

Akademia Muzyczna im. Ignacego Paderewskiego w Poznaniu
Wydział Dyrygentury Chóralnej,
Edukacji Muzycznej i Muzyki Kościelnej
Katedra Chóralistyki

PRACA DOKTORSKA

*Różnorodność stylistyczna a problemy wykonawcze psalmów
w tradycji wybranych kościołów chrześcijańskich*

mgr Małgorzata Banasińska-Barszcz

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dr hab. Marka Głowackiego

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*“Stylistic diversity vs. problems in performing the Psalms
in the tradition of the selected Christian churches”*

ABSTRACT

The Psalms are the oldest religious songs that have been used by the Church for thousands of years. They belong to the most beautiful pieces of biblical poetry. Although they derive from the worship tradition of Israel, they have also become deeply rooted in Christianity. They are one of the most frequently used and commented books in the Church while constituting a synthesis of the whole Bible.

The purpose of the present dissertation was to present the Psalms in the context of their usage in the liturgical music of different Christian churches. The analysis of 15 pieces showed that the stylistic differences of particular Psalms had a significant impact on the difficulties with performing them. A precise analysis of these problems allowed for improving the methods of working with the choir and thus for creating a touching piece of art, the description of which is composed of three chapters. The first chapter presents the history of the Psalms and their importance in the liturgy of the Orthodox, Roman-Catholic and Anglican churches. Furthermore, it also shows the role of music and singing in the liturgy throughout the centuries. The second chapter contains a detailed analysis of the musical and literary structure of the selected Psalms, while the third one elaborates on problems in performance and interpretation that occurred during the realisation of the artistic work. Finally, the last chapter summarises main remarks and comments, and reflects on the great artistic values of the Psalms which continue to amaze and inspire to create new musical interpretations. The Psalms communicate everlasting values such as good and beauty and this was the reason for which the hereby presented piece of artistic work was realised.