

THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MUSIC SCHOOLS IN RUDA ŚLASKA (POLAND) AND ITS ROLE IN THE DISSEMINATION OF MUSIC CULTURE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN THE YEARS 2010–2015

The article deals with the dissemination of music culture in local communities. The functioning of the Primary and Secondary Music Schools (MSC) in Ruda Śląska is used as an example to demonstrate the role of such educational institutions in promoting and actively popularizing high art. Besides playing a leading role in artistic education such facilities often become unique centers of music culture, especially in smaller towns where the existing cultural institutions aim, almost exclusively, at satisfying the needs and tastes of mass audiences. The analysis is preceded by a historical note on the school and a profile of its operating structure from MSC's beginnings in 2010.

Key words: education, art schools, dissemination of music culture, Ruda Śląska.

Каньовська М.

Початкові та середні музичні школи Руди-Сілезької (Польща) та їхня роль у поширенні музичної культури у місцевому співтоваристві у 2010–2015 роках

Стаття присвячена поширенню музичної культури в місцевих громадах. Функціонування початкової та середньої музичних шкіл (МСШ) в Руді-Сілезькій є прикладом для демонстрації ролі таких навчальних закладів у просуванні та активній популяризації високого мистецтва. Крім того, що вони відіграють провідну роль у художній освіті, такі об'єкти часто стають унікальними центрами музичної культури, особливо в невеликих містах, де існуючі культурні заклади прагнуть майже виключно до задоволення потреб та смаків масової аудиторії. Аналізу передують історичні нотатки про школу та профіль її діючої структури із часу заснування МСШ у 2010 році.

Ключові слова: освіта, художні школи, поширення музичної культури, Руда-Сілезька.

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Начальные и средние музыкальные школы Руды-Силезской (Польша) и их роль в распространении музыкальной культуры в местном сообществе в 2010–2015 годах

Статья посвящена распространению музыкальной культуры в местных общинах. Функционирование начальной и средней музыкальных школ (МСШ) в Руды-Силезской используется в качестве примера для демонстрации роли таких учебных заведений в продвижении и активной популяризации высокого искусства. Кроме того, что они играют ведущую роль в художественном образовании, такие объекты часто становятся уникальными центрами музыкальной культуры, особенно в небольших городах, где существующие культурные учреждения стремятся почти исключительно к удовлетворению потребностей и вкусов массовой аудитории. Анализу предшествуют исторические заметки о школе и профиль ее действующей структуры с момента основания МСШ в 2010 году.

Ключевые слова: образование, художественные школы, распространение музыкальной культуры, Руды-Силезской.

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Introuction

In the light of changes occurring in recent years in art education including marked reductions in music education in all general education schools the role of music schools in local communities is gradually evolving. Besides, playing a leading role in artistic education such schools often become unique centers of music culture, especially in smaller towns where the existing cultural institutions aim, almost exclusively, at satisfying the needs and tastes of mass audiences. In Ruda Śląska, for many years this important role of disseminating music culture in the local community has been played by the Primary and Secondary Music Schools Complex (Zespół Szkół Muzycznych I i II stopnia).

The purpose of the article

The purpose of the article is to analyze the activities of the music school in Ruda Śląska as the center of high musical culture.

Presenting main material

For years Ruda Śląska was an important industrial center in southern Poland, in the heart of the Silesian agglomeration. For over two centuries the municipality built its economic potential on coal mining and metallurgy. In recent years, due to a decline in the mining industry the town is searching for new vistas; it is changing its image from a strictly industrial center to a municipality open to new initiatives, both economic and cultural. At present the following cultural institutions are active within the city: Community Center in Ruda Śląska–Bielszowice, Henryk Bista Municipal Cultural Center, Maksymilian Chrobok City Museum, Municipal Public Library with branches in various boroughs, and Fundacja Minionej Epoki (Bygone Period Foundation) — Museum of the People's Republic of Poland. Among the above mentioned, the Henryk Bista Municipal Cultural Center undertakes most musical initiatives, however, the majority of proposed events are essentially commercial. At the same time, the Municipal Cultural Center hosted performances for years initiated by the Music Schools Complex including end-of-term and end-of-year concerts, faculty concerts, and many others.

