

**Barbara Zakrzewska-Nikiporczyk, Działalność wielkopolskich chórów kościelnych w latach 1870-1918 [The activity of church choirs in Greater Poland in the years 1870-1918], in: Muzyka Nr. 3, 1977, S. 61-73.**

The article gives a historical outline of the amateur and professional choral movement in Wielkopolska in the years 1870-1918, i.e. in the last period of the partition of Poland. In spite of unfavourable circumstances (from 1870 German authorities started to exert a germanizing influence, e.g. the "Kulturkampf" campaign initiated by Otto von Bismarck), numerous Polish church choirs were established and carried on their activities. The majority of the ensembles, however, had the status of amateur choirs and their artistic level was rather low. But there existed also several professional choirs (e.g. the Poznań Cathedral Choir, whose history reaches back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century) of ancient traditions and rich repertoire of old and new sacred music. The guiding principle of the majority of the choirs was to defend Polish culture against germanization, and thus they performed not only the sacred music with Latin texts but also Polish non-liturgical church songs.

**by the author**

**Barbara Zakrzewska-Nikiporczyk, Z dziejów polskiego świeckiego ruchu śpiewaczego w Wielkim Księstwie Poznańskim w latach 1870-1892 [The history of the Polish secular singing movement in the Great Duchy of Poznań 1870-1892], in: Muzyka Nr. 2, 1979, S. 95-112.**

Following the article on church choirs in Greater Poland the author publishes another work on secular choral ensembles in the Great Duchy of Poznań (at that time occupied by Prussia). The article brings comprehensive information on the development of secular choirs, the changing number of their members, the character of their activities, the repertoire. The author mentions people notable for particularly great merits in organizing and conducting those choirs. Much space is devoted to reports on congresses of choral societies which in those days were a major cultural and social event in the life of towns and townships. The secular choral movement in Greater Poland played an important role in supporting national identity of Poles who under Prussian rule during Poland's partition were subjected to various denationalization measures. Choirs had not only artistic but also political aims and therefore were constantly harassed and repressed by the authorities.

**by the author**