

MUSICAL COMPETITIONS IN THE SHADE OF POLITICS: THREE CASE STUDIES FROM CROATIA IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH-CENTURY

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Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia



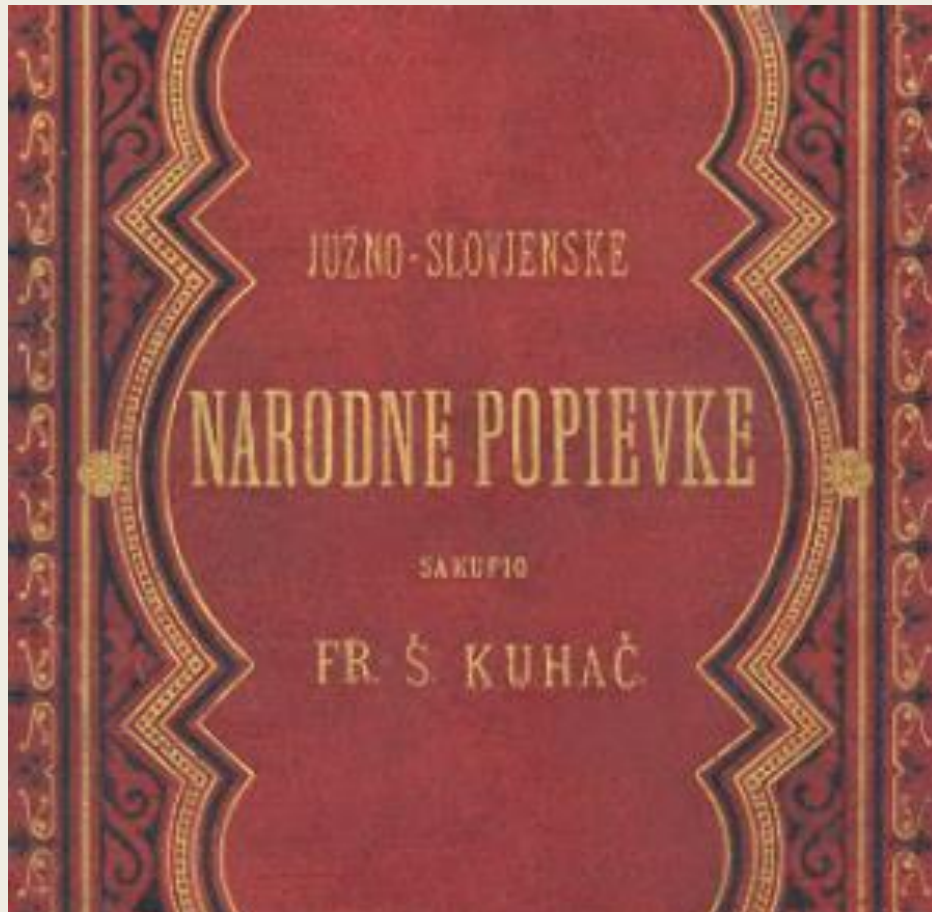
Political situation in 1908:

○ - Kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia, part of the Kingdom of Hungary and Austria-Hungary

1) A choral festival in Osijek, on Sunday, 9 August 1863, with three singing societies.

- Osijek: *Esseker Gesangs-Verein* (1862) – the host of the festival
- Pécs: *Pécsi dalarda* (Pécs singing society) (1847-48; 1862)
- Apatin: *Apatiner Männer-Gesangsverein* (1859)

Franz Xaver Koch → Franjo Ksaver Kuhač
(1834-1911), musicologist, ethnomusicologist, music
historiographer: *South-Slavic Folk Songs*, 4 vols, 1880s
<https://kuhac.znameniti.hr/>





Osijek/Essek: City garden



2) The Zrinski composition contest in Zagreb (1866)

- 300th anniversary of the 1566 Battle of Szigetvár, the heroic death of Nikola Šubić Zrinski, Croatian ban (vice-roy) and the death of the Ottoman Sultan Solyman during the siege



A contest for musical compositions – Committee of musicians

- Dragutin Klobučarić, the president of the *Musikverein*,
- Josip Juratović, the *regens chori* of the Zagreb Cathedral
- Ivan Zaharija Zellner, a choralist of the Cathedral
- M. Ržimek, the military *Kapellmeister*
- Ivan Kuček, a professor at the archbishopric lyceum

Characteristics of contest pieces:

They should have:

- a character of a national (folk) song,
- quality as a composition, and
- originality (without citation of folk songs).

10 Zrinski's songs for the piano

M2-popr. v8°-131

II-594

DESET ZRINSKIH POPUTNICA
za glasovir.

UNIVERSITETNA KNJIZNICA
u ZAGREBU



GLASBENI ZRINSKI POMENAK
tristo godišnjice sigetskoga junaka
NIKOLE ŠUBIĆA ZRINSKOGA
bana hrvatskoga

slavljene na 6., 7., 8. i 9. rujna 1866 u Zagrebu.

Tiskom Draž. Albrechta u Zagrebu.

9 composers with 10 compositions

- **Antun Švarc**, teacher at the *Musikverein* school in Zagreb, **won the first prize with 10 imperial ducats in gold**
- **Josip Grasse**, teacher at the *Musikverein* school in Zagreb, **won the second prize with 5 imperial ducats in gold**
- **Otto Hauska**, *Kapellmeister* and music teacher in Karlovac, **won the third prize with 5 imperial ducats in gold**
- **Vilim Müller**, musician in Zagreb, **won the fourth prize with 5 imperial ducats in gold**
- **F. S. Kaczér**, *Kapellmeister* and a member of the archbishopric music ensemble in Kalocsa
- **Vilim Just**, surveyor engineer of the Rijeka county, with two piano pieces
- **Franjo Ksaver Koch**, musician in Osijek (i.e. Franjo Ksaver Kuhač)
- **Ernest v. Joanelli**, music teacher in Petrinja
- **Ferdinand Visner**, landowner in Samobor.

