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## WESTERN POMERANIAN CULTURE IN NAMES:

DARIUSZ ADAM LEJON

КУЛЬТУРА ЗАХІДНО-ПОМОРСЬКОГО РЕГІОНУ В ІМЕНАХ:

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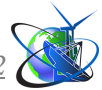
**Abstract:** *the article reviews and analyzes the pedagogical, managerial, creative achievements in the field of culture and education of Dariusz Adam Ledjon, his professional contribution to the promotion of brass performance and orchestral wind music in the cultural expanses of the West Pomeranian region. The pedagogical experience of shaping the interest of the younger generation and youth in musical creativity, especially in orchestral wind music, stimulating the creative growth of young talents is studied. The richness of Dariusz Adam Ledjon's creative nature as a conductor and art manager of the Youth Wind Orchestra of the Lobez House of Culture, a scientific researcher of the history of orchestral wind performance of the West Pomeranian region of Poland, a founder of festival movements of local and international importance, an initiator of the development of Lobez as an important regional center of culture and art with international status, an author and coordinator of a number of projects of cultural-artistic, musical and socio-cultural orientation, a director of the Lobez House of Culture.*

**Key words:** *professional mastery, manager of cultural sphere, cultural and artistic projects, musician-teacher, conductor, orchestral and brass performanc*

### **Introduction.**

The society of the XXIst century puts forward new social, ethical and cultural requirements to the professional activity of specialists in the sphere of culture and art. Modern norms of world outlook, innovative nature of various spheres of social life, appeal to professionals of a new class, possessing not only the necessary specifically significant qualities and having the potential for creative self-realization, but also people who can easily enter a new environment and master other types of activity, switch to their different levels, function in their different planes. Today, this has become one of the factors in the formation of a new type of world cultural and artistic practice.

Each specific profession implies a basic set of professional knowledge, skills,



abilities, and skills that allow it to be carried out as a social kind of activity. But culture and art are such a multidimensional phenomenon that professionalism in these spheres cannot be limited to historically established standards of activity and behavior, but requires striving for mastery. The definition of the concept of "mastery" includes not only a set of knowledge, skills and abilities in various directions of cultural and artistic activity, but also flexible and mobile application of them, establishment of new links between them; a certain organization of mental capabilities of a personality; ability to improvise, to develop one's own value priorities; generation of new ideas, creative processing of already known works, aspiration to transform the existing experience and many other things.

**Main text.**

In modern scientific literature it is noted that the formation of mastery is influenced by many objective and subjective factors (e.g., prestige of the profession, quality of services, professional motivation, etc.), but many scientists agree that professional mastery is the result of professional and life experience, an indicator of maturity. At the same time, researchers of these problems conclude that mastery is never complete, but always strives for continuous improvement. Therefore, this concept is considered by many scientists, teachers, musicians as the art of creating and embodying the results of acquired experience. In this case, an important component is the creative individuality of the specialist, the ability to use all the means and opportunities of this type of activity to create qualitatively new cultural and artistic products of creativity. At the same time, at the output they acquire the character of "cultural goods" associated with the satisfaction of the need for cognition, creative self-realization and communication.

In this context, culture and art are considered to be special spheres where many people dream of working, but only talented, efficient, erudite and specialists with universal creative resources are able to succeed. The bearers of such skills constitute the cultural core of the "production process" in creativity and ensure the successful functioning of various institutions and organizations in the culture-art system. As a rule, professionals of this kind realize themselves both as performers and simultaneously as a participant of this process. Not every representative of the creative sphere manages to reveal and develop his creative potential in such a multifaceted way. Dariusz Adam Ledgion, as a cultural and artistic figure and educator of the West Pomeranian region, known not only in Poland, but also abroad, can be counted among such personalities. The cultural community highly appreciates Dariusz Legion's contribution as a cultural animator, musician, teacher, project manager, manager. His professional path can serve as a model of devotion to the world of music, humanistic ideas of education, striving for rethinking, innovations and enrichment of contemporary cultural and artistic practices of the West Pomeranian region of Poland.

Dariusz Adam Legion - director, instructor, artistic director and conductor of the children's and youth brass band of the House of Culture in Lobeż, West Pomeranian Voivodeship - has reached a high level of pedagogical activity. The 35th anniversary of her professional path allows her to meet today with great creative achievements, creative maturity, and mastery. One of the merits of Dariusz Ledjon's professional



activity is a systematic approach to solving priority cultural, artistic, educational and managerial tasks. The practical solution of all problems is always based on the author's conceptual provisions and theoretical developments.

The first steps on the long road to art were the years of study: first at the Lobe Community Music Center (1974 - 1977) Community Music Center in accordion class (teacher - Leslaw Buczek). Social Music Center is one of the forms of musical education in Poland, which provides instruction in playing an instrument, singing and elementary music grammar without additional and autonomous subjects in the field of music theory. This type of education is not complete, but it allows you to acquire a basic amount of musical knowledge, performing skills and abilities. Later (1982 - 1984) - Stargardsko Szczecin State School of Music I degree.

