

ABSTRACT OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

ARS MORIENDI - Surreal and Grotesque Representation of Death in Selected Songs

The aim of the present work is to present, through the medium of musical art, an unconventional perspective on the natural physiological process of death. Depicting the theme of death in a humorous, grotesque, and/or surreal manner constitutes an attempt to familiarise the audience with the inevitability of passing, as well as an effort to bring together works whose original performances are stylistically diverse into one coherent musical whole, entitled *Death Suits Us Well!*, alongside an analysis of their vocal-and-instrumental interpretation.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters, and a conclusion. The introduction provides an overview of the subject of the doctoral study and outlines the methodology of the author's own research. The first chapter presents the differences in the perception of death in cultural and religious contexts in Poland and worldwide; it includes an explication of the concepts of grotesque, surrealism, 'black humour', *macabre-grotesque piece* and *the horrendum* and it also introduces the motif of the *danse macabre*. The second chapter describes the vocal techniques applied in the artistic work. The third chapter sets out the criteria for selecting the vocal-and-instrumental works and the choice of instrumentation and performers, and it provides an account of the preparation of the artistic work. The fourth chapter offers an analysis of the textual and musical content.

The theoretical part of the dissertation is concluded with the closing section, the bibliography and the annex. The CD entitled *Ze śmierciq nam do twarzy!* (*Death Suits Us Well!*) has been appended to the doctoral dissertation.