Christian musical culture in Przemyśl (1918-1939).

The major objective of the thesis is to show the view of the Christian musical culture in Przemyśl in the interwar years. The author has attempted to investigate what the culture was like, how it emerged, who influenced its development in the town, where both Roman and Greek Catholic Church centres were taking action. Apart from that, the thesis outlines the significance of the socio-secular institutions for the process of developing the love of music in population and forming their religious education. It has been achieved by collecting and systematizing the basic definitional issues and through analyzing the functioning of the centres of cultural and church life in Przemyśl between 1918 and 1939.

The first chapter, titled The centre of cultural life between 1918 and 1939 in Przemyśl provides an overview of the town as an important centre of cultural life during the mentioned period of time. The author has presented the profiles and some forms of activity of the bishops, both of Greek and Roman Catholic Church, who headed the dioceses of the both rites at that time. Special attention has been paid to those of their decisions, that contributed to forming and the development of the Christian musical culture as a part of extensive artistic life. The author has introduced various aspects of cultural life of the interwar society of Przemyśl. The chapter is also concerned with differentiated activity forms of the theatres and libraries, both secular and church ones. It also focuses on extensive periodical press. The further part of the chapter has been dedicated to the activity of the Music Society, which was a significant component of the musical culture of Przemyśl at that time, including the Christian music. The last part of the chapter deals with the activity of secular music schools, which also played an important role in people’s everyday life and served as an educational factor for the young generation.

The second chapter titled Vocal and instrumental music is the presentation of the educational centres of the Roman Catholic as well as Greek Catholic Church. The part concerning the vocal music presents the activity of the Institute for Psalmists, which trained future liturgical singing animators for the needs of the Church. It also deals with the work of the choirs, which acted by the church and secular institutions, both among the Polish and Ukrainian communities. The further part of the chapter concerning instrumental music describes the activity of the Diocesan Organist School existing by the Metropolitan Cathedral in Przemyśl, then by the Salesian Organist School. The chapter highlights the significance of those institutions for the development of the sacred music through educating many future musicians, composers and animators of the musical life. The concern about presence of the
organ in sanctuaries was the priority for the contemporary music community. The further part of the chapter is specifically concerned with the effects of orchestras’ activity. The last part presents information concerning life and artistic work of eminent musicians and composers, who became an inherent part of the multicultural landscape of the town’s music world as organizers and animators of music life.

The third chapter is devoted to the music press publishers of the interwar period. Special attention has been paid to church publishing houses, however the author also refers to secular ones as they were a very important constituent of the Christian musical culture and influenced its development, in a direct or indirect way. Firstly, prayer books and songbooks are presented, then music periodicals and coursebooks are mentioned. They were published in Przemyśl as well as in other cities and can be found in the town’s libraries’ collections. In the interwar years a lot of music publications of famous composers emerged in Przemyśl. For that reason, the author has presented those publishers in the chapter. The last part of the thesis introduces information about numerous printing presses functioning in town, as they made a considerable contribution to popularizing religious music. The chapter is titled The publishing companies concerning religious and secular music.