Along with his studies, he started his performance practice in orchestral and brass bands, first as a member and since 1988 as a professional musician - Lobe Brass Band under the direction of Leslaw Buczek (1976). Lesław Bucek (1976), the school brass band of Stargarde Sceczynski Agricultural College under the direction of Andrzej Szipula (1980-1985), the brass band of the Rolling Stock Repair Plant in Stargarde Sceczynski under the direction of Benedikt Grzeszak (1981-1983), the brass band of the shipyard in Ustka (1988-1990).

In 1985. Dariusz Legion became a student of the Higher Pedagogical School in Slupsk, specializing in music education. A year before graduation he started his pedagogical activity at the Special School and Educational Center in Zajeż (1990 - 1997) as a music teacher and brass instrument instructor at the Lobe House of Culture (hereinafter referred to as LDK). In 1991 he became a graduate of the Department of Music Education and received a master's degree in pedagogy. Dariusz Adam Ledjon's master's thesis was written on the topic "Brass Band and its influence on musical activity in Lobieza" and defended in 1991 at the Higher Pedagogical School in Slupsk, specializing in music education. He continues to work as a music teacher in various educational institutions: elementary school No. 1 (Shvidwin), elementary school No. 2 (Lobe), Tadeusz Kosciuszko school complex (Lobe), elementary school No. 1 (Resko).

Since 1991, Dariusz Ledjon's has been leading a number of creative groups, which became a new important direction in his professional activity. Among them are the folklore ensemble "The rascals", street orchestras "Smoki" and "Paprykarze" operating at the Lobe House of Culture, folklore ensemble "Diabaz" from Dravsko Pomorskie.

The next important stage of Dariusz Ledjon's activity is connected with his election on a competitive basis to the position of the director of the Lobe House of Culture (1995). The new status opens up opportunities for his personal professional growth and development of Lobe culture. The strategy of Dariusz Ledjon's as the new director of the LBC was to use all the means (creative, organizational, scientific, etc.) of this cultural institution to help the urban community to solve urgent cultural and educational problems and to improve the local socio-cultural situation. For this purpose, it was necessary to reveal the creative potential of the employees and artistic groups of the House of Culture and to raise it to such a qualitative level, when their reputation would become significant and would ensure a stable position of LDK in



the cultural environment not only of the city, but also of the whole West Pomeranian region. Realization of the need to create an open "cultural field" and enter into active interaction with the local community on the platform of LDK's creative activities led Dariusz Ledjon to a new vector of activity - cultural management.

The practice of functioning of such cultural institutions as the House of Culture shows that the main production units of such an organization are creative teams. Their productive activity depends, on the one hand, on the artistic director, who acts as an art manager, and on the other hand, on the director, who solves other organizational and production issues and manages personnel, creative and material resources. This situation very often gives rise to conflicts, which require unspoken subordination of one to the other. Dariusz Ledzjon managed to combine these two positions in his person and to create not only an atmosphere of unity of command, but also to overcome many crisis situations, which unfortunately are not rare in the work of creative teams. Starting his work in LDK, he worked for several years as the second conductor of the Lobez Wind Orchestra, as a musician in folklore ensembles, which helped him to understand the mechanism of the creative team from the inside.

Already in the first year of his leadership, Dariusz Ledjon was immersed in the thick of cultural events - the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the city of Lobez. Due to the importance of this event, a rich cultural and artistic program was planned. Despite some difficulties (modest financial resources, lack of time for preparation), he decided to decorate the program with brass bands, which were to emphasize the special pomp of the celebration. Thus, on May 21, 1995, the first festival of brass bands "May Meetings of Brass Bands" took place, which later became the International Festival of Brass Bands and Big Bands. During this period, Dariusz Ledjon's extraordinary managerial skills became apparent. The experience of the first organization and holding of this event laid the foundation of his managerial activity. For 28 years this festival has not only been successfully functioning, but has also given rise to many other interesting competitions and projects. Thus, within the framework of the International Festival of Brass Bands and Big Bands were born and are still held: International Competition of Instrumentalists; World Parade of Conductors; International Competition of Majorette Dance Groups; International Football Tournament of Brass Bands; international projects - "Through Music and Dance to a Common Europe", "Polish-German Meetings of Brass Bands", "Music and Sport - What Unites Us", "Poland-Germany - Music Together", "Music and Sport - Integration Workshops", "Polish-German-Belarusian Workshops", etc.

