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A summary of the doctoral thesis „Warsaw Street Orchestra from Chmielna in the years 1928-2012. A monograph” by Maciej Kłociński, MA

Supervisor: Tomasz Chachulski, PhD, DSc, ProfTit

Assistant Supervisor: Magdalena Ślusarska, PhD

This thesis in the field of literary and cultural studies consists of an introduction, three main chapters, an ending, biographies of some members of the Warsaw Street Orchestra from Chmielna and an appendix containing a list of preserved recordings of the orchestra on various sound recording media. The cultural phenomenon and the role the Warsaw Street Orchestra from Chmielna played for decades have not yet become the subject of thorough scientific analysis, therefore the main goal of this thesis was to reconstruct the history and artistic achievements of this orchestra, describe its work and prepare a list of songs performed by it. The points presented in the work concern literary texts of the interwar period (song texts), poetry, music, as well as the history of the band with a rich tradition and extraordinary importance for Polish culture. The historical scope of the history of the ensemble presented in the thesis covers the period from 1928, when the two Jaworski brothers formed the street orchestra, until 2012 - the period after the death of the last leader of the orchestra, Janusz Mulewicz, in 2011, and the end of more than one year of its successor - Tadeusz Warsztocki.

This thesis was created with a deep conviction that this ensemble constituted a unique phenomenon when compared to other orchestras of the kind. Among all Warsaw bands, this one was the first to achieve great popularity. Already in the 1930s, the ensemble was well-known throughout Warsaw, and thanks to the subsequent stage and commercial activities, it grew in reputation and was appreciated not only in Poland but also around the world. The songs performed by the Orchestra became the blueprint for many performers of old musical hits. Although in the interwar period there were numerous street ensembles, only the Warsaw Street Orchestra from Chmielna managed to truly build its brand and go down in history not only on the streets of Warsaw but above all in Polish culture.

The consecutive chapters of the thesis answer the following questions:

1. What is the actual artistic profile of the ensemble? Is the Warsaw Street Orchestra from Chmielna a band playing exclusively Warsaw folklore music?
2. What styles of playing, singing and creating the band image of this orchestra have we witnessed over the years? How has the band evolved and how has it changed its artistic image? How was that achieved?

3. What is the true tradition of this orchestra? How did the Orchestra retain its original character despite changes in style and the introduction of modern performance solutions?

4. What songs did the Orchestra play and sing and what is their source? What were their genres, style and character? Who were their authors?

5. What is the current state of knowledge about the Orchestra's recordings? How many recordings have been preserved in various institutions, e.g. Polish Radio, as well as in private, personal collections?

The thesis attempts to classify the musicians and establish their relationship with the Orchestra. This classification was a difficult task since some musicians often performed in several groups at different times, and the composition of the orchestra has changed over the years. Musicians left, died, and new people came to replace them. Many musicians performed on the street occasionally, for a short time, and therefore the knowledge of them went away with them. The determination of who was connected with the Warsaw Street Orchestra from Chmielna was possible thanks to a very thorough analysis of the material under study, comprised of recordings and photos. They had to be compared with the stories and accounts of people, which survived thanks to their memories recorded in the form of interviews, most of which were authorized. Certainly, it was not possible to find information about many musicians and events in the band's life, which makes the research open-ended, and thus supplementing the study by other researchers remains vital.