglo-Saxon provenience, but the implementation of the characteristic elements of the Chinese music into the process of educating musicians interpreting varied genres of pop music who will be able to compete on the world music market. The main goals of the thesis were reached, and that is why I recommend the thesis to be defended.

Mgr. Kateřina Andršová