

**Pomeranian Medical University Choir** (originally Pomeranian Medical Academy Choir) was founded in 1969 by the initiative of Jan Seidel, a musician in National Concert Hall in Szczecin, Poland. This initiative was supported by the authorities of what was then Pomeranian Medical Academy, the rector prof. Adam Krechowiecki.

In the next 10 years the PMA Choir, with the conductor Jan Seidel, performed numerous concerts in Poland and abroad, taking part in festivals in, among other places, Great Britain, Holland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Between 1980 and 1981 the choir was conducted by Ryszard Cybulski, and in this period the choir performed concerts in Belgium and Sweden.

In 1982 the artistic direction of PMA choir was taken over by prof. Ryszard Handke. In over 30 years of his work as the conductor, the choir performed on many Polish and international stages, taking part in festivals and competitions, such as Legnica Cantat, Religious Music Festival in Rumia, Academia Cantat, Barbara Festival in Wroclaw, International Festival of Choir Song in Międzyzdroje, Organ and Cameral Music Festival in Kamień Pomorski, Barcelona Festival, Cantonigros Festival in Spain, Autumn Festival in France, Festival Estival de Paris, Oscarshamn in Sweden, Trenczanskie Teplice in Slovakia and Eurotreff Ulm in Germany.


For its achievements for Szczecin culture PMA Choir was awarded Gryf Pomorski award in 1989.

In 2010, when Pomeranian Medical Academy in Szczecin transformed into Pomeranian Medical University, the choir changed its name to “Pomeranian Medical University Choir.”

**Prof. Ryszard Handke** graduated from the Music Academy in Poznań, Poland, where he studied conducting under the supervision of prof. Stefan Stuligrosz. Since 1981 he has been the choir conductor and artistic director of Pomeranian Medical University Choir in Szczecin, Poland. Between 1983 and 1986 prof. Handke was the music director of Contemporary Theatre in Szczecin. In 1986 he became the choir master and conductor of Szczecin Opera and Operetta, the position he kept till 1995. He was invited to consult during the recording of Polish Christmas carols by “Ghosta Ohlin Vocal Ensemble” in Sweden.

For many years prof. Handke has been an active member of the Polish Choir and Orchestra Association, where today he is a vice-president of the Szczecin branch. In 1986 he became lecturer of the Szczecin department of I. J. Paderewski Music Academy in Poznań, where he worked as a head of the department between 1996 and 2010. That year the Art Academy in Szczecin was founded, of which prof. Handke became the first rector, the position he holds currently. He regularly consults with State Education Ministry in the fields of children and young adults choir singing. Prof. Handke is a member of the art committees for the following festivals: International Festival of Choir Song in Międzyzdroje, W. Lutosławski International Festival of Contemporary Music and International Choir Festival in Szczecin. Prof. Handke is a member of Presidential Culture Council at the City Council of Szczecin.