



PaedDr. Michaela Šeligová, PhD.  
 Inštitút Juraja Páleša v Levoči  
 Slovakia

## EDUCATION OF CANTORS IN THE ROMAN-CATHOLIC TEACHER'S INSTITUTE IN SPISSKA KAPITULA

### WYCHOWANIE KANTORÓW W RZYMSKOKATOLICKIM INSTYTUCIE NAUCZYCIELSKIM W SPISKIEJ KAPITULE

The Roman – Catholic Teachers Institute in Spiška Kapitula was the first teacher's institute in Slovakia. It was established by J. L. Pyrker (1772–1847) in the school year 1819/20. Lack of teachers and low level of their education was the main Argument for the establishment. The first principal of the institute was Juraj Paleš (1753-1833).

Since its establishment Roman – Catholic Teacher's Institute prepared future teacher to being cantors. From the beginning in 1819 the main emphasis was on teaching of music and singing. Suitable candidates could be only those who have a musical ear and music conditions for further growth. Selection of candidates, professors of music and singing were treated very sensitively and responsibly. Part of the preparation was also preparing for cantoring, thus the emphasis was placed on learning to play on organ and singing. In addition, candidates learned to play violin, piano and brass instruments in the beginning of the existence of the Institute. In 1913 cantor's exams to which candidates could be enrolled were introduced.<sup>1</sup> The most preferred candidates were from Spis diocese. As mentioned in The Organization Statute<sup>2</sup> the Institute should educate teachers – organists for Spis diocese. The focus was mainly on practical training and public performance. Candidates had to demonstrate their skills every Sunday morning at St. Mass, where they played on the organ and sing songs in the national language.

Cantor's degree was not initially mentioned in the diploma. Since 1906 it has been shown in the teaching diplomas by a Bishop's office number 557 and 881/1906. Under that decision, each candidate was required to attend classes and pass the cantor exams<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Miškovič, A.: *Dejiny rím. - kat. učiteľského ústavu v Spišskej Kapitule*. In: *Pamätník 110 ročnice založenia rímsko-katolíckeho učiteľského ústavu v Spišskej Kapitule*. Trnava, 1931, s. 127.

<sup>2</sup> Planum Institutii Praeparandorum ad Ludi – Magisteria vydaná J. Pálešom, z roku 1819.

<sup>3</sup> Miškovič, *Dejiny rím.-kat. učiteľského ústavu v Spišskej Kapitule*, 1931, s. 152.



Cantor's exams were introduced in 1913. The tests consisted of Liturgics, Church singing, harmony. Diploma is issued with the seal of the Institute<sup>4</sup>.

Exams for internist were usually early in June, for external students in different time during the school year. The candidates have to enroll the exams. Only one reparation of exam was allowed in case a candidate failed, or he was retested (reprobovany) in half a year (for e.g. in school year 1928/29 there were 27 internal and 8 external candidates which were enrolled to the exams. 1 was reprobovany, reparation of exams was allowed to 9 candidates and 25 received cantor's diploma<sup>5</sup>. In the school year 1929/30 exams were enrolled by 27 internal and 4 external candidates, from this 3 were reprobovany, 11 were allowed to repair the exams and 17 candidates received cantor's diploma<sup>6</sup>.

Exams were held under a chairmanship of a main Inspector of diocese. In 1914 – 1930 the main inspector was Ján Štuckner (died in 11<sup>th</sup> March 1930). From 26<sup>th</sup> May 1930 canon Jozef Tomanócy. Main attention belongs to preparation of cantors which was linked with all musical subjects. Main focus was on singing and playing organ. In forth-year teacher's institute the play on organ was taught in the third and the forth class for 2 hours weekly. In teacher's academy in forth and fifth class 1 hour per week. After the year 1945 again in the third and the forth class 2 hours per week. Gregorian singing as an optional subject was implemented in the school 1929/30. All students from above mentioned classes were attending this subject and it was taught by teacher of music and singing<sup>7</sup>.

Students could practice in the cathedral, where an organ was at disposal in the Zapolsky Chapel, also in dormitory chapel and since 1936 in the drawing hall, where new modern double-manual organ was installed. In the dormitory and in the school were harmonies with pedals, where students were practicing according a time schedule<sup>8</sup>.

Except this all students were attending daily preying and st. mass in the home chapel. On Sundays and during holy days there were exhorts led by spiritual, which were mandatory for all students. On Sundays and during holy days and during working days from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> November and from Easter until the end of the school year were attended on st. mass in the cathedral. Student usually had „recitation st. mass” with singing sections. Students from higher classes played on organ during student's st. mass in the Zapolsky Chapel and were led by professor of music. Together they were attending on May's and October's worships.

<sup>4</sup> Griger, M.: *Hudobná výchova na Rímskokatolíckom učiteľskom ústave v Spišskej Kapitule v rokoch 1819–1949*, s. 5.

<sup>5</sup> Výročná školská správa rím.-kat. učiteľského ústavu v Spišskej Kapitule za školský rok 1928/29, s. 5. ŠOBA - L, inv. č. 4798, sign. I. A 5/106.

<sup>6</sup> Výročná školská správa rím.-kat. učiteľského ústavu v Spišskej Kapitule za školský rok 1928/29, s. 5. ŠOBA - L, inv. č. 4799, sign. I. A 5/106.

