

## **Croatian musical heritage of choral singing in the general education system – in the wake of the Musical Festival of Croatian Youth**

### **Abstract**

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This paper considers the position of the Croatian musical heritage of choral singing in the general education system based on the programmes (N = 25) performed during the Musical Festival of Croatian Youth in Varaždin, in the period between 1996 and 2022. This event serves as a national competition for children's and youth choirs, with one of its goals being the promotion of the Croatian composers' artistic production. A research methodology based on the method of observation for data collection and the analysis of archival material has identified the type of elementary school choirs predominantly represented in specific years. Additionally, a qualitative thematic content analysis of the performed choral repertoire **has provided observations into** the position of Croatian musical heritage, its appearance, and representation in the past 27 years. The results confirm the importance of elementary school choral singing as a significant factor in preserving Croatian musical heritage, which becomes accessible to younger generations precisely by including it in the choral repertoire of elementary schools.

**Keywords:** choirs, classical music, elementary school, music, traditional music