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SUMMARY

VOCES MONACHORUM ET MONIALIUM REMITTUNT... FOLLOWING THE “ECHO OF REVERBERATIONS” OF BENEDICTINE LITURGICAL AND MUSICAL LIFE AND THEIR SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL ENDEAVOURS IN THE ISLAND OF RAB

The prayer singing of the Word of God is a fundamental feature of the ritual daily life of Benedictine monks and nuns, those who observe in their lives the primary endeavour of their spiritual vocation: the search for God – *querere Deum*. As of the 6th century, the long-standing Benedictine charisma, culture and rich heritage during its growth and development of the civilisation of the Western Europe, in addition to unquestionable spiritual contributions, contributed also with numerous material ones – in architecture, diplomacy, education, transcribing and illumination of valuable codes and musical life. In terms of music, it is possible, apart from being the leaders of the exemplary liturgy and the performers of technically and artistically accomplished singing ritual repertoire and practice (mostly of Gregorian provenance), that they were also active in music theory and pedagogy.

The insight into the main outlines of monastic musical and cultural life and activities on the island and in the town of Rab reveals a kind of arc which, connecting with its millennial duration the beginnings of the second and third millennium, demonstrates at the same time – somewhat paradoxically – the fragility and the survival of a specific spiritual and physical presence. (This is especially noticeable in the case of the Benedictine monastery of the nuns of St. Andrew the Apostle). Given the historical turbulence and often the various troubles that accompanied the life of Rab’s Benedictine communities of monks and nuns, it should come as no surprise that in researching their musical heritage we are often faced with scarce and incomplete evidences and anonymous protagonists. However, even in such restrictive conditions, and in an attempt to make objective judgements about their importance and characteristics, it is possible – based on the existing sources – to create a rough picture of Benedictine musical endeavours and courses. Their “reverberations” (and sometimes “the echo of reverberations”) in the Rab environment, as well as in Croatia, can still be found today.

Keywords: Rab; Benedictine monasticism; Church music; Archival sources; Oral tradition; Cultural transfers