<sup>7</sup> Výročná školská správa učiteľskej akadémie v Spišskej Kapitule za šk. rok 1946/47, s. 4. ŠOBA - L, inv. č. 8856, sign. I A5/106.

<sup>8</sup> *Náčrt dejín Rím. Kat. učiteľského ústavu a učiteľskej akadémie v Spišskej Kapitule v rokoch 1929–1949* (xerokópia), ŠOBA - L, fond Učiteľská akadémia Spišská Kapitula, oddelenie dokumentácia, s. 6.



Professor of music used to play on organ during whole year on Sundays on singing st. masses. Students from higher classes were singing on the chancel. Future organist and cantors played daily in dormitory chapel during the winter time st. masses<sup>9</sup>.

Bishop office in Spišská Kapitula set a commission for cantor's exams on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1946. The commission had an own stamp. Name of the commission was written there, in the circle st. Cecil was playing on organ.<sup>10</sup>

From the whole number of students (1777) 827 students obtained the cantors diplomas between years 1913–1949. Rarely there were women (after year 1918 just Mária Zaniová obtained diploma in 1928).<sup>11</sup>

Graduates had a lot of problems with cantor's position. Prelate and teacher Vojtech Wick (1873-1955) mentioned some of them. In the article Church singing and cantor's – organist's question he wrote: „*The teacher's role is becoming increasingly connected with cantoring. Teachers, with little exception, do not like cantoring, some take it as a nuisance. Association of Catholic Teachers ZUS turned to the main church authorities and provincial school board that teachers should be exempted from playing on organ during the week. The problem was also addressed to the school board and the bishop choir, but it was unable to give a final decision probably because the majority would be greeted with relief offended believers who paid cantor emoluments to teacher-cantor authorities to play in morning during weekdays. Incompatibility of cantoring and the teaching profession is no longer possible in many places and can be easily separated*”<sup>12</sup>.

Some advice addressed to cantors are also interesting: „*Teach mainly believers to sing properly. The people love singing and they appreciate to one who give them passion for singing. Focus on children's singing teaching. Implementing of children's voices to the church singing can raise the spirit. The teaching of singing is very exhausted and difficult, however it is a spring of many spiritual passions. Teaching have to be provided in the school or in the similar suitable place. Church can not be used as a place for singing training. You can show the result of practicing to Jesus Christ there. During the st. mass people should sing not just cantor. It is good to teach double, triple or forth-voice singing but as a result of this can not be that the people will not sing. Watch the singing movement, it can not be very fast or very slow. Also text should be the same. This was also mentioned by bishop's corps. Prepare a good organ. Without an organ singing is empty, without any color. Ensure you have a good bag pusher. The most effective would be a bell-founder or sacristan as children break the bags very often. During the summer season it very difficult to ask them to do this job. Pay attention on chorus, how the young people are singing*”<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> Výročná školská správa rím.-kat. učiteľskej akadémie v Spišskej Kapitule za školský rok 1943/44, s. 12. ŠOBA-L, inv. č. 23219, sign. I. A 5/106.

<sup>10</sup> Griger, M.: *Hudobná výchova na Rímskokatolíckom učiteľskom ústave v Spišskej Kapitule v rokoch 1819–1949*, s. 5.

<sup>11</sup> Griger, *Hudobná výchova na Rímskokatolíckom učiteľskom ústave v Spišskej Kapitule v rokoch 1819–1949*, s. 6.

<sup>12</sup> Wick, V.: *Cirkevný spev a otázka kantorov – organistov*. In: CANTATE DOMINO. Zborník statí o rím.-kat. gregoriánskom a ľudovom cirkevnom speve a hudbe, zv. IV. S príspevím odborných autorov zostavil L. Suchý. Spišská Kapitula – Spišské Podhradie 1980, s. 6.

<sup>13</sup> Wick, *Cirkevný spev a otázka kantorov – organistov*, s. 8.



After 1945 the system of teacher preparation was changed. The academy was nationalized and again it had 4 classes. The changes were in curriculum and studying plans. Music, play on musical instruments and singing were taught 2 hours per week. In the higher classes it was just 1 hour per week. This plan was valid after termination of the institute (1945).

Michaela Šeligová

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#### **SUMMARY:**

##### **Education Of Cantors In The Roman-Catholic Teacher's Institute In Spisska Kapitula**

The first center of the in Spis was the Roman-Catholic Teacher's Institute in Spisska Kapitula, which was preparing future teachers for being cantors. The purpose of this article is to describe education of cantors, their preparation for being cantors and cantor's exams in this institute.

**Keywords:** cantor, organist, education, cantor's exams.

#### **STRESZCZENIE:**

##### **Wychowanie kantorów w Rzymskokatolickim Instytucie Nauczycielskim w Spiskiej Kapitule**

Pierwszym ośrodkiem edukacji na Spiszu był Rzymskokatolicki Instytut Nauczycielski w Spiskiej Kapitule, który od czasów swojego powstania przygotowywał przyszłych nauczycieli również do pełnienia zadań kantora. Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie wychowania i edukacji kantorów w tym instytucie nauczycielskim, ich przygotowanie do tego zadania, a także przedstawienie egzaminów kantorskich.

**Słowa kluczowe:** kantor, organista, wychowanie, egzaminy kantorskie.