

"Traditional bagpipe making techniques in Poland on the example of the Wielkopolska bagpipe"

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PROJECT TITLE:

EUROPEAN BAGPIPE EDUCATIONAL FORUM

– building EU methodology for preservation, playing and building of traditional bagpipe instruments

PROJECT ACRONYM:

European bagpipe educational forum

Applicant organisation: Centre of Croatian traditional instruments, HR

Partners: Orava Cultral Centre, SK / Muziekpublique, BE / Pluribus Unum, PL

1st transnational project meeting

26. – 29. November 2015 – Oravská Polhora

Material and methods

- **Presentation of traditional techniques of making bagpipes in the Wielkopolska region in the context of family traditions, taking into account the new challenges of contemporary performance practice**

“Grandfather’s wine goes to his Son and Grandson” – the diversity and continuity in building bagpipes



- *Stanisław Grocholski family*
– *30 years XX century*

Stanisław Grocholski

- Born 1914 in Kołacin/ southern Wielkopolska
- Student of his grandfather / music making
- Self-taught / building of instruments
- carpenter
- After World War II – a member of the Poznań-based Kapela Dudziarzy Wielkopolskich / master builder / instructor of the youth / at the end of his career Band leader
- He built instruments using traditional methods only

Andrzej Mendlewski



- Born 1949 in Poznań
- Student of his father-in-law Stanisław Grocholski/ building of instruments
- Husband of Maria Mendlewska vel Grocholska
- The “biggest” name among the builders of folk instruments in Wielkopolska - several hundred copies of instruments
- locksmith

Andrzej Mendlewski

- Teacher of the young generation
- Awarded by the President of Poland
- Scholar of the Ministry of Culture
- Technical support of 5 bagpipe bands (Poznań, Stęszew, Czempień, Połajewo, Szamotuły)
- Connected tradition with modernity
- Appreciated by customers from around world
- Not afraid of criticism
- Builder only



Bartosz Mendlewski

- Born 1984 in Poznań
- Zootechnician by education (AR in Poznań)
- Builder and musician of the case (random member (with his father) in the 1st Wielkopolska Meeting of Bagpipes and “Goat” Builders)
- Stanisław Grocholski’s grandson
- Student of Andrzej Mendlewski – as builder

Bartosz Mendlewski

- Student of Romuald Jędraszak – as player
- Member of Kapela Dudziarzy Wielkopolskich in Poznań



Raw materials and techniques of making

Raw materials and techniques are the same

- Innovations and improvements in the form of machinery
- Part of manual labor replaced machines
- Raw materials still traditional taken
- Cane, winter “on ice” from sandy areas
- Black lilac to bass from areas of low-grade fertilizer (slow growing trees have a better resonance and thicker wall)
- Wood for playing elements – fruit trees, dried naturally over several years
- Skin obtained from goats from of own breed (skins are hand tanned near Zielona Góra)
- Natural bovine horns
- Blisters beef



Raw materials and bagpipe-making techniques– examples:
playing elements



Raw materials and bagpipe-making techniques—
examples:
skin




Raw materials and bagpipe-making techniques— examples: *blisters*





Raw materials and bagpipe-making techniques ctd.

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- A collection of bagpipe components is displayed on a white plastic stool. On the left, a brass chanter with a dark horn mouthpiece is visible. In the center, a wooden drone with a white and red striped body and a wooden top is shown. To the right, a black leather bag with a wooden top and a brass fitting is lying on the stool. A wooden reed is also visible in the foreground. The background shows a white wall and a window with a metal frame.
- Innovations always in line with tradition
 - ✓ Skin instead of the bladder
 - ✓ Brass tube to building of reeds
 - ✓ Sealing glue instead of fat
 - ✓ The use of bamboo in the construction of reeds

Soldering



sewing leather



lathe



vise



Offer and area of operation

- Dudy wielkopolskie / Wielkopolska bagpipes (two regional variants)
- White goat / Kozioł biały
- Black goat / Kozioł czarny
- Sierszenki jednopęcherzowe / single bladder “sierszenki” bagpipe
- Sierszenki dwupęcherzowe / double bladder “sierszenki” bagpipe
- Sierszenki skórzane / leather “sierszenki” bagpipe (innovation)
- chanter (innovation)
- Mazanki / “mazanki” violin



