

SUMMARY – Liturgical Music after Vatican II. in the Czech Republic

The beginnings of the sacred music on our territory are connected with the outset of Christianity in the 2nd half of the 9th century. In more than thousand years the development of the sacred music went through many stages, from choral and one-voice religious songs to magnificent vocal-instrumental works. From all these periods musical compositions have been preserved which prove a variety of interpretation of liturgical texts as well as the invention of composers.

Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican summarized the informations about sacred music into the constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, specifically in the chapter Num. 6. The sacred music should be based in gregorian chant, which is the most important wealth of the Church. The basic language is Latin, but there is a big area for the national languages. The Vatican II. prohibits no kind of music, but there are some regulars. The sacred music serve God, its musical means of expression don't contain secular elements.

There are two epochas after Vatican II in our territory. The first is until 1989 – the period of deep totalitarianism, the second is after velvet revolution; this period brought freedom. In the period of Communism, people, who devote liturgical music were prosecuted. Thanks freedom many composers started to compose a lot of sacred music and the concert programms are full of this kind of music.

The liturgical music is in our republic popular, but it sounds rather then at a concert in the church. The growing number of compositions with sacred topics constitutes a promising outlook for future, bringing hope along that in spite of the secularisation of the society this area of music will be preserving its unique place in the context of the Czech contemporary culture.