

## **Abstract**

This dissertation thesis is focused on music performance within the bounds of Order of the Cross with Red Star in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The history of the Knight's Order rises from the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and concerns the only original Czech church order. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Knights of the Cross belonged to the most significant patrons of Art in Czech lands. Church and monastery of St. František in Prague, the center of the Order, became the most influential culture center. The charity work of the Order of that time influenced the creation of the extraordinary institution – the Order's menza that had the significant importance for operating of organ lofts of St. František Church because it provided the sufficient amount of singers and musicians.

The research is exclusively based on non-music materials deposited in the Cross paper fond (Nr.195) consigned in the 1<sup>st</sup> department of the National Archives in Prague. According the information of the inventory department, the fond contains altogether 2315 cartons of paper material and 3306 books. Until now, the researchers have been interested in these sources only marginally which was caused mostly by its disorderliness and most important discoveries have been realized mostly just by lucky coincidences.

The main part of this work is devoted to St. František Church and Monastery in Prague, the center of the Order. It is divided into three main parts. The first part is aimed at personal data. In addition to new released names of Cross-singers, copy-writers and musicians, there is an essential part focused on two great organists, František Josef Dollhopf and Josef Seger, both involved in the church in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The second part is aimed at accounting evidence that helped to track the expenses of operating the church choir in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, it also helped to specify the questions concerning the instrumental cast. Last but not least, it helped to outline the salary conditions of hired instrumentalists and singers.

The third, essential, part of my theses is aimed at documentation of important events connected with music that were produced in the church of St. František and in monastery convent in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. These events were represented mainly by Jan Hubert Hartig, a music patron, who produced many music events in the thirties and the forties of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Among these events there is manly one to be mentioned: A jubilee-cantata Quatuor Anni Partium in 1724, produced at the occasion of name-day of František Matyáš Böhmb, a general of the Cross-Order.

For reasons of comparison of music life and producing in big cities, such as Vienna and Prague, there is also a comparison of music life in Cross-church St. Petr and Pavel in the small city of Unhošť.

The aim of presented research was firstly, an authentic track of music history of organ loft of St. František Church in Prague in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and secondly, a critical point of view of the importance of music for Order of the Cross. Despite of undeniable cultural benefit of Order of the Cross with Red Star (not only in lands of the Bohemian Crown) many questions have arisen, such as how much they went beyond the scope of the context of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or what extend was the need of money investment into the outer representation that was set up in order to other church orders in our land, especially in Prague and its surroundings.