3) The official and unofficial choral contests, within the Jubilee economic exhibition in Zagreb, 15 August to 14 October 1891

- **Franjo Ks. Kuhač: Die kroatischen Nationalhymnen, *Agramer Tagblatt*, 4/1889, 292.**

Croatian union of singing societies (1875)

Contest for the best composition for male choir, in order to:

- to promote choral pieces in “national spirit”,
- to give an impulse to national composers to compose new pieces and
- to acquire new repertoire for choral societies

The committee:

Professional musicians:

- Ivan Zajc, the chief composer in Zagreb,
- Franjo Ks. Kuhač, the musicologist
- Nikola Faller, conductor of the opera
- Vjekoslav Klaić, historian and composer
- Vatroslav Kolander, a composer,

as well as “two estheticians”:

- Marijan Derenčin, a politician and writer and
- Franjo Marković, philosopher and writer, both of them members of the Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Winners of the 1891 compositional contest

- The first and second prize: Franjo Serafin Vilhar-Kalski, a Croatian composer and conductor of Slovene origin, educated in Prague.
- The winner of the third prize: Josip Eisenhuth, a cellist and composer from Zagreb.

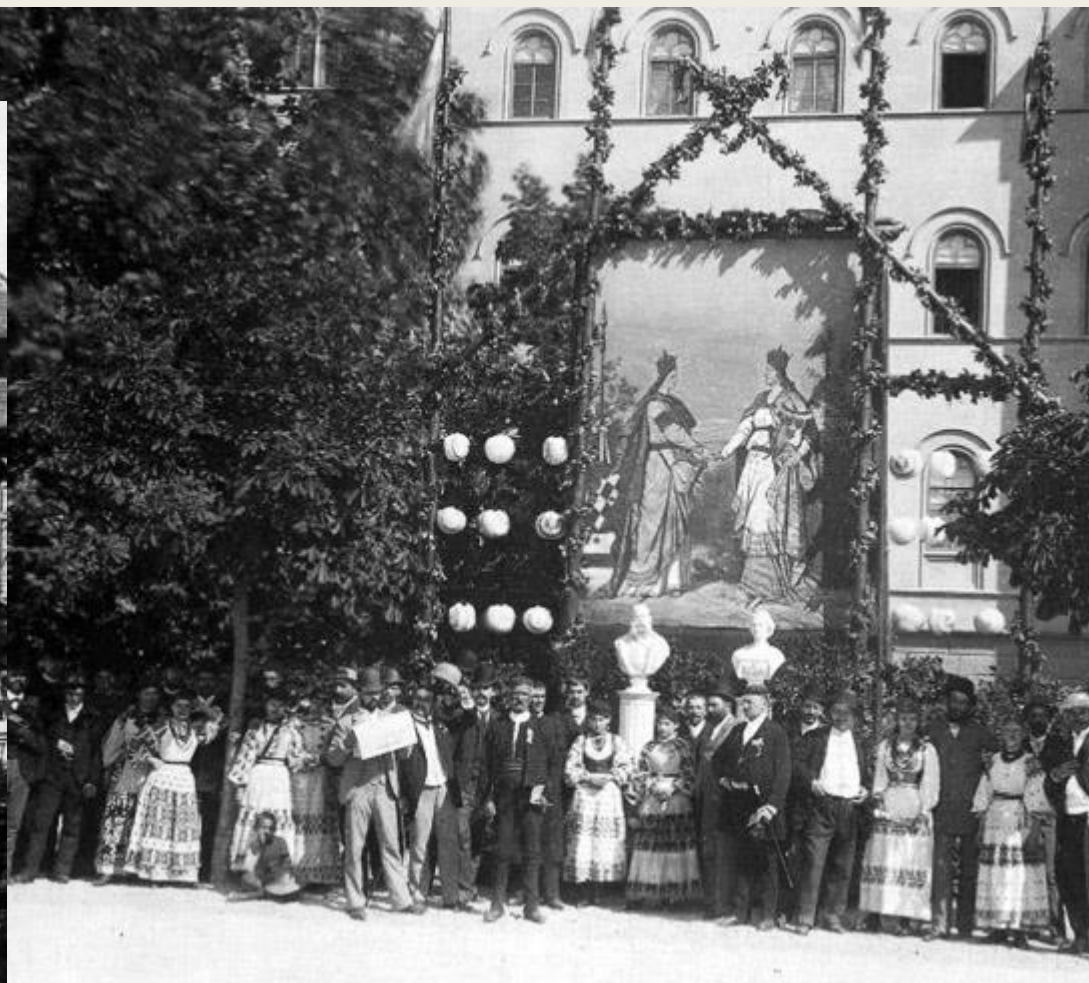


Franjo Serafin
Vilhal - Kalski

Tamburica ensembles



Jubilee agricultural and economic exhibition



Conclusions

- Contests with representative level, but also their cultural and political one
- The attitude towards the Hungarians changed with the Austro-Hungarian (1867), and Croato-Hungarian compromise (1868)
- Rousing songs from 1835 were used in difficult times, showing strivings of the nation to build its identity, to mark its place within the Monarchy, to fight the oppressors and/or to glorify the beauty of the homeland

Thank you!