From the school's history

In the interwar period, music education in Silesia was poorly developed. Besides some private music schools in, among others, Bielsko, Chorzów, Cieszyn, and New Bytom (a borough of Ruda Śląska), the only music education institution was the State Music Conservatory in Katowice. It was established by Witold Friemann and opened on September 28, 1929. Five years later, in 1934, a branch of the Ludowa Szkoła Muzyczna (Folk Music School) from Chorzów founded by Feliks Sachse and Władysław Nigrin was opened in New Bytom. The school remained under

the jurisdiction of the Silesian Voivodeship Music Lovers Society. The outbreak of World War II interrupted the activities of this facility.

After the end of the war, folk music movements and singing societies flourished in Upper Silesia. Many choirs and orchestras in the area were formed under the auspices of revived workplaces. In 1945, a Cultural Division was created at the Śląsko-Dąbrowski Voivode's Office. From the Department of Music in Warsaw it gained a mandate to set up artistic and educational facilities in the region.

In February of 1946, the Mieczysław Karłowicz Vocational Music School was created under the auspices of the "Pokój" Steelworks in Ruda Śląska. It was founded and headed by Marian Łętowski. The school functioned in the building belonging to the steelworks at 16, Marchlewskiego St. In the academic year 1949/50, the city assumed patronage over the school and changed its name to Miejskie Ognisko Muzyczne (Municipal Music Center). The transformation of the Vocational Music School into the State Music Center occurred as a result of the 1950 art education reform. Since 1951 the Ministry of Art and Culture partially has financed the school. Headed now by Zbigniew Lipski, the school, in its new form, began functioning on September 1, 1951. Despite the changed name the facility basically adhered to the curriculum and schedule obligatory for art schools. The dynamic growth of the school motivated the city, in 1968, to allocate for the Center's use a part of the building at 350, Pierwszego Maja Street in the Czarny Las borough of Ruda Śląska. With time, the entire structure was adapted to meet the Centre's needs. The school year 1970/71 brought about another transformation — on the basis of decree no 117 dated October 27, 1970 the State Musical Center was converted into the State Primary Music School financed from the local budget of the Voivodeship Presidium of the Peoples' Council in Katowice. In the years 1977–1983 it was headed first by Zbigniew Wojciechowski and then Urszula Ryszka.

In 1990 the school moved back to the borough of Nowy Bytom, to the building at 36 Piotr Niedurny St., where it functions to this day. In 1996 the school was named after Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki, a canon, kapellmeister and prominent baroque music composer born in Rozbark (now a borough of Bytom).

In 2007 an esteemed teacher of many years, Mirosław Krause, became the director of the school. His efforts to create a Municipal Secondary Music School were crowned with success in 2010 and in the school year 2010/11 the new educational facility headed by Aleksandra Rymarz began to function. In March 2011, the two schools were combined, forming the Primary and Secondary Music Schools' Complex in Ruda Śląska headed by Mirosław Krause. The Complex continued to be administered and financed by the Municipality of Ruda Śląska.

The local community's huge interest in the school and an almost doubling of the number of students and teachers called for the allocation of additional space hitherto occupied by outside companies. In 2015, the school took over the entire building, after it underwent a thorough modernization of the insulation system.

