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**A Report of the Nationwide Scientific Conference  
“Music in Education”, Poręba Wielka,  
September 22–23, 2016**

Music intersects with many areas of our lives. It has different designations depending on the purpose of its usage and thus can be used in the educational domain, including didactics and pedagogy. It can be treated as an important tool in enhancing the effectiveness of a teacher’s work regardless of the educational level of students attending school. Its influence on the whole personality development seems to be undermined, as almost everyone listens to it.

This tremendous scope of applications inspired the organizers of the National Scientific Conference “Music in Education” to show its crucial meaning in educational field. The organizers were: the Scientific Society Educare, the Council in Niedźwiedź, the Music School in Niedźwiedź. The Conference was arranged from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016. The Scientific Committee comprised: Dr hab. Anna Walulik, prof. Jesuit University in Krakow; Dr hab. Hanna Żuraw (Pedagogium Higher School of Social Sciences in Warsaw, the Scientific Society Educare); Prof. dr hab. Maciej Kołodziejski (Academy of Humanities in Pułtusk); Dr Maria Szymańska (the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, the Scientific Society Educare); Dr Magdalena Ciechowska (the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow); Dr Dominika Żukowska-Gardzińska (the Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the Scientific Society Educare); Dr Małgorzata Gogolewska-Tońska (Academy of Humanities in Pułtusk, the Scientific Society Educare);

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Dr Agnieszka Sojka (Jagiellonian University). The Organizing Committee included: Robert Rosiek (Headmaster of the Music School in Niedźwiedź), Sebastian Szymański (the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow), Marek Ciechowski (Jagiellonian University).

The first day of the conference was open by Robert Rosiek and Maria Szymańska who presented the aim, character, and contents of the conference, exposing the meaning of music in life, and the meaning of music in this region of Poland, for it is well known for its many folk bands, music schools, and music performances. The musical traditions belong to those elements constituting the shape of the regional culture of the Limanowa district thanks to its many landmark buildings dating back to the Middle Ages. Therefore, the head of the Niedźwiedź Council brought the participants of the Conference (about 80) into the cultural heritage atmosphere of Niedźwiedź's culture and traditions that are important for the Limanowa district. In particular, he concentrated on his council's development plans, including the huge investment in a mass complex of thermal waters. He also described the beauty and richness of the Gorce Mountains which had inspired the creativity of artists such as Władysław Orkan. Then, Dominika Żukowska-Gardzińska presented the role of music in dialogue according to John Paul II's teaching in the lecture "Music in dialogue servitude in John Paul II's teaching". She underlined that the Pope considering music not only as an artistic domain but primarily as a means for the development of humanity. The key word of John Paul II pontificate was the term of self-upbringing. Hence, he treated music as a space in which man defines his own relation to existence, truth and good. This lecture dovetailed well with the one which followed: Katarzyna Galicka's presentation entitled "Music and sport in old culture", who represented Warsaw University, shared her reflections upon the close relationship between sport and music in Ancient Greece, when Greek events always had to include religious ceremonies. The most spectacular events joining music and sport were the ancient Olympic Games and the shape of their ceremony has continued to this day. This point of the conference was the last scientific one. Later, the students of Music School and the guest Amelia Tońska performed some musical pieces presenting the quality of music skills. Participants could enjoy listening to: *Trio Scherzino*,

*Parada, Czardas, Jamaica Lullaby, Action Movie, Pirates of the Caribbean, Amelie.*

The next day started with the local governor Jan Puchała's presentation of the Limanowa district entitled "Culture and tradition of Limanowa District". His presentation covered also (beside the local traditions) the most important historical facts concerning Limanowa since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He has also indicated some places such as Szczyrzyc, Cistercian Abbey from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and the Pope John II tracks in the Beskid Wyspowy, the Our Lady of Sorrow Basilica in Limanowa as a votive offering to God for the Constitution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1791. He also mentioned the meaning of the musical folk traditions in this region by showing its diversity that depends on different tribal originality. After this introduction into the musical theme Małgorzata Gogolewska-Tońska reflected on whether Chopin could exist in a contemporary school. She paid attention to the up to date social-cultural context with many questions that are pressing ones today, such as: Does school develop students' talents? Is education through art possible? How do you evaluate own skills in comparison with others? etc. She showed the spectrum of methods that enable the integral, coherent influence of music on education. She encouraged all the participants to reflect on the fairy tales about school. Another speaker, Agnieszka Sojka in her address "The musical culture of contemporary youth versus artistic education" highlighted the importance of the school environment in forming cultural needs, appropriately directing the youth towards qualitative interests, particularly adolescents who listen to different sorts of music which do not always positively influence their personal development. Music belongs to those crucial values in an adolescents' life which perform many functions such as: relaxing, entertaining, and cognitive one. In this context, the lecturers Magdalena Ciechowska and Marek Ciechowski set their topic "Research through art: New research and therapeutic opportunities" in the context of new qualitative research in pedagogy. This method means the idiomatic research recognition, often identified with ethnography performance. They stressed the role of the researcher and researching extraordinary research situations where art is the means leading to learn attitudes, behaviours, and the experience of the researched. They provided the lecture with examples from Poland and other countries, thanks to which the



researchers can conduct their research in such domains as resocialisation, social pedagogy and pedagogical therapy. Sebastian Szymański, the next lecturer, reflected upon the topic “Sacral music in the light of own creativity” in which he emphasized the meaning of feelings, experiencing in the context of creating music and its perception within the sacrum sphere that is often unconsciously profaned. He referred to Paweł Łukaszewski’s interview in which the differences between sacral and secular music were described. Participants had the chance to get acquainted with the musical score of the masterpiece *Awaking* covering Jan Twardowski’s words. The musical piece *Wishing you* by Sebastian Szymański performed by Joanna Sochacka was included in the lecture “Music in chosen didactic methods inspiring the students and teachers’ creativity” by Maria Szymańska. While depicting creativity as a personal feature, she exposed the meaning of imagination in the context of the didactic method classification, where music performs an important role and has a pedagogical function. She also showed the positive and negative influence of music on the receivers’ personality by drawing from her own experience as a teacher.

The second day of the conference was enriched by the performances of musicians who represented different styles of music at a high level. Hence, the participants could taste the colours of the music in different its spaces. Warm atmosphere of this conference fosters building constructive relationships between the lecturers, musicians, and those who took part in it. The conference was dedicated to teachers, educators, and students. It was closed by Janusz Potaczek, the head of Niedźwiedź council, who expressed his gratitude to the other organizers of this conference, and those who were actively involved in it, including all the participants.

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