

Abstract

My dissertation deals with the melodies of the liturgical genre *Sequence* and their use and distribution in the nowadays Austrian regions of the medieval (arch)dioceses Salzburg, Passau and Brixen from the 11th century up to the middle of the 16th century.

Whereas the alleluia, a melismatic and manifold genre, has been a frequent subject to various investigations, sequence melodies of the previously stated area with their syllabic and simple style have hardly been considered in research. Exceptions are the works of Franz Karl Praßl¹ on Augustinian sequences and Györgyi Táborzsky² on Benedictine sequences in the Austrian region which represent an important step in the research of this liturgical genre. However a closer examination in terms of a detailed analysis of the melodies is still missing.

The aim of my study is to analyze the repertoire of the sequence melodies from this particular area in a comprehensive edition. Additionally, the melodies of scattered manuscripts will be put into one complete work making it more easily accessible for further research. Thereby a reference book for scholars and practising church musicians will be created. It is my concern to provide a comprehensive insight into the sequence repertoire in order to promote the scholarly exploration of this genre worldwide.

Three parts will form my doctoral thesis: a first section contains data on the sources used for my thesis and a chapter on sequence texts apart from general information on sequences. My work centers on the analysis of sequence melodies and reconstruction attempts to determine the oldest version of a melody. Furthermore the analysis deals with compositional methods, characteristic features and recurring melodic patterns. The second part is a musical edition of the sequences, supplemented with a critical account on the melodic variants. An open access database on sequences forms the third section: It will provide the basic information about the melodies (modus, incipit with *Volpiano*, name of the melody) and the texts as soon as information on the host volume and the liturgical use (feast). This database also offers the possibility to later add contents from manuscripts yet to be discovered and is an important additional benefit to the scientific and musical/analytical parts.

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1 Praßl, Franz Karl: „*Psallat ecclesia mater* Studien zu Repertoire und Verwendung von Sequenzen in der Liturgie österreichischer Augustinerchorherren vom 12. bis zum 16. Jahrhundert“, Graz 1987

2 Táborzsky, Györgyi: „Studien zu Repertoire und liturgischer Verwendung von Sequenzen in mittelalterlichen österreichischen Benediktinerklöstern“, Dissertation Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Graz 2012