

Bachelor thesis assessment

Opinion of the opponent

Author: **Jakob Samuel Lang**

Thesis Title: Edvard Grieg and his short Piano Compositions

Thesis supervisor: doc. MgA. Mgr. Jana Palkovská

Opponent: doc. PhDr. MgA. Mgr. Vít Gregor, Ph.D.

In his bachelor thesis the author focused on the piano works of the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, with special attention to his small piano compositions.

It should be said at the outset that the scope of this thesis far exceeds the requirements normally imposed on bachelor theses. Instead of the expected 40 to 60 pages, there are more than 200 pages of substantial text. Moreover, English is not the author's first language.

Lang's thesis is clearly divided into four parts, the first of which is devoted to the composer's life, studies, background and the historical aspects that conditioned his work. The references to Czech collaborators are also interesting.

Gradually we come to a comprehensive view of Grieg's piano works in the context of his overall compositions. Very interestingly, the author of the thesis chose quotations that he himself freely translated from his mother tongue into English, which certainly deepened his understanding of the subject.

In works of this kind, students usually take the approach of selecting a few typical examples from a given composer's work to demonstrate the composer's inspirations and compositional practices.

J. Lang, however, focused on all the Lyric Pieces, which is quite exceptional. While it is true that some of the descriptions are necessarily more or less similar, this does not detract from the value of the study. Especially for a young adept of piano playing this work may be a necessary guide.

Jakob Lang was involved in the performance of Grieg's compositions during his Bachelor's studies, so the choice of the topic of his Bachelor's thesis was very logical. What is extraordinary, however, is, as I have already mentioned, the scope and depth of the treatment of the material.

I have two questions for the defence hearing:

- 1) Did Grieg have contacts with Czech countries?
- 2) Who wrote the first study on Grieg in the late 1880s?

I recommend the bachelor thesis for defence.

Suggested assessment:

In Prague on 31 August 2024

doc. PhDr. MgA. Mgr. Vít Gregor, Ph.D.