

The Abstract

The Hymn and its Tradition in Late Medieval Bohemia

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The present thesis concerns the monophonic and polyphonic office hymns preserved in late medieval Bohemian sources. The author is mainly focused on the repertoire of the hymns written in Strahov Codex from around 1467. This manuscript of uncertain provenance contains an enormous collection of three- and four- voice polyphonic hymns which show plenty of the local characteristics. These domestic traits may be identified not only through texts devoted to indigenous Saints, but also through the melodies which form the cantus firmus in the upper voice of the hymns. The identification of these monophonic tunes in other plainchant sources could help us to determine the origin of Strahov Codex. Additionally, it is clear that this mensural manuscript contains not only music of a high artistic standard, but also a number of less polished compositions, and that it is thus an important witness to the existence of a wide range of daily musical activities in late medieval Bohemia. A crucial part of this dissertation is a critical edition of the monophonic hymn tunes preserved in Roudnice Psalter, as well as an edition of the selected polyphonic hymns written in Strahov Codex.