

## **CHORAL ART IN MACEDONIA THROUGH THE ACTIVITY OF TWO CHORAL CONDUCTORS**

The art of choral conducting has a long tradition in the Republic of Macedonia. From a historical point of view, the evolutionary path of choral practice starts at the beginning of the XIX century with the establishment of the first church choirs. In the second half of XIX century, the activity of the first school and city music societies represent the core of the overall music life. Many individuals deserve credit for that, among which the prominent place is for the composer and choir conductor Atanas Badev. The number of choirs increases between the two world wars, mainly because of the possibility to perform harmonized Macedonian folk songs in native language, which is banned in other spheres of public life. At the time of the rise of choir amateurism, the first generation of educated musicians composers lead the way, who also work as choral conductors: Stefan Gajdov, Trajko Prokopiev, Todor Skalovski.