

AKADEMIA PROFIL (POLAND)
Activities report covering two past years (2013, 2014)
September 2015

I. About AKADEMIA PROFIL

AKADEMIA PROFIL is Polish non-profit organisation established in 2012 as a foundation.

The aim of AKADEMIA PROFIL is undertaking educational and cultural initiatives to promote intercultural dialogue, especially among children and adolescents. The organisation, through its actions promotes and protects the human rights and civil liberties, and promotes the development of democracy.

The objective of AKADEMIA PROFIL is to develop and strengthen attitudes aimed at active involvement of local communities. The organisation wishes to support people particularly gifted, not likely to pursue their own ventures because of the scarcity of financial resources and also work for people with disabilities and at risk of marginalization.

AKADEMIA PROFIL promotes Polish culture, with particular emphasis on regional differentiation.

AKADEMIA PROFIL works with community cultural centres, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, social clubs, educational institutions, NGOs, local communities.

Among the main activities of AKADEMIA PROFIL is organising and realising innovative music events, interactive educational workshops and multimedia productions.

AKADEMIA PROFIL cooperates with professional artists (musicians, actors) and culture animators as well as with highly acclaimed music groups. The list of professionals hired by AKADEMIA PROFIL in years 2013 and 2014 was as follows:

Music and vocal groups:

Kapela Brodów
Swoja Droga Trio
Cantata Choir
Bogorya Choir

Individual artists:

Leszek Zduń - actor, theatre director
Krzysztof Plewako-Szczerbiński - actor
Robert Lipka - accordion player
Justyna Jary - singer
Rafał Grozdew - singer
Krzysztof Matuszak - singer, piano player
Marta Maślanka - dulcimer player
Damian Marat - trumpet player

Małgorzata Szarlik-Woźniak - violin player
Mateusz Wachowiak - accordion player
Karol Podkul - accordion player
Liliana Cercel-Podkul - singer
Piotr Krukowski - trumpet player
Małgorzata Pałubska - violin player
Łukasz Owczynnikow - bass player
Jan Trojanowski - flute player
Anna Żołyniak - singer
Grzegorz Żołyniak - singer
Michał Szymkiewicz - accordion player
Iwona Sojka - violin player
Witold Broda - violin, hurdy-gurdy player, singer
Maciej Kierzkowski - guitar and percussion player, music arranger and producer

Cultural animators:

Michalina Jarmuż
Andrzej Ośko
Magdalena Masewicz-Kierzkowska

II. Innovative music events

Preserving patriotic tradition is very strong in local communities in Poland. For many local governments it is very important to celebrate historical occasions, mainly connected with military factors. It is also important to transmit the need for celebrating the common memory to next generations - children and youth. In such case there is also a need for implementing innovative ways of celebrating historical moments.

2013 - Music events during patriotic occasions

In 2013 AKADEMIA PROFIL cooperated with community of Brwinów (Poland) in organisation and realisation number of cultural events connected to historical celebrated occasions. There were concerts of patriotic and "retro" repertoire, common singing events and artistic happenings which were performed locally and co-financed by the local community. The cultural events organised by AKADEMIA PROFIL during official celebrations of Polish national anniversaries in Brwinów in 2013 was:

- Concert of Polish patriotic songs with multimedia presentation about general Antoni Heda-Szary (2013)
- Concert of Polish music of XVIII cent. performed by Kapela Brodów
- Concert "Years 1920." performed by Justyna Jary and Swoją Drogą Trio
- Concert and common singing of Polish military songs
- Historical and artistic happening
- Concert and common singing of Polish insurgent songs.

2014 - Music events during patriotic occasions

In 2014 AKADEMIA PROFIL continued the cooperation with community of Brwinów in regard to organisation of artistic arrangements of local celebrations of particular national occasions. The full set of cultural events organised there by AKADEMIA PROFIL in 2014 consisted of:

- Concert and common singing of Polish insurgent songs
- Cabaret hits performed by Rafał Grossed
- Concert of XVIII cent. Polish songs repertoire

III. Interactive education

Education is one of the main aspects of AKADEMIA PROFIL's activity. In 2013 and 2014 the organisation conducted artistic workshop of music, theatre and ecology. The target group for this work was people from rural areas - children, their parents and teachers.

2013 - Ecological Children's Orchestra

AKADEMIA PROFIL in October and November 2013 conducted ecological and musical workshops called "Ecological Children's Orchestra". The project covered more than 700 children in the age 5-10 years. In the project were involved 8 primary schools.

The project was a creative combination of issues concerning ecology and music. Instructors lead interactive workshops presenting on the one hand the magical world of sounds and musical instruments and matters of ecology and recycling on the other.

Participants acquired knowledge of the ecology through the execution of musical instruments made of recycled materials and learn the rules of work in the professional music orchestra. Children were divided into instrumental sections and learnt to cooperate with the conductor. The culmination of the workshop were performances for a wide audience with professional musicians.

The workshops were conducted by experienced instructors - specialists in multicultural education and music performing.

2014 - I love and understand freedom - the interdisciplinary workshops and spectacle

The project called "I love and understand freedom" based on creation and performance of theatre and music spectacle in Książenice (Poland), with the participation of people of different generations of the local community, including amateur and professional artists.

The main objective of the project was to create a musical spectacle, which would be performed by and for the members of local community. The aim was also education in the issues of democracy, freedom and newest history of Poland, utilising the popular songs of blues, punk and rock music styles.

The project was carried out the following activities:

- Recruitment of participants that preserves the principle of general availability
- Attempts, workshops, during which they were talking about what is freedom and democracy for different generations
- Common selection of lyrics and music, referring to the theme of freedom
- Common design and preparation of the costumes utilised during the spectacle
- Theatre and music workshops
- Public performance of the show, which took place at a primary school in Książenice

Finally there were about 100 people actively involved and the spectacle was watched by more than 500.

As part of the project, a photographic and video documentation had been made, as well as one movie presentation.

IV. Multimedia production

In the times of overproduction of phonographical industry there is in some places still a lack in educational sound materials based on local traditions, which could be easily implemented to educational programs and regional promotion purposes. The so called “Chelmonski land” is kind of imaginary area in which lived and still live many artists (musicians, painters, actors) inspired by beautiful “typical Polish” landscapes. This the land of highly acclaimed Polish artists like composer Frederic Chopin and painter Józef Chelmonski. On the other hand the neighbourhood of big agglomerations (Warsaw) and historical industrial cities (Łódź, Żyrardów) since industrial era of XIX cent. causes many migration processes. As a result the problems of cultural identity of local communities are still present.

2014 - Muzyka Ziemi Chełmońskiego (The music of Chelmonski Land)

The project called “The Music of Chelmonski Land” was invented as a preparation and publication the CD album containing original and contemporary arrangements of local folk songs and music, which could be a material for education and promotion of local traditional culture.

The ethnographic material used in this production was collection of folk music and songs published in XIX cent. by one of the greatest folk music collectors and transcribers - Oskar Kolberg. This rough material had been arranged in the style of contemporary world music and recorded by local music amateurs and professional musicians.

The published CD was disseminated among the cultural institutions of the region and beyond. The material reached local schools, culture centres, libraries. Part of the repertoire has been added to the repertoires of local music and vocal groups.