Wielkopolska agpipes / Dudy wielkopolskie



**White goat / Koziół biały /weselny /
white wedding goat**



Kozioł czarny ślubny / black wedding goat



Sierszeńki 1-pęcherzowe / single
bladder “sierszenki” bagpipe



Sierszeńki 2-pęcherzowe / double bladder bladder “sierszenki” bagpipe



Mazanki / “mazanki” violin



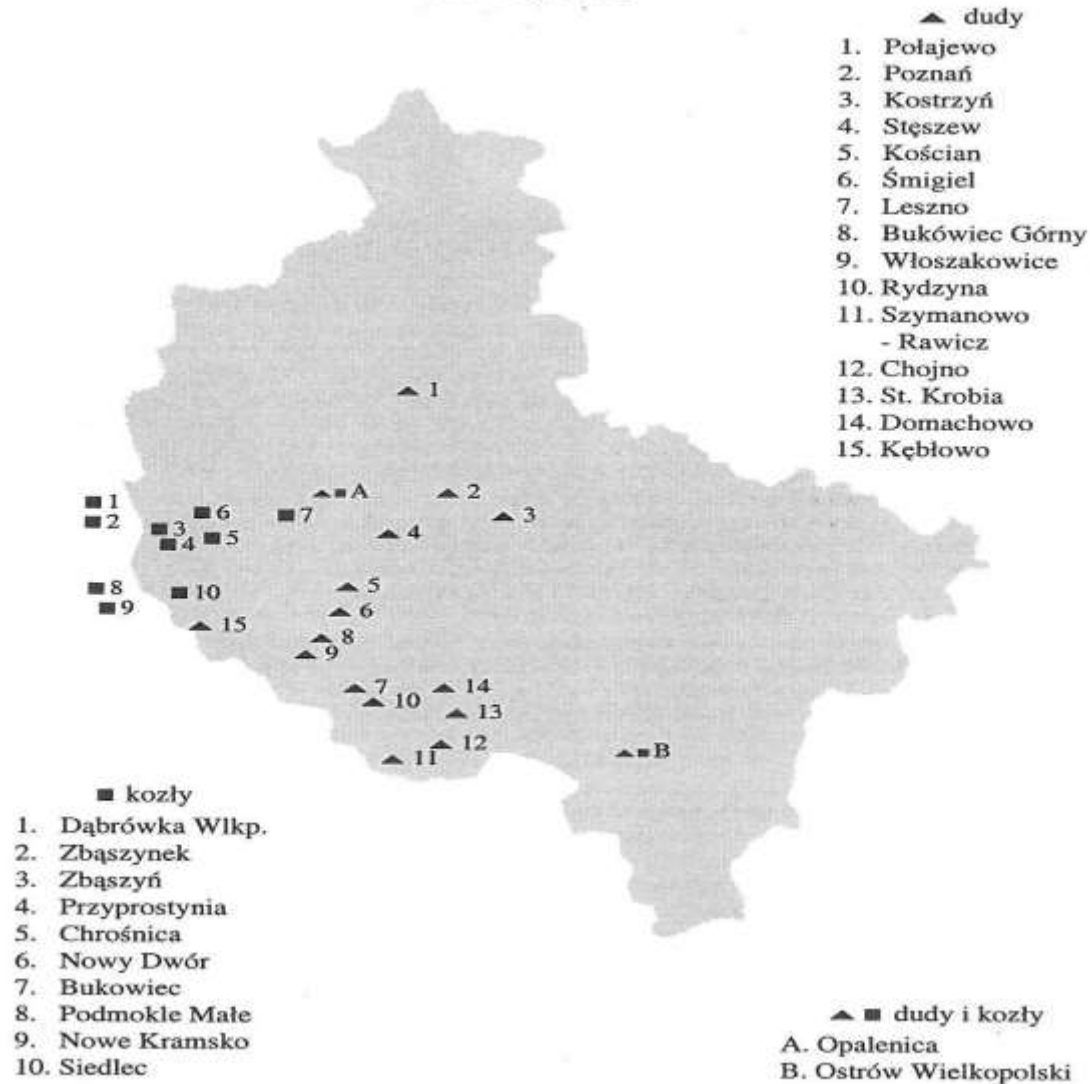
Recipients of instruments

- Domestic bands (10 bands)
- Foreign bands (USA, Canada)
- Museums (Poland, Spain)
- Private recipients, musicians, collectors (Poland, Belgium, Australia)
- Cepelia – gifts for officials (Ministry of Culture and National Heritage)



The territorial area

Dudy i kozły w Wielkopolsce



Raising qualifications

- Participation in workshops /Wielkopolska Meeting of Bagpipes and Goat Builders 1997-2011/
- competitions /National Confrontations of Bagpipe Bands in Poznań/
- cooperations with the Museum of Musical Instruments in Poznań /consultations, analyses of museum collections, professional techniques of preservation of instruments, presentations, participation in exhibitions/
- Markets, festivals /Market of Musical Instruments – “Wszystkie Mazurki Świata” Festival, Warsaw/
- publications /e.g. Jadwiga Sobieska, Dudy wielkopolskie, 1936, & other/

SZKOŁA BUDOWY DUD WIELKOPOLSKICH I SIERSZENIEK



• Wielkawieś • Poznań • Kopanica
• Opalenica • Stęszew
17 VI – 25 XI 2012

Mistrz: Andrzej Mendlewski
Moderator: Janusz Jaskuła



Transmission of tradition

- Intergenerational

- ✓ Grandfather

- ✓ Father

- ✓ Grandson



Transmission of tradition

- Individually
- ✓ *Master - student*
- Collectively
- ✓ *participation in Wielkopolska Meeting of the Bagpipes and Goat Builders 1997-2011*
- ✓ *participation in programs of Ministry of Culture – Institute of Music and Dance: School of Building Folk Instruments – workshops of building bagpipes and szereszenki, Wielkawieś-Poznań 2012*