The organization of such a cultural event as a show of folklore ensembles "Easter Meetings with Folklore", where Dariusz Ledjon also acted as an art manager, deserves great attention. This show has been held annually since 2006 during the handicraft and Easter fair "Lobez Easter Baba" ("Lobez Easter Baba")., and is the biggest folklore event in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship. According to Dariusz Ledzjon's idea, it was very important to complement such a cultural event with folk dance and music. Hence came the idea of the show, the main purpose of which was to cultivate folk traditions and customs, to get acquainted with the cultures of different regions of Poland and other countries, to preserve the national spirit and cultural identity of Polish society. Realizing his next brainchild, the director of LDK, strived



to create an atmosphere of creative integration of dance and vocal-instrumental folklore groups, cultural communication, exchange of artistic experience and new cultural ties.

Dariusz Adam Ledjon's managerial activity is associated with the creation and presentation of such an important artistic product as the Festival of Street Bands organized by the Lobe House of Culture.

Street orchestras (Backyard Bands) are a phenomenon of Polish urban musical folklore, very popular in the landscapes of many Polish cities, especially in pre-war Lviv, where almost every street had its own backyard group of musicians. Their musicians were most often recruited from the ranks of unemployed people who supported themselves and their families from donations "out of the hat" thrown to them by local listeners. They were dressed in colorful, often short pants and jackets. And their essential attribute was a cap with a visor. Traditionally, street orchestras used: accordion, banjo, gitara, skrzypce, klarnet, kontrabas, and percussion instruments. The music of street orchestras was represented by songs about heroes from the streets and suburbs, characteristic characters of the urban street and courtyard environment, hits of variety, cabaret and operetta. Their work experienced a decline in the post-war period and has been revived in recent decades. The modern repertoire of street bands is diverse and consists of both ancient texts and melodies of urban folklore and modern ones created by people living the life of their cities, everyday problems, hits of banquet music and sentimental songs.

Thanks to his creativity and ability to understand the audience, Dariusz Ledjon defined the concept of the future event and became its organizer, controlling the whole process, from the initial planning stages to the implementation of the event and analysis of its results. The main goal of the festival was to popularize urban folklore, represented in traditional street and courtyard music. The festival represented the artistic achievements of the groups, gave an opportunity to exchange experience and new ideas, to feel the attractive atmosphere and spectacle of street, courtyard and fairground performances.

During the entire period of the festival's operation (2002-2013), Dariusz Ledjon worked on various ideas for the festival, solved problems arising during the event, and realized the wishes of participants, guests, festival-goers and the local public. According to his vision, the festival was to become a showcase for street bands, where a unique example of urban folklore in the modern conditions of commercialization of art could be separated from pop culture. Therefore, along with the performances of musical groups, various master classes and entertainment venues could function. Thus, this festival became a kind of symbiosis of modernity with the traditions of urban folklore. Every year the number of participants and spectators of the festival increased. The possibility of joint music-making enriched the practice of such a variety of musical ensembles as street orchestras, influenced the general musical culture and interest in urban folklore. The festival of street bands became a cultural celebration in the life of the city and a significant artistic event on the cultural map of the West Pomeranian region. The managerial talent of the LDK director once again helped to achieve the goal of the planned event and ensured its success. This was also facilitated by the fact that some of the festivals were organized within the



framework of such projects as: "Polish-German Festival" financed by the INTERREG IV A Small Projects Fund in 2011 and "Festival of Street Bands" supported by the European Union and the Rural Initiatives Development Program 2007-2013, which was organized by Dariusz Adam Ledjon.

A special place belongs to cultural-artistic and socio-cultural projects, which were initiated and realized by Dariusz Ledgion in the framework of cooperation with the community "Euroregion Pomerania", whose activities cover economy, youth cooperation culture, education, tourism and infrastructure. Thus, in order to implement and coordinate the direction related to the culture of youth cooperation on the platform of PNWM (Polish-German Youth Cooperation), a number of youth festivals were held, where various thematic workshops, artistic presentations, sports competitions, discussions and meetings took place. Under the leadership of Dariusz Ledjon, 32 such projects were implemented through the LDC.

An important area of this type of managerial activity of the director of LDK was the organization of tripartite meetings of young people, where young people from Poland and Germany could be joined by groups from a third (both European and non-European) country. The total number of such tripartite meetings held is 11 projects.

Another type of cooperation embodied by Dariusz Ledgion as a manager was the projects with the Bavarian Youth Circle. Its main content was cultural meetings, exchange of pupils, meetings of musical, folklore groups and sports teams, various social actions. 15 projects were implemented on the basis of such cultural partnership. Along with large and serious projects, Dariusz Ledgion has developed a large number of small projects financed from the INTERREG III A, INTERREG IV A, INTERREG V A and "4x3 - a simple matter" small projects fund.

