

**UNIWERSYTET WARMIŃSKO–MAZURSKI W OLSZTYNIE
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**THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOIR SACRAL MUSIC
IN THE ASPECT OF VOCAL EDUCATION OF A CHOIR MEMBER**

**PhD thesis written under the guidance
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Streszczenia w języku angielskim

Summary

This thesis was completed based on years of professional experience and conductor practice of the author- an educator and a choirmaster. Multiple years of observations of the Kameralny Choir of Miejski Dom Kultury in Stalowa Wola, as well as other experiences from within the area of choral studies, allowed for acute analysis of the influence of implemented repertoire on the ensemble's development.

In this thesis, the author is looking for answers to questions about the meaning of sacral literature in the vocal progress. In order to identify possible opportunities for the vocal growth that such repertoire creates, close analysis of certain religious songs that are embedded in the canon of european musical culture, as well as of some contemporary pieces, were performed. Basic criteria of choice, was the diversity of vocal nuances. However differentiation of the pieces was also considered. Another important criteria was the level of difficulty. The author of this thesis permanently works with amateur ensambles, and adjusted performed material to their vocal capabilities. Considering all that, a dozen or so compositions were chosen for analysis, including several supplicant, adoring and exhilarating pieces.

The written thesis is the summary of author's professional output, including his artistic oeuvre created within the frames of his Ph.D. title conferment procedure, brimful of which was a public concert „Ave Regina Cealorum”, performed on May 2nd, 2014 in Klasztor Braci Mniejszych Kapucynów in Rozwadów.

The focal point of the thesis is showing the educational properties, including positive aspects of vocal training, of sacral choir music. In order to correctly analyze the issue, a history of development of this genre of music is included in the first chapter. It introduces times from medieval throughout the 21st century. Author hones in on the periods of the Middle Ages and Renaissance specifically, as those are known for sacral choir music being created and developed. These musical forms were later continued by composers from different eras. He characterizes each epoch taking into consideration the most important centers of advancement of music. He points out main forms, genres and styles of sacral music, introducing composers and presenting the richness of music derived from the christian culture. Write-up also refers to the course of those occurrences in Poland.

Next, certain subject matters of vocal techniques are described. They are an integral part of working with the choir when preparing the songs. Author begins with the history of vocal training education, then presents the structure and functionality of the vocal apparatus and touches on the subject of sensory areas and intonation. All of these matters were the basis of analysis of the vocal properties of chosen musical pieces.

Author describes the formal construction of compositions that his „artistic oeuvre” consists of, along with their history and semantics. He digs deep into the aspects of performance in certain pieces, concentrating on facets of vocal development of individual choir members and on vocal exercises used in the process. He focuses on prosody, phrasing, articulation, dynamic and on gaining vocal consciousness in terms of performing particular elements and proper interpretation of the text and emotional load of music.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janusz' followed by a stylized surname.