



FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Charles University
Department of Music Education
Magdalény Rettigové 4, 116 39 Prague 1

Review of Bachelor Thesis

Thesis Examiner

Student: Daniel Andrew Flynn BSc

Title of the thesis: Ragtime Performance Practice and Piano Technique

Thesis Supervisor: Mgr. Vartan Agopian, Ph.D.

Thesis Examiner: MgA. Roman Czepa, DiS.

Evaluation of the thesis	Mark (1 - 4)
Clarity of the thesis question and its realisation	2
Difficulty of the theme in relation to the theoretical knowledge	1
Difficulty of the theme in relation to practical skills	1
Methodology and adequacy	1
Literature review	2
Structure of the thesis	1
Language and terminology	1
Writing level	2
Originality of the thesis	1
Practicality of the thesis	1

Other notes

This thesis explores piano performance practice of Ragtime. In addition, it offers its possible applications in piano teaching and describes the expected effect on the development of students' piano technique. The author bases these assumptions on his own experience and on his analysis of various recordings within this genre.

I appreciated the clear and direct expression of the work. It provides even a less informed reader with a clear summary of the history of Ragtime and a detailed description of its features. It is clear that Mr. Flynn is well acquainted with the subject and has devoted careful effort to this work. I found chapters 5-7 to be of particular value, as they comprise of texts summarizing suggested forms of instructional practice of Ragtime and arguments for and against score fidelity of those pieces of music.

The work is well organized. I would have appreciated more detailed conclusions and a deeper explanation of the connections between the performance and pedagogical aspects of the matter. At the same time, I would recommend the author to pay more attention to the coherence of the text. The results of the work related to its intent could be commented on more frequently and in more detail to make them more apparent to the reader. A wider range of primary sources, if available, would also provide more support for the thesis.

Unfortunately, the in the template required title in Czech is missing. Unlike the usual practice, the introduction, conclusion and bibliography are included among the numbered chapters. Not



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all main level chapters start on a new page (chapters 3, 4, 7 and 8). Several footnotes have a larger font size (49 and 50). Otherwise, the work is formally consistent.

Overall assessment of the thesis

I recommend the thesis for defence.

Questions for discussion

*What are the links between the interpretive and instructional aspects discussed in the paper?
Which of the two points was the main aim of the thesis?*

*In which category would the author place Ragtime - classical or popular music? The chapter
Ragtime - classical or popular? gives information that does not make this clear.*

Date: 1st September, 2024

Signature of Examiner