Thanks to the organization and implementation of these projects, about 4,250 people from Poland, Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Croatia, Lithuania and Kyrgyzstan were able to participate in various cultural events. In 2010, the Youth Brass Band of the Lobez House of Culture, which is the hallmark of this cultural institution and a constant participant of many cultural events, received an award of the Euroregion of Pomerania. And Dariusz Ledjon, as the director, manager and leader of the Youth Wind Orchestra of the Łąbiecki House of Culture, was awarded the title "Personality of the Euroregion of Pomerania" in 2022, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Euroregion of Pomerania, for his active project activities, for coordination and partnership in many projects of the Łąbiecki House of Culture, for his contribution to the development of youth cooperation culture, for the creation and development of cultural relations. In addition to the above mentioned, in the period from 1996 to 2022. Dariusz Legion designed and implemented a number of development programs, cultural, artistic and festival projects on the platform of cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ministry of National Education and Sports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other state institutions and educational institutions (Youth Bureau, Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Lobez Rural Initiatives Center, Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, etc.). Among them:

- Tour of the LDK Youth Wind Orchestra to the VI and International Festival of Youth Orchestras in Thessaloniki (Greece-2001) with the support of the



- Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Economic Department in Warsaw;
- Tour of the LDK Youth Brass Band to Slovakia, Austria, Croatia, Italy, Vatican, Germany (2001) with the support of the Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship;
  - Presentation of creative achievements of the LDK Youth Brass Band in Europe (2001) with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship;
  - International Festival of Brass Bands in Croatia (2001) with the support of the Department of Culture and Science;
  - Youth in Action Project;
  - Tour of the LDK Youth Wind Orchestra to the VIII and International Festival of Youth Orchestras in Thessaloniki (Greece - 2003) with the support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Economic Department in Warsaw;
  - Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation "May Meetings of Brass Bands in Lobez" (2002);
  - "IX May Meetings of Brass Bands and Big Bands" (2003) with the support of the Ministry of National Education and Sports;
  - "Music Without Borders" (2004) with the support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Ministry of National Education and Sports and the Youth Bureau;
  - "Promotion of Polish culture abroad" (2005);
  - Polish-Lithuanian Youth Exchange Foundation (2008);
  - Project "Development of the infrastructure of Houses of Culture" (2012);
  - Grant program entitled "Promotion in Poland and abroad of artistic and cultural achievements of young musicians of Lobieza district" (2016) supported by the Local Action Group in Lobze "Center for Rural Initiatives" within the framework of "Promotion and Awareness" funded from the Rural Development Program 2014-2020;
  - "Infrastructure of Culture Houses" (2018) with the support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage;
  - "Cultural Platforms" project (2019);
  - "With Polish Music to the East - Independent" (2019);
  - 50th International Mimosas Festival (2019) in Herceg Novi (Montenegro).

Thanks to these projects, many technical, organizational, cultural and artistic tasks were solved: development of LDK infrastructure (modernization of equipment and devices to increase the educational and animation resource of the House of Culture; increase of instruments for the brass band, sewing of concert costumes and shoes); preparation and publication of information and advertising literature about the creative achievements of the children's and youth brass band and other creative teams of LDK; creation of conditions for the realization of cultural and educational tasks for a large group of participants (about 6,000 people); increasing the level and expansion of the artistic activities of the Music Center at LDK; increasing the range of educational and animation services (for classes held for kindergartens, primary,



gymnasium and secondary schools, for pensioners); increasing the level of the Artistic Amatory Movement in Lobež and its presentation at the national and foreign levels.

Today, on Dariusz Ledjon's total account, he has authored, organized and produced 128 international European musical, cultural-artistic, educational and socio-cultural projects.

Since one of the most important tasks of LDK is cultural education, aesthetic education of the younger generation and youth, cooperation with various educational institutions, another aspect of Dariusz Ledjon's professional activity is pedagogical work.

It is a well-known fact that in the process of creating the cultural foundations of personality, the school age is of special importance, during which the personality and creative uniqueness are laid down. Aesthetic education is an integral part of this process, where art, particularly music, is the strongest means of enriching the spiritual culture of the individual. Acquaintance to the beautiful world of music, development of the ability to understand and create artistic images by its means, formation of skills of artistic and practical activity, on which the communication with musical art is based, is mediated by various forms of education. At the same time, the most important factor in the formation of the image of spirituality of the younger generation is the personality of the teacher and mentor. He acts as the main conductor between music and the child's personality. On the high level of his intelligence and culture, professional skill and ability to balance pedagogically, depends the effectiveness of educational influence by means of music. All these qualities are embodied in the practice of musical and aesthetic education by the excellent teacher Dariusz Adam Ledjon.

