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# 25 years of the Archdiocesan Music School in Krakow. History and the present

In 2023, the Archdiocesan Music School in Krakow celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is an opportunity to look back at the history of the school and highlight its unique place on the map of Polish artistic education.

## 1. Archdiocesan Organist Study Centre

The origins of the Archdiocesan Music School go back to the 1970<sup>s</sup>, a period of challenges to the liturgy after the Second Vatican Council. As a result of the conciliar reform, a Liturgical Institute was established at the Faculty of Theology in Krakow. Beside the perspective of training specialists responsible for the new liturgy or art, there was also a need to train church musicians. Thus, the long-standing director of the Institute, Rev. Dr Waclaw Świerzawski (later professor, Rector of the Pontifical Academy of Theology and bishop of diocese of Sandomierz) initiated the establishment of the Archdiocesan Organist Study Centre. The Centre, appointed by the then Metropolitan of Krakow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, operated within the Liturgical Institute. It was an offshoot of the idea that every diocese of the post-conciliar Church should have a school for training organists, so that the faithful could actively participate in the liturgy celebrated in the national language. For many years the school was located in the Priests' House at 10 St Mark's Street, next at 20 Kanonicza Street, and later at 4 Szujskiego Street. For many years the Associate Professor Marian Machura was the school's headmaster, and in 1991 he was replaced by Wiesław Delimat.

It seemed to me that, as an organist study centre, we were somewhat detached from the training of musicians in art education in Poland. We met once a week for one afternoon, and consequently these classes were few. And at the same time, it was impossible to study more, because the classes

were paid for by the students and we used this tuition fee to pay the lecturers. So I wanted to create a situation in which we would be integrated into the professional system of musicians' education, so that we could teach even more comprehensively,

recalls Prof. Wiesław Delimat.

These plans were enthusiastically addressed by Rev. Robert Tyrała, then chairman of the Archdiocesan Commission for Church Music in Krakow, now a professor and Rector of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. As the responsible for music in the archdiocese, appointed by the Metropolitan of Krakow, Rev. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Rev. Tyrała presented to the cardinal a vision for the establishment of a professional school, which met with overwhelming approval. Thanks to the commitment of the Metropolitan, with the kind help of the then diocesan bursar, Msgr. Mark Głównia, who was responsible for the documentation and infrastructure side, in 1998 the centre was transformed into the Archdiocesan Organist School, run by the Archdiocese of Krakow.

## 2. Archdiocesan Organist School

The Archdiocesan Organist School, educating at the level of music school of the second degree, was – along with the Salesian Secondary School of Music in Lutomiersk, continuing the tradition of the Salesian Organist School in Przemyśl – a pioneering initiative on a national scale. Several other schools of this type in Poland (e.g. in Gliwice and Bielsko-Biała) were established only in subsequent years. Since the first day of the school's existence, i.e. since September 1, 1998, Wiesław Delimat has been its headmaster. The school was entered in the register of non-public art schools and establishments kept by the Minister of Culture and Art, and since then its inception has been supervised by the Centre for Art Education. The school was based in the building of the Archdiocese of Krakow at 4 Szujskiego Street, which had previously housed the study centre. Thirty-six pupils were enrolled in the newly-established school, and, including pupils from the upper grades continuing their education, there were seventy-five students in the first year of operation. From the beginning, classes were run in the afternoon so that the high school students could participate.

Following the first year of operation, in September 1999, the Ministry of Culture and Art granted the Archdiocesan Organist School the privileges of a public school for an indefinite period of time. This decision was made owing to a positive

**METROPOLITA KRAKOWSKI**

2096

**DEKRET**

ustanawiający Archidiecezjalną Szkołę Organistowską

Niniejszym, mając na uwadze potrzebę pełniejszego uczestnictwa ludu wiernego w liturgii, ustanawiam z dniem 1 sierpnia 1998 roku Archidiecezjalną Szkołę Organistowską.

