

This diploma thesis is concerned with the life and work of Jan Hanuš, a significant Czech composer of the second half of the 20th century. Hanuš was born in 1915 and died in 2004, having spent a long and fruitful life of a musical editor, composer and office holder, a life that was, however, deeply affected by the frequent political and social upheavals of the time.

The main objective of the paper is to examine Hanuš's compositional output within the genre of choral music in the broader context of his other works, and his private and social life. For this purpose, five distinctive periods of Hanuš's career are outlined (1938-1948; 1949-1954; 1955-1968; 1969-1989; 1990-2004), and in each of them the three separate facets of his life (i.e. his choral works, his compositions in other genres, and his professional as well as personal life conditions) are scrutinized and compared. Another goal is to trace the gradual development throughout the years of Hanuš's compositional style within the field of choral music, and to draw specific conclusions from the acquired findings as to the assets and shortcomings of his contribution to the genre in general. The ultimate aim of the thesis, and one whose extent goes far beyond the reach of the present work, is to contribute to the - as yet nonexistent - comprehensive assessment of Jan Hanuš's exceptional life and work.