Dariusz Adam Ledjon started his musical and pedagogical activity even before his work in LDK, so after being appointed director, he decided not only not to abandon this strain of his profession, but also to further improve in it. On the basis of the Lobež House of Culture was founded long ago Music Center - Ognisko Muzyczne (mentioned earlier), successfully and fruitfully functioning to this day. Within the framework of this form of musical education, Dariusz Ledjon, as an instructor, began to simultaneously teach brass and hunting horn classes, and as a conductor he led a youth brass band. During this period, his pedagogical talent begins to fully manifest itself. It is no secret that playing wind instruments is a complex performing process. Therefore, Dariusz Ledjon formed his pedagogical activity according to the principle: "Methodology, based on science, creates the theory of teaching, and from it, in turn, practical recommendations are derived". Hence, the pedagogical pillars of Dariusz Ledjon's methodology were, on the one hand, the awareness of the subtle muscular and complex mental activity necessary for the formation of a novice performer, and on the other hand, the approach to performance not just as a technological, but as an active, creative process. For the first, an understanding and study of scientific evidence, learning theory, and pedagogical practice is essential. The second is rooted in the idea that music education is not the education of a narrow specialist in the field of music, but first of all - the education of the individual.





Every day Dariusz Ledjon, as a teacher, poses and solves a number of questions related to music teaching and music education: "How to instill a love for brass performance and develop a taste for good music?"; "How to develop the skills of collective music-making?"; "Why do beginners of brass instruments have difficulties in mastering performing breathing, sound production, stable intonation, etc.?"; "How to build lessons with a particular child and in each individual case?"; "How much time to spend on practicing certain positions?"; "How to diversify and make modern teaching repertoire", "How to teach free musical reproduction?"; "What exercises will help to form various technical skills?". "How to teach a child to regulate his/her emotional-volitional state during concert performances?" and many others. The methodological positions that Dariusz Ledjon is constantly working on are relevant and purposeful: development of the performing apparatus, assistance in mastering the skills of individual daily recovery, precise determination of the degree of playing load depending on the specific state of the performer, his individual characteristics, establishing the sequence of performance of various musical tasks, expansion of musical and artistic experience, combining different types of musical activities in the learning process, modeling of the musicianship of the performer, and the development of a variety of musical activities. The same work is done in rehearsal sessions with the orchestra. Here one can always count on an expressive conductor's demonstration; simple, but at the same time understandable verbal explanations; auditory visualization; work on the interpretation of a piece; detailed explanation of breathing techniques and methods of sound production and Dariusz Lejeune tries to differentiate the tasks for orchestra students taking into account their individual abilities, and at the same time, invites them to independently "examine" the instruments, sets them simple creative tasks and encourages them to search independently. Such "free floating" during training, combined with traditional methods, always bring pedagogical success. According to Dariusz Ledjon, continuity is of great value both in collective (rehearsal work with the orchestra) and independent music-making (in individual lessons), at festive and concert performances. Work in the orchestra and in individual lessons is built in a logical sequence, provides for the preparation and adaptation of musical material in accordance with the age and performance capabilities of students, activation of the emotional and sensory sphere for the assimilation of the artistic and figurative content of the musical work.

Another important pedagogical task Dariusz Ledjon considers the creation of a cohesive musical ensemble. In his opinion, an orchestra is not just a group of musicians playing together, but a form of collective performance where everyone, while retaining their individuality, is subordinated to the common tasks of realizing the author's idea. In order for each participant to feel a part of the whole, it is important, on the one hand, not to suppress individuality, and on the other hand, to give it a new impetus for development and improvement. In his work, the maestro always strives to reveal the individual capabilities of each person, and then, to create a unified vision and perception of music. In this approach, Dariusz Lejeune sees the way to unite the whole ensemble and create its individuality and creative handwriting.



