**The Song and Dance Ensemble "Małe Kęty"**

The Song and Dance Ensemble "Małe Kęty" has been operating in the local community for over 8 years.

It is the youngest dancing and singing folklore group in the commune. It cultivates rich folk traditions rooted in our city for years. Its repertoire includes the Krakow suite with the Lajkonik, dances and songs of the Żywiec highlanders, the Lublin suite and an extensive caroling program.

The band consists of a group of 20 children and adolescents aged 6 to 15 with a folk band.

The head of the group is Ms. Małgorzata Waluś - a folklorist, musician and choreographer.

The manager of the band is Mr. Jakub Waluś - an instructor, musician, teacher.

**GROUP ACTIVITY:**

The group actively participates in the life of the local community and enriches the program of events and important events of the Kęty commune with numerous concerts. You can see them: during the city festival of Kęty Days, school picnics, family fairs, at fairs and thematic reviews. On average, it is over 20 concerts annually. Thanks to its rich activity, the ensemble is a very important showcase not only of the Cultural Center in Kęty, but the entire commune and the region that it represents during performances. Both children and their parents are very open to cooperation and involved in the activities of the Team, which means that they create an extremely active, family group with common passions and interests. The Song and Dance Ensemble "Małe Kęty" is constantly looking for development opportunities, constantly investing in improving its competences. The members of the band take part in numerous vocal workshops organized by the Folklore Academy promoting the Beskid Żywiecki region. In 2019 he took part in the Beskidzka Culture Week for the first time. During the 56th TKB, the group presented their native folklore on two stages of this prestigious Festival: in Maków Podhalański and Szczyrk, which was a real distinction.

In the same year, the band released their first CD with Christmas carols and pastorals. The 30-minute disc contains 12 pieces in a regional arrangement and original arrangement.

**PRIZES AND AWARDS:**

The team, although young in age and experience, has already won many awards and distinctions:

 National Folk Festival "For a cup of black diamonds" in Katowice

2nd place (2016)

 Review of Christmas Carols and Pastorales in Łodygowice: 3rd place (2016), 1st place (2017), 2nd place (2019)

 International Festival of Religious Creativity "PsalliteDeo" in Kęty: distinction (2016), 1st place (2017), 2nd place (2018), 1st place (2020)

 International Dance Meetings "Adventure and Friends" in Rybnik: 1st place (2018)

 Individually, brothers Tomasz and Karol Teda became laureates of the 4th Song Festival organized by the Golec Brothers Foundation.

 11th Carols and Pastorales Competition in Rychwałd: distinction (2021)

**TRIPS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

In 2013 as still a very young group, the ensemble participated in the "V Beskidzka Dolina" Festival in Turzovka, Slovakia. It was the children's first trip abroad, full of impressions and valuable artistic experiences.

In 2018. received an invitation from the Polish National Government in Érd, Hungary to participate in the Festival of "Flowering Grapes Day", and in 2019. at the invitation of the Turzovka Commune in Slovakia, he performed during the Beskydske Slavnosti Folklore Festival.