- ✓ *presentations in museums, fairs and festivals*
- ✓ *active membership in Kapela Dudziarzy Wielkopolskich in center of culture „Zamek” in Poznań /continuation his grandfather’s activity, St. Grocholski/*



SZKOŁA BUDOWY DUD WIELKOPOLSKICH I SIERSZENIEK



WIELKOPOLSKA SZKOŁA BUDOWY DUD I SIERSZENIEK

Wielkopolska Szkoła Budowy Dud i Sierszeniek
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PERSPECTIVE



- new government programs in Poland
- ✓ School of Masters of Building Folk Instruments
- New Europeans programs
- ✓ *EUROPEAN BAGPIPE EDUCATIONAL FORUM – building EU methodology for preservation, playing and building of traditional bagpipe instruments*
- growing interest in youth and centers of culture traditional music in region and country
- existing /SML in Zbąszyń/ and creating new non-governmental organisations /NGO/, responsible for promoting traditional music in Poland

THREATS

- as a graduate of the University of Life Sciences in Poznań (specialty animal), notes the negative impact of changes in lifestyle on traditional processing-construction bagpipes, ranging from environmental degradation / poisoning of water reservoirs alter the properties cane used to manufacture reeds - faster growth resulting in thinning of the walls of cane / by adding chemicals to the animal feed / deterioration in the quality and durability of the skin and blistering /

THREATS

- System of music education and handicraft
 - ✓ *Not includ folk music and traditional handicraft*
 - ✓ EU legal regulations hinder the acquisition of traditional raw materials and existing methods of treatment / example. horns, which are already in young cows are cut, tanning leather handicrafts way or the so-called mandatory recycling
 - *fangs*
 - *horns*
 - *bladders*