The school's activities in the field of dissemination of music in the local community

The Primary and Secondary Music Schools Complex in Ruda Śląska in the first year of its activity 2010/2011 had 251 students in the State Primary Music School (SPMS) in the six-year (191) and four-year (60) program of study in the following classes: piano (56), accordion (19), guitar (35), violin (38), viola (3), cello (17), double-bass (5), flute (21), clarinet (12), saxophone (8), trumpet (12), trombone (1) and percussion (24). At that time the total number of teachers-instrumentalists was 30 and teachers-theoreticians, including those leading the orchestra and choir — 5 (three of them taught only in the primary school). In the Municipal Secondary Music School (MSMS) 15 students received instrumental instruction in classes: piano (4), violin (3), viola (1), cello (1), double-bass (1), flute (1), clarinet (1), saxophone (2), trombone (1). There were 13 teachers-instrumentalists (one of the pianists taught only in the secondary school while others had classes with the SPMS' students as well) and two theoreticians (both also taught in the primary music school).

In the academic year 2015/2016 in the SPMS six-year program there were 235 students and in the four-year program 86 — the total of 321 students. They were instructed in the following: accordion (9), viola (14), flute (38), piano (59), guitar (44), clarinet (18), harpsichord (2), double-bass (2), percussion (23), trombone (3), saxophone (19), violin (58), trumpet (11), French horn (1), cello (20). The total number of teachers-instrumentalists was 49 and theoreticians (including those leading orchestras and choirs) 8 — four teachers taught only in the primary school. In the MSMS in the academic year 2015/2016 86 students began their education in the following classes: accordion (3), viola (4), flute (5), piano (11), guitar (5), clarinet (9), harpsichord (3), double-bass (3),

percussion (6), trombone (7), horn (1), saxophone (11), violin (10), trumpet (5), cello (6). The total number of teachers-instrumentalists was 35 (all of them taught also at SPMS) and instructors in theoretical subjects including orchestra and choir — 5 (one taught only at MSMS)¹¹.

From the time the Primary and Secondary Music Schools' Complex came into being, the facility has actively promoted and popularized music culture within and beyond the town. Besides, fulfilling its didactic tasks, the school gives numerous concerts. At present, it is one of the most important centers of cultural activity in Ruda Śląska.

Events which are among fixed items in the school's calendar:

- end-of-term and end-of-year concerts given at municipal cultural centers;
- concerts and meetings commemorating state anniversaries and occasional musical evenings;
- annual concerts by music making families, concerts given by teachers and alumni;
- music appreciation programs for preschoolers and youngest grade school students;
- performances by students and teachers which serve as musical settings for various events organized by City Hall, educational facilities, cultural institutions, corporations and social organizations.

Active within the school are several chamber ensembles, 1st and 2nd level choirs and chamber orchestras, a folk music ensemble and a big band. The latter was formed in 2011 at the initiative of the Music Schools' Complex (MSC) director Mirosław Krause. Two years later, the band achieved its first success — it won III place at the V National Primary Music Schools' Orchestras Festival in Będzin. This award led to others. At the 3rd National Competition *School Jazz & Festival* organized by the Krzysztof Komeda State Primary Music School in Lubaczów on May 28–30, 2014 "Big Sunny Band" was awarded the main prize in the category "Jazz and Popular Music" and the student Joanna Reczyńska — the main prize in the category "Young Popularizer of Polish Popular Music."

¹ All statistical data come from Primary and Secondary Music Schools Complex in Ruda Śląska comprehensive education plans made available by the School for the purpose of this study.

Table

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MUSIC SCHOOLS COMPLEX (P&SMSC) IN THE YEARS 2010/11 AND 2014/15

	2010/2011	2014/2015
Number of students in a six-year program at SPMS	191	235
Number of students in a four-year program at SPMS	60	86
Number of students at MSMS	15	89
Total number of students at P&SMSC	266	410
Total number of teachers — Instrumentalists at P&SMSC	31	49

In the 4th edition of the festival the main award in the category “Young Popularizer of Polish Popular Music” went to “Big Sunny Band” and the student Joanna Kąkol, while Joanna Reczyńska was awarded the main prize in the category “Jazz and Popular Music.” The youngest participant in the festival, an MSC student Jakub Karkoszka, was awarded a distinction in the category “Jazz and Popular Music” for primary music schools.