This is probably why the children's and youth brass band, which children and young people attend with genuine joy, has become not only a trademark of LDK, but also of the whole town of Lobiez. Years of hard work allowed Dariusz Ledjon to expand the repertoire and develop the concert practice of the band, which made it popular and in demand. The LDK Youth Wind Orchestra took an active part in city, district and regional events. In order to make the life of the group interesting and creative Dariusz Ledzjon made a lot of efforts to equip the orchestra with the necessary musical instruments, stage costumes, participation in various cultural and artistic and socio-cultural projects for young people, organization of excursions to various cities in Poland and Europe and much more. All this increases the motivation of the young participants to engage in music and constantly provides an influx of new young generation and youth. Dariusz Ledjon's teaching methods are realized not only in the special instrument lessons and orchestra rehearsals, but also in close communication with children during various concert tours and trips, excursions and recreational activities, in which he is not only an example as a conductor and teacher, but also an older friend and mentor. Under the leadership of Dariusz Ledzjon as a conductor and teacher, the children's and youth orchestra of the Lobez House of Culture produced a large number of pupils, many of whom have connected their lives with music, today receive education in musical institutions in Poland, and continue their amateur performing activities in other orchestral and brass ensembles: Dawid Glogowski - soloist of the Air Force demonstration orchestra in Poznan, chamber orchestra "Concerto", musician-instrumentalist of the F. Nowowiejski Warmian-Masurian Philharmonic in Olsztyn, Koszalin Philharmonic, vocal-instrumental group "Camerata Nova", Polish Theater in Szczecin, musician and instructor of the brass band "Red Swing Low"; ensemble Arkadiusz Glogowski - performing musician of the Szczecin Opera; Piotr Zarecki - concert performer, jazz musician, graduate of the jazz department of the Music Academy in Wrocław; Wojtek Roszak - concert performer, jazz musician, graduate of the jazz department of the Music Academy in Poznań; Mateusz Pospieszynski - contemporary performer, author of music for hip-hop compositions; Tomasz Nawrocki - musician-performer, graduate of the Academy of Art in Szczecin in the field of artistic education in the field of music; Alicia Gerszewska, an employee of the Cultural Center in Shvidwin, music instructor and brass band leader in Shvidwin; Natalia Mikulko, a music teacher at an elementary school; and Anna Gritsai, a music and fine arts teacher at the Nicolaus Copernicus Elementary School No. 2 in Lobez; Jakub Juźwiak - concert performer, graduate of the Music Academy in Bydgoszcz in the trombone class, winner of international competitions of instrumentalists; Nikolai Gracewicz - musician of the Youth Wind Orchestra of the Lobez House of Culture, winner of international competitions and festivals of instrumentalists; Katarzyna Wujtowicz - musician of the Youth Wind Orchestra of the Lobez House of Culture and others.

In his pedagogical work, Dariusz Ledjon always attaches great importance to increasing the number of students, instructors, the choice of instruments and artistic activities. Thus, over the years the number of students has increased from 20 to 50 and the number of instructors from 2 to 7. On the platform of the Music Center (Ognisko Muzyczne) there are several classes, including: brass, woodwind,



percussion, keyboard, guitar and vocal classes. Along with them, a children's and youth brass band, a children's folklore ensemble, a children's percussion group, a children's and pop song studio successfully function.

Dariusz Ledjon's pedagogical achievements and many years of experience in creative activity were reflected in his scientific work, which formed an integral part of his professional activity. Being a finely sensitive and constantly striving for professional improvement as a musician, pedagogue, cultural animator, Dariusz Lejeune saw that the development of cultural, artistic and educational environment in the region had reached a level where empiricism had already exhausted its possibilities and required serious scientific support. Having a Master's degree helped him to organically engage in active scientific activity and supplement his pedagogical, cultural-educational, project-management and concert-touring practice with theoretical scientific research. Today, scientific work has become a parity in Dariusz Ledjon's creative work along with conducting, performing, pedagogy, organizing and producing international European musical, cultural-artistic, educational and socio-cultural projects. Dariusz Ledzjon has carried out enormous research work on the issues of wind orchestral performance in Poland in the context of European wind art, the history of the formation and development of wind performance in the Lobez area of the West Pomeranian region of Poland; peculiarities of youth wind orchestra training; educational possibilities of orchestral and wind performance; problems of organization and functioning of children's and youth wind orchestras and many others. He has written and published a number of scientific works, including: scientific articles, theses, conference materials, etc. Dariusz Ledzjon's musical and pedagogical activity is closely connected on the one hand with scientific research and on the other hand with conducting, which is the soul, inspiration and leitmotif of his professional life, thanks to which the maestro can be called *"the orchestra man"*. Conducting is known as one of the most complex types of music-performing art. It is an obvious fact that a modern conductor cannot be just an orchestra leader, but a versatile musician, interpreter, tutor and teacher. These are the qualities that Dariusz Legion possesses - a broad outlook, a wide range of musical culture, musical-theoretical training, good musical memory, knowledge of instrument technology and musical literature, active "conducting" thinking, excellent command of auditory attention, conducting apparatus, pronounced sociability, friendliness and tactfulness. As a conductor, he attaches great importance to the interpretation of a work. He always studies the musical text of the work very carefully, and tries to reproduce the text of the author's score as accurately and carefully as possible. In order to convey to the ensemble of performers his artistic intentions, his understanding of the content and stylistic features of a given work, he strives to direct the diversity of performing personalities, temperaments and creative efforts of the ensemble in a unified direction. And this requires effective mastery of the expressive means of conducting, the face, gaze, mimicry, the ability to "ignite" people and lead them, an active, purposeful will. In this, Dariusz Legion perfectly illustrates the words of the great French composer and conductor Hector Berlioz, who wrote that: "A conductor must ... possess a special talent and other, almost indefinable gifts, without which an invisible bond cannot be established between him



