

Abstract

The dissertation consists of a biography of and thematic catalogue of the works of the composer Václav Jan Tomášek (1774-1850), one of the most important figures in musical culture in the Czech lands during the first half of the nineteenth century. It was written based on systematic, extensive research in sources consisting both of musical notation and of verbal texts, and their subsequent organization and evaluation. It is divided into two main parts—the biography and the catalogue of works. The first of these (the biography) contains an assessment of the previous state of research, presents the results of the author's own preparatory source research, and provides a detailed biography of the composer. The second part (the catalogue of works) includes a characterization of sources used in preparing the catalogue (both musical notation and verbal texts) and the catalogue itself.

The catalogue makes use of findings from systematic study of sources deposited in music collections mainly in central Europe. Its main portion, containing descriptions of Tomášek's compositions, applies a combination of chronological and systematic arrangement. Works to which Tomášek assigned opus numbers (114 compositions) are arranged chronologically according to those numbers, while those lacking opus numbers (61 compositions) are arranged systematically. In both these portions each work is given a catalogue number. For quicker and simpler orientation the catalogue is supplemented by two brief auxiliary lists linked to the catalogue by references to catalogue numbers; the first copies the ordering of the main catalogue, while in the second all of Tomášek's works are arranged systematically. The description of a work includes its title, subtitle if any, date of composition, breakdown into movements or parts, the incipit of the musical notation, and for vocal works the incipit of the verbal text and its author.