

Preface

AFTER an interlude of several years, the series *Monumenta artis musicae Sloveniae* again presents a volume of works by Iacobus Handl-Gallus (Carniola, 1550–Prague, 1591). In the decade between 1985 and 1995, the composer's major works were published in nineteen newly edited volumes. These include sixteen Mass settings (*Selectiores quaedam missae*, 1580), Handl's monumental collection of motets (*Opus musicum*, 1586, 1587, and 1590) and two volumes of moral harmonies (*Harmoniae morales*, 1589–1590 and *Moralia*, 1596). A modern edition containing two occasional works was published in 2015 (*Undique flammatis*, 1579 and *Epicedion harmonicum*, 1589). In addition, a selection of intabulations of Handl's compositions has been available since 2009 and a volume of eight compositions preserved in manuscript has been available since 1996 (MAMS 28).

The present volume is a continuation of the volume MAMS 28. It contains six double-choir motets which survive in manuscript only under the name of Handl and which are preserved in their entirety: i.e., in all eight parts. Since the authorship of Handl cannot be fully proven for any of the compositions, and since some motets are

ascribed in the sources not only to Handl, several possible authors are given for some of the motets in this edition.

The situation of transmission is complex for all works and requires a detailed study of the sources and their genesis. Although most of the motets survive in multiple sources, the copies sometimes differ greatly from each other. Selecting the best and most appropriate source for this edition has proven extraordinarily arduous. The historical circumstances, the transmission of the compositions and their preservation are discussed in detail in the introduction. The extensive critical reports reflect the complexity of the philological issues surrounding the compositions. A description of the editorial methods utilized is contained in the introduction.¹

The idea of a modern edition of the composer's complete works has not yet been realized with the publication of this volume. Several more four- to six-part motets, some German songs and, infrequently, *moralia* from the manuscript sources of the sixteenth and especially the seventeenth centuries are still waiting to be accessed and published.

1. The author of this edition also presented the results of his research at the International Musicological Conference dedicated to the memory of Lubomír Chalupka, which was held at the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava in September 2023. His contribution to the conference proceedings is a condensed version of this introduction. See Marko Motnik, "Editing the Motets of Iacobus Handl-Gallus Preserved in Manuscripts: A Problem of Sources or a Source of Problems?", in *Hudobnohistorické štúdie venované pamiatke prof. PhDr. Lubomíra Chalupku, CSc. / Music Historical Studies Dedicated in the Memory of Prof. PhDr. Lubomír Chalupka, CSc.*, edited by Marta Hulková, *Hudobnohistorický výskum na Slovensku začiatkom 21. storočia / Music Historical Research in Slovakia in the 21st Century 7* (Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Filozofická fakulta, Katedra muzikológie, 2023), 199–211.