and all whom he directs ..." [1] Another specific feature of Dariusz Ledjon's conducting is also the feeling of lightness that arises during the performance of even the most complex and difficult pieces of music. He is always able to create the impression of extreme simplicity and accessibility of conducting for everyone. However, this is not the case: the success of his performing, pedagogical and organizational activities as a conductor is due not only to his musical talent, special training and creative enthusiasm, but also to all his previous musical activities, general culture, intelligence and versatile erudition. He approaches conducting as a set of interpretive ideas, collective performing labor and creative partnership between conductor and orchestra players. Therefore, acting as a kind of teacher, a creative guide for musicians, Dariusz Lejeune tries to make the inner world of the conductor not only "visible" but also "audible". The maestro's conducting experience includes 663 concert performances, among which he has conducted 169 times in such countries as Austria, Belarus, Vatican City, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Israel, Lithuania, Russia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, Montenegro, Sweden, Ukraine and Vatican City. Between 1997 and 2022 he has participated in International Conductors' Parades: Daugavpils - Latvia (2017), Stolpci - Belarus (2018), Telpraspol - Transnistria (2019), Lobez, Zambrow - Poland (2019, 2021, 2022), Istra - Russia (2020), Tartu - Estonia (2022), Alma-Ata - Kazakhstan (2022).

Inspired by his work as a conductor, Dariusz Adam Ledjon tried his hand at composing, writing 6 numbers ("Greeting", "Dravski Polonaise", "Dravski Kujavek", "Dravski Polka with a Chorus", "Mazurek iz pod Dravsk", "Farewell") of the Dravska Suite in 2018. The music of the suite also includes "Polka Jolka" written by Jolanta Parol and "They Talk About Us in Warsaw" by Jan Iwaszczyszyn. In creative union with the author of the words - Andrzej Prentky, choreographer-director and designer of Drava costumes and embroidery - Jolanta Parol, the first musical and choreographic presentation of traditional Dravsko-Western Pomeranian culture was prepared. This work was timed and performed on the occasion of the Polish Independence Celebration by the folk song and dance ensemble "Diabaz" from Dravsko Pomorskie, which was the only ensemble to present it in Western Pomerania. The production of this suite is the first artistic product based on the cultural and thematic material of this region and written and performed in all the territories returned to Poland after World War II.

Being a patriot of his small homeland, Dariusz Lejohn wrote a number of vocal and instrumental compositions about his native land to words by Kazimierz Malicki and Edward Hryniewiecki ("Lobezskaya kapella"): "Ballad of My Neighborhood", "At the Fountain", "My Town", "Lobeztsy", "Lobezskaya kapella", which were later included in the repertoire of the Lobez street orchestra "Dragons" ("Smoki"), of which he himself was a member for a long time, performing on the tuba. In addition to his conducting and composition practice, Dariusz Ledjon as an expert in the field of instrumental performance has repeatedly been a jury member at international festivals, competitions for instrumentalists and wind orchestras in Istra - Russia (2013, 2016, 2017), St. Petersburg - Russia (2012, 2014, 2016, 2017), Daugavpils - Latvia (2017, 2018), Stolpci - Belarus (2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017), Baranovichi - Belarus (2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017). ), Daugavpils - Latvia (2017, 2018),



Stolptsy - Belarus (2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017), Baranovichy - Belarus (2013), Yalta - Ukraine (27-29.05.2012, 11-13.10.2012), Malgard - Spain (11-13.10.2012. ), Malgard - Spain (2015), Chadan - Republic of Tuva (2016), Nazareth, Haifa - Israel (2018), Lobze, Polczyn Zdrójcie, Szczecin - Poland (1997- 2018, 2019, 2022).

As a musician Dariusz Ledjon was recognized with numerous foreign awards - special diplomas of the Belarusian Union of Musicians of the Belarusian Association of Brass Bands and Ensembles with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus (Minsk), the Ministry of Culture of the Moscow Region (Istra), the St. Petersburg Foundation for the Development of Culture and Art (St. Petersburg), State Service for Culture and Historical Heritage of TMR (Tiraspol), Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tyva (Chadan), International Center of Music Orchestras in Spain (Barcelona), Latvian National Cultural Center (Riga), Daugavpils Region Culture Department (Daugavpils) and many others.

Dariusz Adam Ledzjon's multiform professionalism has not neglected his managerial activity. Almost 30 years of performing the duties of the director of Lobez House of Culture gave him an opportunity not only for career advancement, but also contributed to the professional growth of the cultural institution he manages, promotion of its employees, development of amateur artistic movement, preservation of local national traditions and folklore, enrichment of the concert life of the city, creation of an interactive cultural format of city and municipal holidays and leisure activities. Such a contribution brought cultural and emotional satisfaction not only to the city residents, authorities and stakeholders, but also raised the prestige of LDK as a district cultural and artistic-educational environment and strengthened the position of Lobez as an important regional center of culture and arts with international status. In modern society, the field of management is a complex area because it includes a range of specialized knowledge, practical experience, business skills, development of personal qualities (business activity, energy, type of thinking, leadership, etc.).