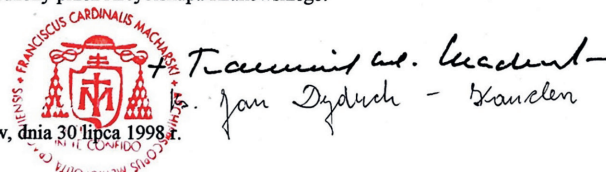
Szkoła kontynuuje wieloletnią działalność Archidiecezjalnego Studium Organistowskiego przy Instytucie Liturgicznym Wydziału Teologicznego Papieskiej Akademii Teologicznej w Krakowie.

Celem Szkoły jest wszechstronne przygotowanie muzyczne kandydatów do sprawowania funkcji organisty kościelnego i ich formacja duchowa.

Patronat nad Szkołą sprawuje Instytut Liturgiczny Wydziału Teologicznego Papieskiej Akademii Teologicznej oraz Archidiecezjalna Komisja do Spraw Muzyki Kościelnej w Krakowie.

Działalność Archidiecezjalnej Szkoły Organistowskiej określa Regulamin zatwierdzony przez Arcybiskupa Krakowskiego.

Kraków, dnia 30 lipca 1998 r.



*Franciszek Macharski*  
*Jan Dyduszyński - Stauden*

Fig. 1. Decree of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow Franciszek Macharski of 30 July 1998.

assessment of the school's annual activities by the inspector of the Centre for Artistic Education, Ms Lidia Skrzyaniarz. As a result of the newly granted rights, the school was able to award state certificates, and not just certifications, as had been the case not only for one year of its operation, but also for all the years of the Archdiocesan Organist Study Centre's operation. Moreover, the tradition, which exists to this day, was already being practised, that graduates of the organ class receive a professional diploma signed by the Metropolitan of Krakow, allowing them to take up the ministry of organist in the Archdiocese of Krakow.

It is also worth mentioning that there were no restrictions in terms of age at the Archdiocesan Organist Study Centre. These appeared with the transformation of the study centre into a school with the privileges of a public school. Therefore, in order to meet the expectations of active organists of a slightly older age, for several years the school ran Saturday training courses.

### **3. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski Archdiocesan Music School**

Another important caesura in the development of the school came in the next centenary year – 2006. After eight years, the school had to leave the building at 4 Szuskiego Street, which was already in a poor state of repair.

The building was handed over to Caritas in Cracow and a major refurbishment was commissioned. In 2004, on the recommendation of Cardinal Macharski, together with Fr. Robert Tyrała, we started looking for a new seat for the school. We considered various locations, including the adjoining facilities of the Divine Mercy Church in Nowy Prokocim housing estate. Eventually, the school acquired a building in Stary Prokocim in Cracow, on the parish grounds of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church at 35A Prosta Street. It had been built with a catechetical house in mind, but when religious instruction entered schools, it stood unused. In the meantime, we have gained a spacious premises, twice as big as before,

says the school's headmaster, Prof. Delimat.

However, the new building, which had previously stood empty, needed to be adapted for use. This was done by the Curia of the Archdiocese of Krakow at an expense of several million zloty. Thanks to the director's various efforts, the school was gradually equipped with instruments and blackboards, and the façade, car park and basement were finished. A grant for the purchase of desks and chairs was provided by the Rector of the Pontifical Academy, Fr Prof. Jan Dyduch. The

school was given the right to stay in the parish building free of charge for several years. After this period, the parish donated the building to the diocese, and the diocese granted the school the right of permanent use and administration of the building for an indefinite period.

The acquisition of new, much larger premises additionally enabled the establishment of a primary (first-level) music school for children and young people aged 6–16 in the 2006/2007 school year. As a result, the inhabitants of this district of Krakow, which didn't have such a rich cultural offer comparing to others, gained an interesting opportunity for musical education. In the first year of the primary music school's existence, 25 children were admitted to the first class. The establishment of the primary school was followed by the change of the name of the Archdiocesan Organist School to the Rev. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski Archdiocesan Secondary School of Music. In both levels, the school began to educate not only organists, but also young musicians wishing to explore the secrets of playing the piano, violin, guitar, cello or wind instruments.