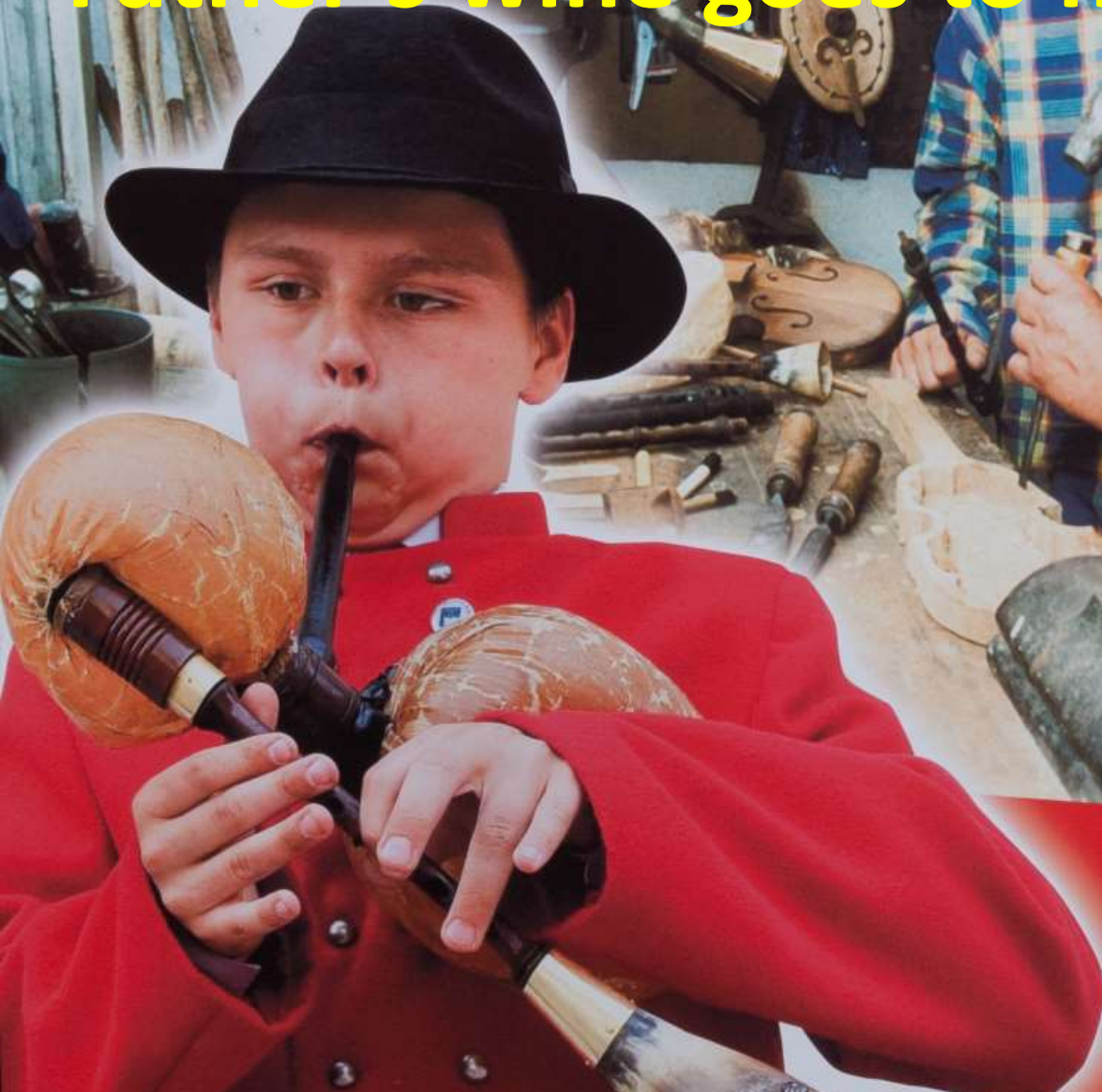


THREATS

- not appropriate promotion of folk handicraft
- price competition with instruments from China (bagpipes are more expensive)



“Father’s wine goes to his Son”



instytut muzyki i tańca



Warsztaty odbywają się i są współfinansowane
w ramach programu Instytutu Muzyki i Tańca
„Szkoła mistrzów budowy instrumentów ludowych”