Many other chamber ensembles active within the MSC in the years 2010–2015 gained recognition at national and international festivals, competitions and reviews such as the National Chamber Music Festival “Od MoCarta do Mozarta” (“From MoCart to Mozart”) for primary and secondary music school students in Warsaw, International Jastrzębie Flute Competition, Janina Garść Festival of Contemporary Music for Pianists, All-Polish Flute Competition “Syrinx” in Kędzierzyn Koźle, Bystrzyca Kłodzka Primary Musical Schools’ Chamber Ensembles Competition, National Piano Duets Competition in Jelenia Góra, Lower Silesian Guitar Competition in Kłodzko, National Festival “Zakrecone Fleciki” in Rybnik, National Young Soloists Competition in Jaworzno, Słupca Music Encounters and others.

Expanded chamber music education allows students to develop their ability to cooperate and work within a group and to make additional use of competences acquired in individual instrument classes in a satisfactory team performance. The school provides various opportunities for public appearances during numerous concerts, presentations and programs both at the facility itself and outside it, stimulating the development of the musical, aesthetic and emotional sensitivities of the students and their interest and passion for chamber music. An important aspect in chamber music education is openness to students’ proposals and suggestions concerning the repertoire, encouragement of spontaneity and individual activities while striving for high standard of execution and appropriate choice of compositions — attractive to the students and having educational value at the same time. These are original compositions as well as arrangements and adaptations made in accordance with valid copyright laws without compromising their artistic value.

From the time the Municipal Secondary Music School began to function in 2010 till September 2015 the students and teachers of P&SMSC in Ruda Śląska participated in a total of 123 concerts for local

community. These were music appreciation programs for school and pre-school children, musical settings for various events as well as several special events concerts. They took place in many institutions in Ruda Śląska including Maksymilian Chrobok City Museum, Community Center in Ruda Śląska — Bielszowice, Henryk Bista Municipal Cultural Center, Fundacja Minionej Epoki — Museum of the People’s Republic of Poland, Municipal Public Library, Stary Orzegów Center of Civic Activity, “Patria” movie theatre, City Sports and Leisure Center, Olympians from Ruda Sport and Entertainment Hall; in social care centers and educational facilities such as: Social Welfare Home “Senior”, Adaptation Center for Disabled Children, City Nursery “Misiakowo”, Municipal Kindergartens No. 18, 38, 45; Primary Schools No. 1, 3, 4, 16; John Paul II General Education School Complex No. 3; Gustaw Morcinek High Schools Complex No.2; St. Luke Special Schools Complex No. 3; in Ruda Śląska’s parishes and churches: The Redeemer Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, St. Paul Parish, St. John the Baptist Church, St. Lawrence and Anthony Parish.

The MSC music popularization activities reach beyond Ruda Śląska. Its student ensembles presented their skills in, among other places: Silesian Culture Center “Zgoda” and The Salesians of Don Bosco Public Schools Complex in Świętochłowice, John Paul II Educational Center in Gliwice, Palace of Youth and Youth Culture House (building at 5 Tysiąclecia St.) in Katowice, Kazimierz Jaworek Social Welfare Home, Polish Association of the Blind in Chorzow, St. Adalbert Bishop and Martyr Parish in Czeladź, Browar Obywatelski — Food, Entertainment and Business Center in Tychy and The Castle in Moszna.

Genuine involvement of the students and teachers of the Primary and Secondary Music Schools Complex in Ruda Śląska in concert activities which serve the local community shows that the role of art schools is not limited to educating children and teenagers. The popularity of the school and the events it organizes among the inhabitants of the city and beyond its boundaries and the high yearly enrolment in first grades of both the primary and secondary school prove the validity of the existence of such facilities. A music school becomes an institution influencing the development of the social capital of the community in which it functions, playing an important culture-forming and animation role.