The new changes were sealed on November 29, 2006. At that time, in the presence of three cardinals from Krakow – Archbishop Metropolitan of Krakow Rev. Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Rev. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski and Rev. Cardinal Stanisław Nagy SCJ – a solemn consecration of the building and the new mechanical organ from Damian Kaczmarczyk workshop took place. It was when the school was named after Rev. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski.

Together with Fr. Robert Tyrąła, we had a long-standing idea that the school should be named after Cardinal Macharski, who was, by the way, a great lover of music. He was the person who had the greatest influence on where we were and what we were doing. The Cardinal was courageous and uncompromising in all the actions that were needed, declares Wiesław Delimat, who in April 2007 was awarded the Knight Order of Saint Sylvester (*Equester Ordo Sancti Silvestri Papae*). This order, awarded by Pope Benedict XVI, has been conferred since 1841 on civilian lay people for outstanding achievements in various fields of science and art.

The following decade, on November 19, 2013 to be exact, saw the blessing of the newly opened concert hall located on level -1 and the new Schuke organ with 36 stops. This instrument, imported from Germany, was previously owned by the Music Academy in Cologne. The ceremony was presided by bishop Tadeusz Pieronek.



ARCYBISKUP STANISŁAW DZIWIŚ  
METROPOLITA KRAKOWSKI

### DEKRET

Niniejszym, mając na uwadze konieczność dostosowania istniejących struktur do nowych uwarunkowań prawnych, z dniem 4 marca 2006 roku dokonuję zmiany nazwy Archidiecezjalnej Szkoły Organistowskiej. Nowa nazwa Szkoły brzmi: „Archidiecezjalna Szkoła Muzyczna I i II stopnia”.

Z dniem 4 marca 2006 roku powołuję do istnienia Archidiecezjalną Szkołę Muzyczną I stopnia. Archidiecezjalna Szkoła Muzyczna II stopnia kontynuuje dotychczasową działalność Archidiecezjalnej Szkoły Organistowskiej.

Celem obydwu Szkół jest wszechstronne i całościowe kształcenie muzyczne dzieci i młodzieży oraz przygotowanie muzyczne kandydatów do sprawowania funkcji muzyka kościelnego i ich formacja duchowa.

Organem prowadzącym Archidiecezjalną Szkołę Muzyczną I i II stopnia jest Archidiecezja Krakowska. Działalność Szkół określają Statuty zatwierdzone przez Metropolitę Krakowskiego.

Kraków, dnia 4 marca 2006 r.



*Stanisław Dziwisz*  
Arcybiskup Metropolita

*les. Piak-Maj*  
Kancelarz Kurii



Arcybiskup Marek Jędraszewski  
Metropolita Krakowski

**AKT ZAŁOŻYCIELSKI**  
publicznej szkoły muzycznej II stopnia  
wydany przez Arcybiskupa Metropolitę Krakowskiego  
w dniu 20 grudnia 2017 roku

Działając na podstawie art. 88 ust. 1-4 w związku z art. 8 ust. 2 pkt 2 ustawy z dnia 14 grudnia 2016 roku Prawo oświatowe (Dz. U. z 2017 r. poz. 59 z późniejszymi zmianami) w imieniu Archidiecezji Krakowskiej, tworzę z dniem 1 września 2018 roku Archidiecezjalną Szkołę Muzyczną II stopnia.

§ 1.

Nazwa szkoły ma następujące brzmienie: Archidiecezjalna Szkoła Muzyczna II stopnia im. ks. kard. Franciszka Macharskiego w Krakowie.

§ 2.

Szkoła będzie ogólnodostępna dla kandydatów.

§ 3.

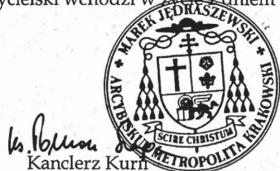
Szkoła funkcjonować będzie na podstawie statutu spełniającego warunki statutu szkoły, o których mowa w art. 98 i 99 ustawy Prawo oświatowe i w przepisach wykonawczych.

§ 4.

