

Music of the Liturgy in Ljubljana Cathedral and Gornji Grad Co-Cathedral at the Turn of the Sixteenth Century

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Based on direct and indirect evidence, three main types of musical repertoire in the late-sixteenth-century and early-seventeenth-century Slovenian lands can be established: plainchant, sacred song in the vernacular and contemporary polyphonic music. The first was in the domain of priests and choirboys, the second mostly of congregation and the latter of choirboys and professional musicians. Especially polyphonic music was confined to a few city churches, above all the Ljubljana cathedral and co-cathedral at Gornji Grad, where the prince-bishop of Ljubljana had his residence. As is evident from the preserved musicalia of Gornji Grad co-cathedral and an inventory of music manuscripts and prints of Ljubljana cathedral, polychoral music with instruments was performed in both churches, a practice also attested by archival documents. Because both did not have its permanent professional instrumentalists, they sometimes acquired the town musicians or some other instrumentalists mostly from neighbouring cities or from Graz and Vienna for particularly festive occasions that called for the music of great splendour.