

Abstract

The presented work deals with the research of the Gospel antiphons of the pre-Lenten period of the liturgical year. Its main goal is, based on the antiphon variation, to reveal different choral traditions and to contribute to the understanding of the spread of the choral repertoire in medieval Europe.

Similar to the post-Pentecost period (i.e. after the feast of the descent of the Holy Spirit), also in the pre-Lenten period, there are series of antiphons in the sources (antiphonaries, breviaries or tonars) that reflect the Sunday pericope of the Gospel. These antiphons were then sung at various places in the service – at vespers *ad Magnificat*, at matins in the third nocturne, at lauds *ad Benedictus* and at minor hours. Similar to the case of gospel antiphons of the post-Pentecosten period (Eben and Demská, n.d.), antiphons of this type have the potential to document various choral traditions of medieval Europe, based on the repertoire of antiphons in individual sources, their textual, but also melodic-modal variation.

The methodology of the work is as follows. First of all, we determined the source sample according to diversity and availability - here we mainly reflect provenance, period of creation/use and *cursus* (monastic/secular). These manuscripts are divided into five geographical groups: Central-European, German, French, Aquitaine and Italian. Subsequently, we created a melodic catalogue of antiphons containing their transcripts and a concordance database containing text variants of antiphons, their mode (melodic version) and their liturgical positions for each researched source. Subsequently, on the basis of the detected variation, we try to reveal whether the antiphons of the pre-Lenten period also reflect liturgical traditions, and if so, to what extent they correspond with the provenance or the period of origin of the examined sources. The research can also contribute to clarifying the prehistory of the pre-Lenten period itself, since its origin is only weakly reflected in historical sources (Froger, 1946).

Keywords

gregorian chant, antiphon, shrovetide, pre-Lenten period, septuagesima, sexagesima, quinquagesima, liturgical tradition, medieval Europe