

ABSTRACT

This dissertation thesis focuses on the person and work of Jan Nepomuk Polášek (1873–1956), a distinguished regional composer and music teacher who spent a significant part of his life in Valašské Meziříčí. Throughout his life, Polášek devoted himself to creative work, which was, to a varying degree, inspired by the Moravian Wallachian folk culture. The thesis outlines the important phases of Polášek's life including his childhood and school days, first contact with music teaching, his studies at the Brno Organ School, and, last but not least, his relationship with Leoš Janáček. The Biographical part of the thesis ends with a subchapter devoted to Polášek's work in Valašské Meziříčí until his death in 1956. Polášek's body of work includes his compositions, music-related organisational activities, music teaching, publishing and folk song collecting. The aforementioned activities are presented and analysed in the remaining chapters of this dissertation thesis.

The final chapter analyses selected instrumental, vocal-instrumental and vocal compositions of Polášek's, based on which it illustrates the key elements of his creative work. The thesis presents some entirely new findings regarding the life and work of Jan Nepomuk Polášek that are founded on many information sources the author obtained.

Key words: Jan Nepomuk Polášek, Moravian Wallachia, Valašské Meziříčí, composer, music teacher and collector, Leoš Janáček, Juliana krásná panna, folk culture, folk songs, singing, theatre, choir singing