1. Organem prowadzącym szkołę będzie Archidiecezja Krakowska, na której czele stoi Arcybiskup Metropolita Krakowski, 31-004 Kraków, ul. Franciszkańska 3.
2. Nadzór pedagogiczny nad szkołą sprawować będzie Minister właściwy do spraw kultury i ochrony dziedzictwa narodowego.
3. Szkoła finansowana będzie ze środków budżetu państwa.

§ 5.

Akt założycielski wchodzi w życie z dniem 1 września 2018 roku.



*Ks. J. Kurm*  
Kancelarz Kurii

+ *Marek Jędraszewski*

✠ Marek Jędraszewski  
Arcybiskup Metropolita Krakowski

Fig. 3. Deed of incorporation of the public music school of the second degree issued by the Archbishop Metropolitan of Krakow on 20 December 2017.

The last landmark caesura was the 2018/2019 school year, when, at the suggestion of headmaster Delimat, Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski requested that the Archdiocesan Secondary School of Music gain the status of the free public school. As the headmaster admits, this posed a difficult challenge, because until then there had been a clear division between ministerial and local government schools. However, the then Director of the Department of Artistic Education and Cultural Education, Lidia Skrzyaniarz, had already understood the need for this type of unique establishment as an inspector of the CAE (Centre of Artistic Education) and kindly accepted the application. As a result, starting from January 1, 2019, tuition fees were lifted and the school began to receive a 100% subsidy per pupil. Tuition became free for all students.

#### 4. Student

Care for the all-round development of the students of the Archdiocesan Music School – several dozen of whom have become winners and finalists of national and international competitions and Olympiads – is manifested on many levels. ASM's students have taken part, among others, in the solemn Holy Mass celebrated on Krakow's Blonie by the Holy Father John Paul II (2002), the XXXIV International Congress of Pueri Cantores (2007), the 2nd World Apostolic Congress of Mercy (WACOM) in Krakow (2011), the Congresses of the Polish Federation of Pueri Cantores (Rzeszow 2017, Lublin 2019), and occasional solemn concerts (e.g. on the occasion of the anniversary of Cardinal Franciszek Macharski's priestly ordination in 2015, a year before his death).

In the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 school years, the school took part in the „Good Start” programme to support the professional development of artistically and musically talented young people. As a result, additional classes, master classes, seminars, lectures and training sessions were organised. Instruments, teaching aids and equipment were purchased, and excursions were organised.

Since the school year 2007/2008, artistic cooperation has begun with the Czeczów Manor in nearby Biezanów, where concerts have been organised with the participation of ASM students. The school regularly holds Christmas wafer-sharing meetings, holy masses at the end of the school year or prayer meetings on the occasion of important feasts of the liturgical year under the leadership of the school chaplain, Stanisław Mieszczak SCJ. There are also regular trips, both to different parts of Poland – to Częstochowa, Katowice, Leżajsk, Poznań and Gniezno, Warsaw, Wrocław – and abroad – to Spain, Germany, France, Ukraine and Italy.



The school has as many as nine organ instruments (including seven mechanical pipe organs, designed in a variety of styles), representing the most diverse instrumentation of its kind in the country. Students also have pianos at their disposal (including one Steinway & Sons brand), a copy of a Baroque harpsichord, traditional and digital pianos on which students can practice between classes, as well as modern multimedia boards and audiophile hi-fi equipment. Classrooms are decorated with portraits of the composers painted by the acclaimed illustrator, graphic designer and painter Małgorzata Flis.

Since the establishment of the secondary school in 1998, 661 students have been enrolled. Since the establishment of the primary school in 2006, 443 students have been enrolled. In total, more than 1,100 students have entered the Archdiocesan Music School. Owing to the operation of the two-degree music school, as well as the Inter-University Institute of Church Music (at Bachelor's and Master's level) located in the same building, students can undergo a complete process of professional music education.

## 5. Master

Two national competitions of great interest organised by the Centre for Artistic Education has been taking place at the Secondary School of Music: The Krakow Competition for Young Organists (since 2008, in cooperation with the F. Chopin Secondary Music School) and the music history knowledge competition *20 Views on...* (since 2017). Since 2016, the Primary School of Music has annually become the space for the competing participants of the nationwide piano contest *Colourful notes*.

