

Summary

Church music has always been important in particular periods of the development of music, in some of them even determining. The point of this bachelor thesis named Music on the choir loft at the Church of the Advancement of Saint Cross in Starý Rožmitál is to analyze music from the oldest surviving pieces of information until nowadays. The church is dated back to the first third of the 13th century but until the 18th century the information is very fragmentary. However, we can come to a conclusion that the musical development proceeded in similar way as in the other churches because for example the hymnbook “The heavenly nightingale on the branch of life singing praise to his Creator” remained well preserved in two exemplars. In the parish chronicles there are also old records of property, which - besides other things - mention the instrumental equipment of the choir loft.

Around 1750, Antonín Platnýř let here constructed the organ that had been damaged twice by the fire; after the fire in 1933, its disposition was changed from baroque to romantic. However, the last reconstruction gave it back the original appearance and registers and brought new precious information, above others the name of well-known organist Martin Paleček.

In the middle of the 18th century the teacher Ondřej Poddaný was working here. After him the composer Jakub Jan Ryba assumed the place of the choirmaster and spent there most of his life, the whole 27 years. Most of the church compositions he wrote were probably meant for this choir loft. The aim of this thesis is thus to describe his church music and also to give an idea that the legacy of this teacher and choirmaster still lives on.

František Kašpárek was the last choirmaster. After he left, the choir came to an end and was renewed at the instance of P. Miloslav Vlk in the 1970s. Hubert Hoyer, the contemporary organist and choirmaster, took the leadership of the choir and also composed many propria, ordinarium and arranged a lot of songs for the local choir loft. Local people try to “resurrect“ the work of the composer Jakub Jan Ryba, which is illustrated by the formation of the Association of Jakub Jan Ryba that takes care of his legacy.