Many of us are familiar with the traditional image of a manager in the sphere of culture and art. Often they are specialists with poor self-regulation and self-presentation skills, prone to demonstrating their dominance, quick to make not always expedient and effective decisions, leaders who do not have clearly defined goals. The personality of the director of the Lobez House of Culture refutes the stereotypes.

Dariusz Ledjon is a manager who knows and competently applies the necessary information; who is able to set and realize goals; to use modern means of communication; to motivate pupils and staff not just to perform their duties, but to be creative and imaginative. Not less important in the structure of his professional skills are skills of psychological nature.

This is the maintenance of a favorable psychological climate in the team, the ability to present himself as a competent leader, to find compromises in solving complex issues, to respect all employees regardless of their position in the institution. The key to such a successful long-term management activity is the high level of education, values and business culture, the bearer of which is Dariusz Lejeune. Dariusz Ledjon's high professionalism, creative initiative, and significant personal contribution to the development of the sphere of culture, art and education have been



recognized with multiple awards, diplomas, certificates, and diplomas. For conscientious performance of his duties, high professionalism and significant personal contribution to the development of the sphere of culture and education, Dariusz Ledjon was awarded by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland - the title "Cultural Animator of the Year". Dariusz Ledjon is a two-time nominee of the special award of the Lobez Municipality Starosta in the category "Culture" - "Smok", holder of the gold and diamond badge of the Main Board of the Polish Association of Choirs and Orchestras in Warsaw, silver badge of honor of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, badge of honor "For Contribution to the Development of Brass Art" of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, badge of honor of the Hunting Community of Poland for services in popularizing the game of hunting horns.

Dariusz Lejohn has authored, organized and produced international European musical, cultural-artistic, educational and socio-cultural projects; international music festivals, competitions and parades. Dariusz Ledjon is a permanent member and chairman of the jury of various international festivals, competitions of brass bands and instrumentalists. Dariusz Legion is the author of a number of published scientific works, including: scientific articles, theses, conference proceedings, etc. Under his guidance as a conductor and teacher, a number of professional musicians and amateurs of orchestral and brass performance were educated. Dariusz Ledzion has given a large number of concert performances as a conductor of orchestral wind ensembles.

### **Conclusion**

The study and systematization of professional and creative achievements of the musician, teacher, cultural animator and manager Dariusz Adam Ledjon allowed to reveal the main components of his professional skills and to outline his importance in the complex process of development of modern culture of the West Pomeranian region.

Dariusz Adam Ledjon's professional skills are characterized by multidirectional activity, high creative productivity, professional individuality, and high personal culture.

The sphere of Dariusz Ledjon's professional activity includes not only music and instrumental performance, conducting, theory and methodology of teaching brass instruments, but also concert and touring activities, cultural and educational work, management of educational and cultural and leisure environment, research work.

Important qualities of Dariusz Ledjon's professional culture as a director include: passion for his work, critical and responsible attitude to his professional duties, creative understanding of what is happening, use of values and realities of modern life in the management activity, great efficiency in work and humanity in relations with people.

This paper can be considered as a study of personal and professional aspects of the creative, managerial and educational activity of Dariusz Adam Ledjon, who is a significant representative of contemporary culture of the West Pomeranian region of Poland.

Relevant for further scientific discourse are the issues of cultural-artistic and



managerial activity of Dariusz Adam Ledzion, aimed at the innovative development of the Łobez House of Culture as a territorial center of culture and amateur creativity, as well as a constituent part of the system of culture and art of the West Pomeranian region of Poland.

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**Анотація:** у статті розглянуто та проаналізовано педагогічні, менеджерські, творчі здобутки у сфері культури й освіти Даріуша Адама Леджсона, його професійний внесок у пропаганду духового виконавства та оркестрово-духової музики на культурних теренах Західно-Поморського регіону. Вивчено його досвід у формуванні інтересу в підростаючого покоління та молоді до оркестрово-духової музики, музичної творчості, стимулювання творчого зростання молодих обдарувань. Окреслено його роль, як диригента й арт-менеджера Молодіжного духового оркестру Лобезького Будинку культури, наукового дослідника історії оркестрово-духового виконавства Західнопоморського регіону Польщі, фундатора фестивальних рухів місцевого й міжнародного значення, ініціатора розбудови м. Лобез як важливого регіонального центру культури та мистецтва з міжнародним статусом, автора й координатора низки проєктів культурно-мистецького, музичного й соціокультурного спрямування, директора Лобезького Будинку Культури.

**Ключові слова:** професійна майстерність, менеджер сфери культури, культурно-мистецькі проєкти, музикант-педагог, оркестрове та духове виконавство.

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