

Introduction

We present to you, Dear Readers, the second issue of the yearbook *Folia Organologica*. We believe that everyone will find here some interesting and inspiring articles or other useful information. The editorial board has prepared the new issue of the journal with great diligence so that its level improves continuously. The organ demands multifaceted promotion and so this statement becomes a significant motive of our actions. After the publication of the first issue of *Folia Organologica* we have received some early feedback. We want to thank you for your kind words of support and positive reviews. We are also grateful for all the constructive remarks that we carefully examine. Many of them are already incorporated in this issue. In this way, the yearbook gets to become a collective piece of work of those, for whom the organ is definitely something more than a musical instrument – it is an *opus preciosum*.

Folia Organologica is first and foremost about people. We enjoy prominent figures' cooperation; we are pleased with the journal's readers; we are glad that it is a collaborative work. However, we would like the issue of 2019 to have a particularly personal regard, which is why we dedicate it to a deserving organist, pedagogue and composer of Opole – Alfred Bączkowicz, due to his 80th birthday (born December 3, 1939, in Radzionków near Bytom) and the 45th anniversary of work in the Diocesan Institute of Church Music in Opole. He graduated from the National College of Music in Katowice at the Faculty of Composition, Theory and Music Education. In 1965 he obtained his first position in St. Margaret's church in Bytom, where he played an 8-stop *Sauer* organ (2M+P) during Sunday masses. He also conducted a mixed choir and an instrumental ensemble of the parish for a year and a half. In 1966, Bączkowicz was offered an organist position in St. Joseph's church in Zabrze. There he played a 29-stop *Rieger* organ (3M+P) for eight years. In addition, he conducted a mixed choir, a youth choir and a children's choir. Following the death of the organist of St. Barbara's church, the parish priest proposed that he held the position at the sanctuary that housed a 65-stop Carl Berschdorf organ (4M+P). However, he did not take this post because of a simultaneous offer of the organist position at the Opole cathedral. On Saturday, December 1, 1973, Alfred Bączkowicz seated himself at the cathedral console for the first time (we present it on the cover of the current issue). Since then, he did his service as the organist of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross parish in Opole for over 43 years incessantly. He is an author of numerous compositions and harmonizations of hymns and liturgical dialogues. Responsorial hymns and Gospel acclamations constitute a substantial part of his creative work, along with mass cycles (6 masses for voice and organ and 2 masses for mixed choir and organ). For didactic purposes, he compiled *100 two-voice exercises for aural training* and *Harmonic exercises*. He created works for piano and for organ as well. His liturgical compositions are well-known and performed not only in the diocese, but also

in other regions of the country. In the sheet music appendix we present *The Jubilee Mass* by Alfred Bączkowicz and an article by Fr Franciszek Koenig, which is an introduction to that musical work.

Dear Mr. Bączkowicz, *plurimos annos!*

The current issue also contains articles, reviews, discussions and other sections, according to the journal's layout. Therefore, we invite you to read it. Hoping for a warm reception of the second issue of the journal, we stay receptive to constructive feedback and creative remarks.

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