

CONCERT OF POLISH PREMIERES

PROGRAM

Krzysztof Kostrzewa, songs to lyrics by Czesław Miłosz:

Dar [The Gift]

Maciej Gallas – tenor, Krzysztof Kostrzewa – piano

O aniołach [About Angels]

Matka – pieśń do słów Juliana Tuwima

[Mother – A Song to the Lyrics by Julian Tuwim]

Maciej Gallas – tenor, Magdalena Prejsnar-Wąsacz – piano

Fryderyk Chopin, *Lento con gran espressione in C Sharp minor*

Impromptu in C Sharp minor

Magdalena Prejsnar-Wąsacz – piano

Ewa Nidecka, songs to lyrics by Bolesław Leśmian:

O zmierzchu [At Twilight]

Lubię szeptać ci słowa [I Like to Whisper Words to You]

Nie obiecuję ci prawie nic [I Promise You Almost Nothing]

Maciej Gallas – tenor, Ewa Nidecka – piano

Jerzy Gablenz, song to lyrics by Antoni Waśkowski

Tyle miłości przeboleło we mnie [So Much Love It Hurts Inside Me]

Stanisław Lipski, song to words by Lucjan Rydel *Jesienią* [In Autumn]

Ignacy Jan Paderewski, song to lyrics by Adam Mickiewicz, *Piosnka dudarza*

[Bagpiper's Song]

Karol Szymanowski, song to lyrics by Kazimierz Tetmajer

Daleko został cały świat [Far Away It Was Whole World]

Fryderyk Chopin, song to lyrics by Adam Mickiewicz, *Moja pieszczotka* [My Caress]

Stanisław Moniuszko, song to lyrics by Adam Mickiewicz, *Znasz-li ten kraj*

[Do You Know This Country]

Maciej Gallas – tenor, Magdalena Prejsnar-Wąsacz – piano

The Polish Social and Cultural Association, LONDON, UK.

14th JANUARY 2024, 7.30 p.m.

Maciej Gallas – tenor, is a graduate of the Music Academy in Kraków, Poland (1998) where he was a student of Christian Elssner and Adam Szybowski. He had his operatic debut in 1997, performing the part of Tamino in *The Magic Flute* by W. A. Mozart at Kraków Opera. He is particularly interested in baroque works, performed with the accompaniment of ensembles of historical instruments, as well as symphonic and chamber orchestras. He has worked with such ensembles as the Concerto Polacco (Warsaw), Arte Dei Suonatori (Poznań), Cappella Cracoviensis (Kraków), Camerata Silesia (Katowice) as well as various philharmonic orchestras including those from Białystok, Częstochowa, Katowice, Kraków, Opole, Rzeszów, Wałbrzych, Zabrze. He took part in international festivals like Wratislavia Cantans, Muzyka w Starym Krakowie, Jan Kiepura Festival in Krynica, and the Old Music Festival in Kraków. He recorded numerous albums, as well as TV and radio recordings. He collaborates with Kraków Opera, Chamber Opera in Kraków, and Opera Śląska in Katowice. He is music faculty member at Władysław Żeleński Music School in Kraków. Amongst his pupils there are laureates of many competitions. He is also a lecturer at the Music Department of Rzeszów University and the Voice and Acting Department of the Music Academy in Kraków. In 2014 he was awarded a post-doctoral degree in musical arts from the Karol Szymanowski Music Academy in Katowice. In 2022 the President of the Republic of Poland awarded him the title of Professor of Arts.

Krzysztof Kostrzewa, graduated from the Theory of Music and Composition Department at the Academy of Music in Krakow, Poland, in the class of Bogusław Schaeffer. In the years 1994–96 he continued his studies at Theory of Music at Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart, Germany, under the guidance of M. Hermann. In the years 1989–2000 he took part in courses of electroacoustic music in Krakow, Amsterdam, Schwaz, Stuttgart and Helsinki. Between 1988 and 1994 he was a teacher of music theory at the Academy of Music in Krakow. Since 1988, he has held theoretical classes at the Music Institute of the University of Rzeszów, where he currently serves as Professor. He is a composer of 82 works, mainly solo and chamber ones, including *Concerto* for bass clarinet and orchestra, *Missa* for alt solo, mixed choir and orchestra, *Magnificat* for soprano, tenor, choir and orchestra, *I Symphony* and *Przymus światła* (Compulsion of Light) for percussion, flutes and orchestra. His main interests are instrumental and electroacoustic music.

In his publications, he focuses on serial music and Polish contemporary music. He published several articles on serial music in “Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego” and “Ruch Muzyczny” (2010, Nos. 6 and 7). Currently, he devotes his time to research of the musical output of Bogusław Schaeffer, Barbara Buczek and Helmut Lachenmann.

Music theorist and composer **Ewa Nidecka**, is a graduate of the Academy of Music in Kraków. Since 1988, she has been a faculty member at the Institute of Music of the University of Rzeszów, where she currently serves as Professor. Her primary research interests focus on the musical culture of the city of Lviv (German: *Lemberg*, Polish: *Lwów*), which resulted first in a doctoral thesis *The Work of Polish Composers in Lviv and the Ukrainian Composer School*. Her subsequent research includes works of Polish composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, music created in the Experimental Studio of the Polish Radio in Warsaw, and the culture of Galician Jews.

Her most important research achievements include: “Polish Radio Experimental Studio - Work Unknown, Unexplored, Forgotten” – a part of the project “White spots - music and dance” of the Institute of Music and Dance in Warsaw (2019-2020) and “Jews in the Musical Culture of Galicia”, a project of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education “Excellent Science” (2020-2022), which received the patronage of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Ewa Nidecka participated in many international scientific conferences (Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy), and lectured in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Turkey and USA. She is the author of over 70 publications, 5 monographs, which can be found in many prestigious libraries, incl. the US Library of Congress and the universities of: Oxford, Berkeley, Harvard, Yale, Kansas, Laurence, Stanford, Toronto etc. She is also the author of songs, electro-acoustic compositions, for the piano, as well as soprano saxophone.

Magdalena Prejsnar-Wąsacz graduated from the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw in the class of Bronisława Kawalla and chamber music class of Maja Nosowska.

She perfected her piano skills at the International Master Courses in Duszniki-Zdrój, Freiburg, Zurich and New York, where she collaborated with outstanding professors: Halina Czerny-Stefańska, Elza Kolodin and Rudolf Buchbinder. She regularly gives concerts, records for the radio and television and conducts music workshops in the country and abroad (Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and USA).

In 2009 she recorded a CD *Piano Preludes* at the Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio of Polish Radio in Warsaw, which was released by the record company DUX. The CD features piano preludes of 20th-century Polish composers, such as: Wojciech Kilar, Kazimierz Serocki, Zygmunt Mycielski, Henryk Mikołaj Górecki, Miłosz Magin, Krzysztof Knittel and Paweł Mykietyń. Her recordings include following albums: *The Very Best of Kilar*

(DUX, 2012), *The Very Best of Górecki* (DUX, 2015) and *Chopin Piano Music* (DUX 2020). Together with Sławomir Dobrzański she recorded three works for two pianos composed by Wiktor Łabuński (*Wiktor Łabuński Complete Piano Works*, Acte Préalable, 2019).

In 2001, Magdalena Prejsnar earned a doctoral degree in musical arts at her alma mater. In 2012 she was awarded a post-Doctorate Degree in Musical Arts at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. Currently, she serves as University Professor at the Institute of Music of the University of Rzeszów.