

## Lecture of the Valentin-Rathgeber-Society in Poland



The famous composer Valentin Rathgeber born in Oberelsbach on April 3, 1682, is hardly known in Poland so far. The Polish musicologist Marcin Konik of Kraków University found in monastic archives in Poland and Slovakia a lot of manuscripts with compositions of Rathgeber. He was surprised at the former importance of this composer hitherto unknown in his home country. Literature on this composer is also sparse. Only by searching the internet he could contact the Valentin-Rathgeber-Society in Oberelsbach. Due to his initiative, a fruitful dialogue was established and a lot of manuscripts could be identified with the historical prints.



While working together on Rathgeber, the idea was born to hold a lecture on Rathgeber at the institute of musicology of Kraków University to present the latest findings and the state of research on Rathgeber to the Polish experts. For that reason Dr. Erasmus Gaß and his brother Berthold went to Kraków - about 850 km away from Oberelsbach - to have an English lecture there on October 19, 2005 lasting about 1,5 hours. With a powerpoint presentation and many examples of music, life and oeuvre of Rathgeber was perfectly displayed. This lecture was well-attended so that the room was nearly too small for the broad audience. The Gaß brethren also brought heartiest greetings as well as gifts from District Administrator Thomas Habermann and Birgit Erb, Mayoress of Oberelsbach. Especially in 2005 dedicated to the German-Polish friendship, this activity was a sign of cultural cooperation.

