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Humdrum Encodings of Polish Music

poster

Thanks to the efforts of The Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw, Poland, the number of digital encodings of Polish music increased immensely since the beginning of 2018. The Institute is preparing a digital edition for all of Chopin's music published during his lifetime. The digital scores encode music from French, German, English, and in some cases Polish and Austrian, first editions found in the collections of the Institute's Library and the Fryderyk Chopin Museum. We extend our field of interest to all the Polish or Poland-related music composed from 16th to 19th century, collected in the most important Archives and collections in Poland. Our goal is to create fully researchable database of Humdrum encodings.

We are putting a lot of efforts to accurately reflect the original graphic notation of single source - each digital score is prepared and then revised at least twice by well trained editors. We carefully encode these editions in Humdrum syntax - text-based musical notation system, that allows to encode even the most complicated pieces of music in concise, human-readable format. We automatically render digital musical scores using Verovio to present our encodings also as sheet music.

Humdrum syntax allows also for semantic processing of scores using computer software tool packages - Humdrum Toolkit, Humdrum Extras and Humlib. Those packages include over 100 computer programs, each able to perform specific operation. Tools can be combined together what gives huge palette of possibilities. We use those tools to automatically compare variants between editions, search for melodic, rhythmic or harmonic patterns in the music. We try to estimate approximate date and style of composition for anonymously notated vocal polyphonic pieces basing on automatic dissonance analysis.