The school has also organised symposia (*Johann Sebastian Bach and his times* – in collaboration with the Polish Bach Society), a series of meetings entitled *Closer to Chopin* (to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birth) and academic sessions (*The spirituality of Johann Sebastian Bach, In the circle of German organ music: Schumann – Mendelssohn – Liszt – Reger*).

A very important element in the functioning of the school is publishing, undertaken mainly by the ASM pedagogues in cooperation with the Archdiocesan Commission for Church Music and the Inter-University Institute of Church Music. Under the banner of the CMC (Church Music in Krakow), sheet music and CD publications are issued. The Wawel Songbook, which has been printed in thousands of copies since 1999, is of particular interest, as well as the other liturgical aids for organists – *God Rich in Mercy, Te Deum laudamus, Devotions, Christian Funerals*.

The teaching staff comprises several dozen people, including those – apart from the school’s headmaster Prof. Delimat – who have been associated with the school since its early years: Teresa Arend, Aleksandra Gawlik, Marta Machura-Czarakcziwa, Mieczysław Tuleja, Marek Wolak. They all strive to fulfil the mission of educating students who are conscious and sensitive to the beauty of music and liturgy.

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Through its history and its embedding in the diocese, the primary task of the Archdiocesan Music School is the training of organists. Most of the organists active today in the Archdiocese of Krakow are ASM graduates. Some carry out their mission in other Polish dioceses and also abroad. However, also by educating musicians playing other instruments (as well as vocalists since the school year 2022/2023), the school contributes to the development of sensitivity and comprehensive musical development. The intimate, friendly atmosphere and school events foster the integration of students also between classes, and teachers find it easier to observe the work of their pupils. The love of music, which the school tries to ignite in the hearts of its students, is rooted in people who 25 years ago were willing to share this love with others – Prof. Wiesław Delimat, the school’s founder and headmaster, Rev. Prof. Robert Tyrała, and above all Fr Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the patron and good spirit of ASM.

## Abstract

### 25 years of Archdiocesan Music School in Krakow. History and the Present

In 2023, the Rev. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski Archdiocesan Music School in Krakow celebrates its 25th anniversary. The present article discusses the history of the institution – the activities of the Archdiocesan Organist Study Centre, from which the jubilarian school originated, the circumstances of the creation of the Archdiocesan Organist School in 1998 and the expansion of its activities in 2006 to the Archdiocesan Primary and Secondary School of Music. Through the analysis of documents from the school’s archives, the prospects for the development of students and the activities of teachers are presented. The enormous role in the history of the school played by three people is also outlined – Prof. Wiesław Delimat, the school’s founder and headmaster, Rev. Prof. Robert Tyrała, the current Rector of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, and above all Rev. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, patron and good spirit of Archdiocesan Music School.

**Keywords:** Archbishop Stanisław Dziwisz, Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski, Archbishop Franciszek Macharski, Rev. Cardinal Franciszek Macharski Archdiocesan School of Music in Krakow, Archdiocesan Organist Study Centre, Archdiocesan Primary and Secondary School of Music, music education, organist

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[www.asm1.edu.pl](http://www.asm1.edu.pl)  
[www.asm2.edu.pl](http://www.asm2.edu.pl)

**Marek Dolewka** – dr, Graduate of the Institute of Musicology (2012) and the Institute of Religious Studies (2015) of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. He continued his studies at the University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and the University of Vienna. His master's thesis entitled *Manifestations of interest in the music and figure of Arvo Pärt in Poland in 2005–2010* was honoured with The Ray E. and Ruth A. Robinson Musicology Award. He was awarded the Rev. Prof. Hieronim Feicht Award by the Musicologists' Section of the Polish Composers' Union for his doctoral dissertation entitled *Dimensions of Silence in European Music since the 1960s*, also written under the supervision of Prof. Małgorzata Woźna-Stankiewicz. Editor-in-chief of the Jagiellonian University's Young Musicologists Quarterly from 2014 to 2021. Winner of the „Młoda Polska” Scholarship of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. Since 2013 he has been working at the Secondary Music School in Krakow, and since 2018 he has been the deputy director there.