



Teresa Brodniewicz

"Thinking within the realm of beauty": twentieth anniversary of the "Musica practica, musica theoretica" scientific conferences

keynote speech (summary)

The Jubilee Conference from the "Musica Pratica, Musica Theoretica" series is an event for the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań that not only provides cause for satisfaction but above all confirms the endurance, purposefulness, and multidimensional value of this endeavor, which has been organized for twenty years. Taking a historical perspective, I will endeavor in my presentation to document this value by presenting the organizational structures of successive editions, the areas of research exploration, and the scientific disciplines represented by the participants. I will also discuss the concerts and exhibitions accompanying the meetings and indicate the materials published in connection with the conferences.

The longstanding tradition of organizing annual scholarly meetings of theorists and musicologists at the Music Academy in Poznań, often in collaboration with the Department of Musicology at the Adam Mickiewicz University, found its continuation in the inception of the conference series titled "Musica practica, musica theoretica" in 2004. The main organizer of all conference editions is the Department of Music Theory, which until 2014 was led by dr. Janina Tatarska. Since 2015, it has been transformed into the Chair of Theory of Music, initially under the leadership of prof. Hanna Kostrzewska until 2020, and currently directed by prof. Mikołaj Rykowski, a professor at the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań.

If we take a quantitative approach based on the names of researchers actively participating in the proceedings of the nineteen Poznań conferences, we can provide a total number of 175 individuals, including 48 foreign scholars, 75 representatives from Polish academic centers, and 52 researchers from Poznań. The geographical reach of the countries from which participants came to Poznań is impressive and includes European countries such as Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Norway, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, Hungary, the United Kingdom, and Italy, as well as non-European countries such as Australia, Israel, and the United States. Polish academic communities were represented by guests from Bydgoszcz, Cieszyn, Gdańsk, Katowice, Kraków, Legnica, Leszno, Lublin, Łódź, Warsaw, Wrocław, Zielona Góra, and representatives from the Poznań milieu.

The range of specialties and research interests of participants in the Poznań conference clearly extended beyond music theory and practice, which have been and continue to be the thematic focus of successive editions. Therefore, we had the opportunity to listen not only to presentations by music theorists and performers, as well as musicologists, but also by cultural anthropologists, ethnologists, philosophers, historians, art historians, philologists, and cultural

scholars. They shared their experiences and the results of their research inquiries, representing various fields of humanities, imparting vast knowledge and passion, significantly enriching our understanding of music, art, and the world.

For example, the main themes of several selected editions of the conference include: "Logos in 20th and 21st Century Music" (2009); "Chamber Music of Modernism and Postmodernism: Between Norm and Liberation" (2012, 2013); "Repetition in Music: Ontology, Axiology, Contexts" (2018); "In Search of Composer's Idiom: Poetics, Stylistics, Technique" (2019); " Monograph of an Artist: Man - Music - Culture" (2022). The most valuable documentary value, preserving the scholarly output presented during the conference, lies in the post-conference materials that have been published, although they do not cover all presentations. I will point out the following publications edited by the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań: "Music and Its Contexts Part I" (2005), "Music and Its Contexts Part II" (2006), and "De Musica Commentarii" (2008, 2009, 2012, 2013). Additionally, in the annual volumes of the journal of the Faculty of Composition, Conducting, Music Theory, and Rhythmics, "De Musica Commentarii" (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), very detailed and authoritative reports on the course of the respective conferences are included.

One cannot overlook the significant English-language position, which is the book "Music Globalization" published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing and edited by David Herbert and Mikołaj Rykowski. It contains, among other things, texts presented during the eleventh and twelfth editions dedicated to music in the context of globalization.

It is a good tradition of the Poznań Music Academy to enrich the scholarly aspect - *musica theoretica*, with concerts - *musica practica*, and the performers are primarily, but not exclusively, faculty members and students of the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań. Since the majority of conference discussions focused on 20th and 21st-century music, the repertoire of concerts was dominated by works of contemporary composers, including representatives from the Poznań community.

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During the proceedings of the twentieth, jubilee edition of the *Musica Practica, Musica Theoretica* scientific conference, I wish you compelling presentations of the results of your inquiries and creative and intriguing discourse. Two thoughts are worth quoting here: José Ortega, the Spanish philosopher and essayist wrote:

"The characteristic feature of the problem of art is its insolubility, and although it is a problem that cannot be solved, man still seeks to delve into it, isolating its various aspects."(Z. Bargielski, *Słowo wstępne*, in: *Język, system, styl, forma w muzyce*, Bydgoszcz 2003, p. 7.)

The author of the second quotation is the philosopher Father Józef Tischner:

"Artistic thinking, which saturates all creativity and every reception of works of art – is thinking in the realm of beauty" (J. Tischner, *Myślenie w żywiole piękna*, Kraków 2013).

I wish you such thinking during our conference.