Summary

THE MUSIC OF ADVENT
Tradition of playing *ligawka* in Mazowsze and Podlasie

The book presents the historical and contemporary sources describing the folk instrument called *ligawka*, an aerophone with mouthpiece, from Mazowsze and Podlasie in eastern Poland. The source-material — 19th century ethnography and field studies conducted by the author in 1981-2002 — refers in particular to the instrument's nomenclature, construction, operation and cultural contexts. An account of the *ligawka* is set out in tables organized according to the following criteria: the instrument's material, construction, shape, length, diameter, geographical and historical localization, performer and place and time of performance.

The instrument was made from the trunk of a young tree, or more often from a branch 1-2 metres in length. This was cut longitudinally, the halves were then hollowed out and fastened with wicker hoops or tied with cord covered in tar. Similar varieties of instrument were found throughout Europe, as evidenced by medieval iconographic sources.

Particular attention is drawn to the utilitarian aspects of this aerophone. The *ligawka* belonged to the head shepherd of a village or community, who each morning summoned the farmers to lead their animals out to pasture. The occupation of district-shepherd survived in many villages and small towns in eastern and north-eastern Poland until the end of the 19th century. The *ligawka* also served as a signalling instrument for barges transporting timber by river. However, the *ligawka* is primarily associated with Advent, when it was played in the village each morning and evening, and in church during Mass, especially on Christmas Day. The instrument is not only important as a means of signalling and communicating over a distance but is also significant firstly for its role as a symbol of the trumpet in the Holy Scriptures and secondly for its part in folklore which claimed that the sounds of the trumpet in autumn protected crops and livestock from destructive forces.