

Introduction

In 2007 the musicology academia of the University of Opole and the Diocesan Institute of Church Music in Opole organized an organ study conference entitled *Silesian organs* for the first time. Since then, 5 such conferences have been held in Opole (I – 2007; II – 2011; III – 2013; IV – 2015; V – 2017). Today, in retrospect, one could explicitly state that they complemented the knowledge about the history of Silesian organ building, often discovering people, dates, facts, instruments, etc. that had been utterly forgotten in the past. The published post-conference materials constitute an impressive collection of the research outcomes.

G. POŹNIAK, P. TARLINSKI (ed.), *Śląskie organy. Materiały konferencji organoznawczej zorganizowanej przez Zakład Muzyki Kościelnej i Wychowania Muzycznego Wydziału Teologicznego Uniwersytetu Opolskiego oraz Studium Muzyki Kościelnej w dniu 25 kwietnia 2007 roku* (Sympozja 69), Opole 2007.

G. POŹNIAK, P. TARLINSKI (ed.), *Śląskie organy II. Materiały konferencji organoznawczej zorganizowanej przez Katedrę Muzyki Kościelnej i Wychowania Muzycznego Wydziału Teologicznego Uniwersytetu Opolskiego oraz Studium Muzyki Kościelnej w dniu 30 marca 2011 roku* (Sympozja 81), Opole 2011.

G. POŹNIAK, P. TARLINSKI (ed.), *Śląskie organy III. Materiały konferencji organoznawczej zorganizowanej przez Katedrę Muzyki Kościelnej i Wychowania Muzycznego Wydziału Teologicznego Uniwersytetu Opolskiego oraz Diecezjalny Instytut Muzyki Kościelnej w dniu 20 marca 2013 roku* (Sympozja 84), Opole 2013.

G. POŹNIAK, P. TARLINSKI (ed.), *Śląskie organy IV. Materiały konferencji organoznawczej zorganizowanej przez Katedrę Muzyki Kościelnej i Wychowania Muzycznego Wydziału Teologicznego Uniwersytetu Opolskiego oraz Diecezjalny Instytut Muzyki Kościelnej w dniu 18 marca 2015 roku* (Sympozja 87), Opole 2015.

G. POŹNIAK (ed.), *Śląskie organy V* (Muzykologia Opolska * Studia i Materiały 3), Opole 2017.

It is noteworthy that a similar conference was organized in Katowice by the academia concentrated around Prof. Dr. hab. Julian Gembalski. It is then appropriate to express the joy that these corporate activities are still fairly dynamic, because they are the fruit of perfect cooperation and mutual respect. One may say that we have become friends with one another during these years of "friendship" with the history of Silesian organs.

However, there is no doubt that, with all the care for the organ, we overlooked one significant gap. In this part of Europe, there is not any organ study journal which would want to be a periodical that complies with the high standards of academic research, editing and marketing.

The first person who verbalized this fact was Dr. Petr Koukal from the Czech Republic. In August 2018 he turned to the author of these words with a request that Opole (our musicology department and the Diocesan Institute of Church Music) be the place of publication for such a periodical. Petr Koukal also proposed the title *Folia Organologica*. The rest developed quickly... We therefore appointed the editorial board, formulated the editing rules and had a website made. We established cooperation with an experienced publisher and after several months of work, on the day of VI Organ study conference *Silesian organs*, we have formally presented the first issue of the periodical (3 April 2019). The Academic Board of *Folia Organologica* is comprised of professors invited from Polish and foreign institutions who collaborate permanently with the Opole academia. We would like to invite to this body the eminent organ study specialists and organists.

The official description of the periodical reads as follows: *Folia Organologica* is a reviewed, international annual journal, concerned with pipe organ and organ music. It is a continuation of a non-periodical editorial series *Silesian organs*, initiated in 2007 by the Department of Church Music and Musical Education of the University of Opole and the Diocesan Institute of Church Music in Opole, which resulted in five volumes of studies on that subject. The journal presents original academic papers, mostly concerning organ building, its history and organ music performance. The periodical also includes reviews of books, journals and CDs, reports of organ study conferences, and an overview of festivals and organ concerts. The journal also provides an international forum for debate and the exchange of views related to pipe organ.

Obviously, the above profile does not exclude possible extensions of every issue's content. There will also be room for publication of texts that are different in character, e.g. memories of deceased people.

The editorial board of *Folia Organologica* intends to publish articles in the following European languages: English, Czech, French, Spanish, German, Polish, Slovak and Italian. It is important for the authors of the periodical to constantly extend the group of associates, but at the same time we want the works presented in *Folia Organologica* to be of the highest possible academic level in compliance with all research standards and corresponding to the trends of modern editing and publishing. Every December we will send a new issue to the authors, the reviewers and the subscribers, and we will publish it on our website.

Therefore, we present to you, Dear Readers, the annual *Folia Organologica*. We would like it to find its proper place and approval in the market of European musicological journals. We hope for a friendly reception of this periodical and declare openness to constructive comments and creative feedback. We believe that every reader will find here something interesting and inspiring.

Grzegorz Poźniak
Editor-in-chief of *Folia Organologica*