

Academy Of Performing Arts in Prague

Opponent's review of a master's thesis prepared by Yuri Samajima, a student of Prof. Lubomír Malý.

Yuri Samejima selected the following theme for her thesis: Lubomír Malý and Contemporary Czech Music for Viola.

The thesis comprises six sections. In the introduction, Samajima gives an account of her encounter with Prof. Malý as a promoter of the viola as a solo instrument.

The second section is entitled Lubomír Malý and the Golden Era. In it, the author discusses in detail the entire era of Kvarteto Hl. Města Prahy from its origin in 1956 until its dissolution in 2001. This section reads like a curriculum vitae of the quartet and I do not see it as pertinent to the thesis, although the quartet was an integral part of Prof. Malý's career.

The third section centres on Malý as a promoter of the viola as a solo instrument. It includes his CV and a list of significant performances and recordings.

The fourth section is entitled Lubomír Malý and His Interpretation of Rhapsody Concerto by Bohuslav Martinů. This text is more of a citation of critical reviews published in music journals. Once again, I miss any connection with the theme.

Only the fifth section entitled Lubomír Malý's Influence on Contemporary Czech Musicians centres on the theme of the paper. However, once again, it presents a list of critical reviews and citations. The second half of this section is comprised of three analyses of compositions by Czech composers. 'Sonáta Fantasy' by Jiří Jaroš, 'Sonáta' by Jaroslav Šaroun and 'Michelangelův Kámen' by Oldřich Flosman. Although Prof. Malý often presents these compositions at his concerts and has premiered many contemporary compositions, the author frequently meanders.

Annexes to the thesis include, once again, only lists of reviews, a list of Prof. Malý's recordings, several notation samples and photographs. The paper seems chaotic and in the nature of an encyclopaedic listing.

I evaluate this thesis with a "C" and recommend it for defence.

Karel Untermüller