



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

Review of Diploma Thesis

Thesis Supervisor / Examiner

Student: Daniel Flynn

Title of the thesis: Ragtime performance practice and piano technique

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

Thesis Examiner:

| Evaluation of the thesis | Mark (1 - 4) |
|---|---------------------|
| Clarity of the thesis question and its realisation | 1 |
| 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 | 1 |
| Structure of the thesis | 1 |
| Language and terminology | 1 |
| Writing level | 1 |
| Originality of the thesis | 1 |
| Practicality of the thesis | 1 |

Other notes

Please see the overall assessment below.

Overall assessment of the thesis

This thesis delves into the intricacies of piano performance practices within the Ragtime genre. It investigates how these practices can be effectively applied in piano instruction, examining the potential benefits on the development of students' technical skills. The author draws on personal experiences and a comprehensive analysis of various Ragtime recordings to support these insights. By exploring the nuances of Ragtime performance, the thesis aims to illuminate its unique rhythmic and stylistic elements, and how incorporating these into teaching can enhance students' technical proficiency and interpretative abilities. Through detailed case studies and practical examples, the research provides a deeper understanding of how Ragtime's distinctive features can contribute to a more robust and versatile piano technique.

Despite balancing a demanding full-time job, Daniel demonstrated remarkable dedication and passion throughout the thesis project. His commitment was evident in the exceptional quality of his work, reflecting both his enthusiasm for the subject and his determination to excel.



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Managing the rigorous demands of professional responsibilities while immersing himself in the complexities of Ragtime performance practice required an impressive level of discipline and perseverance. His ability to produce insightful analysis and thorough research, all while maintaining a high standard of excellence, is a testament to his passion for the field and his unwavering commitment to his academic pursuits. His work not only showcases his technical and analytical skills but also his deep-seated dedication to advancing both his own knowledge and the broader understanding of Ragtime piano performance.

Questions for discussion

What are the key elements of Ragtime performance practice that distinguish it from other piano genres, and how can an understanding of these elements be applied to enhance the interpretative and technical execution of Ragtime pieces?

How does the rhythmic complexity and syncopation in Ragtime music influence the development of a pianist's technique and musical expression, and what strategies can be used to effectively teach these aspects to students?

Date 5.9.2024

Signatures of Supervisor/Examiner