



 ANDRZEJ MARKOWSKI FOUNDATION

MUSICA
VINCIT
OMNIA

AMBASSADOR'S INTRODUCTION

The Andrzej Markowski Foundation's series *MUSICA VINCIT OMNIA* was initiated in November 1999, by organizing a great Chopin's Festival in Washington, D.C., and for the past 18 years it has promoted Polish classical music and artists abroad, especially in the United States.

We are grateful to Malgorzata Markowska and the Andrzej Markowski Foundation, of which she is the President, for the idea of the *Triptych*, for their comprehensive involvement and crucial contribution to the organization of these musical events. The mission of the Embassy of Poland in Washington, D.C. in cultural diplomacy is to foster better knowledge and understanding of Polish history and national heritage in the United States. Our goal is to ensure that the richness of Polish culture has a constant presence among American society. We achieve this through public events and educational activities in collaboration with partners and friends, which allows Poland to participate in American cultural life.

2018 marks the Centennial of Poland's Independence and the *Triptych* project is intended to prepare for the celebration of this anniversary with the most beautiful and universal language – Music.



Piotr Wilczek
Ambassador

on front cover:

Katarzyna Markowska – „*Untitled Composition*” (1993), watercolor, private collection; *photo* – Eric de Behr

ANDRZEJ MARKOWSKI FOUNDATION



The Andrzej Markowski Foundation is a non-profit organization whose main objectives are to organize classical music concerts and artistic events in order to promote Polish artists, deepen the understanding and appreciation of Polish music abroad and foreign music in Poland.

Since its creation, Foundation has organized thirty remarkable concerts and events in Poland, USA and France. Within the “Musica Vincit Omnia” cycle, Foundation prepared a series of concerts with such great artists as Krystian Zimerman, Janusz Olejniczak, Olga Pasiecznik, Jan Lisiecki, Gustav Leonhardt, Wieland Kuijken, “De Caelis”, “Huelgas Ensemble”, “La Fenice”, Magdalena Llamas, Juana Zayas and many others.

In October 2014 in Warsaw, to commemorate 90th birth anniversary of Maestro Andrzej Markowski, the distinguished orchestra conductor, composer and creator of the Wratislavia Cantans Festival in Poland, Foundation organized in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, a Polish-American Triptych with the participation of the Aukso Chamber Orchestra and the Polish Sinfonia Iuventus Orchestra, and the conductor Kenneth Slowik, Artistic Director of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society, flutist Jadwiga Kotnowska, and cellist Steven Honigberg.

Malgorzata Markowska
President of the Andrzej Markowski Foundation



MUSICA VINCIT OMNIA 2017

APRIL 20

THURSDAY, 8:00 PM

CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS,
FLORIDA

ROYAL STRING QUARTET

- ▼ KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI – STRING QUARTET NO 3
- ▼ ZYGMUNT KONIECZNY – QUARTET

I N T E R M I S S I O N

- ▼ CLAUDE DEBUSSY – STRING QUARTET

APRIL 21

FRIDAY, 8:00 PM

CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS,
FLORIDA

PROF. MAREK DYZEWSKI

- ▼ LECTURE IN ENGLISH
- "VOICE OF MUSIC IN THE MASTERPIECES OF PAINTINGS"

MUSICA VINCIT OMNIA 2017

APRIL 22

SATURDAY, 8:00 PM

CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS,
FLORIDA

BEATA BILINSKA, PIANIST

▼ FRYDERYK CHOPIN:

- BALLADE F MAJOR OP. 38
- MAZURKAS OP. 68:
 - NO 1 C MAJOR
 - NO 2 A MINOR
 - NO 3 F MAJOR
 - NO 4 F MINOR
- SCHERZO H MINOR, OP. 20
- GRAND POLONAISE IN E-FLAT MAJOR OP. 22

I N T E R M I S S I O N

▼ KAROL SZYMANOWSKI – PRELUDES, OP. 1:

- NO 1 H MINOR
- NO 2 D MINOR
- NO 7 C MINOR
- NO 5 D MINOR

▼ GRAZYNA BACEWICZ – II PIANO SONATA

▼ GEORGE GERSHWIN – RHAPSODY IN BLUE

MUSICA VINCIT OMNIA 2017

APRIL 23

SUNDAY, 5:30 PM

SMITHSONIAN MUSIC HALL,
WASHINGTON D.C.

ROYAL STRING QUARTET

▼ ZYGMUNT KONIECZNY – QUARTET

I N T E R M I S S I O N

▼ FRANC SCHUBERT – QUINTET C MAJOR OP. 163

(WITH PARTICIPATION OF KENNETH SLOWIK,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S CHAMBER MUSIC)

APRIL 27

THURSDAY, 5:00 PM

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
FLORIDA

PROF. MAREK DYZEWSKI

▼ LECTURE IN ENGLISH

"THE POLISH SOUL IN THE MIRROR OF SACRED MUSIC"

ROYAL STRING QUARTET

Nominated for the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Chamber Music Award, the Royal String Quartet is one of the most dynamically developing string quartets in the world today. Its repertoire combines outstanding musical works of the past with contemporary music, bravely pushing musical genres.

The RSQ was established at The Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw in 1998. The critical breakthrough in the RSQ's career came with the invitation to join BBC Radio 3's prestigious New Generation Artists scheme (2004-2006) which promotes the most talented young musicians from all over the world. Some of the most important achievements in the RSQ's career include winning competitions in Casale Monferrato (Italy), Cracow (Poland), Kuhmo (Finland) and Banff (Canada). The quartet also received a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award, given to outstanding musicians to help them develop their international careers.

Another achievement came with the release of the Quartet's next album, this time with complete recordings of Henryk Mikołaj Górecki's string quartets (Hyperion 2011). Critics



consider this to be one of three most important interpretations of the repertoire, was Editor's Choice in "Gramophone" and received high praise in "BBC Music Magazine", "Diapason" (5 stars) and "The Strad".

The Quartet has performed many times at Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall in London, and also at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, Phillips Collection with Andrzej Markowski Foundation, National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., Le Grand Theatre in Bordeaux, Martinů Hall in Prague, Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Konzerthaus in Vienna and Berlin, Sejong Center in Seoul, Beijing Concert Hall, Konserthuset in Stockholm, and also at The Witold Lutoslawski Concert Studio of Polish Radio and the Warsaw Philharmonic Hall. The RSQ's concerts have been broadcast by Mezzo TV, Polish Radio 2, BBC Radio 3 and other European radio stations.

The Royal String Quartet has featured in prestigious festivals including the BBC Proms, City of London Festival, Aldeburgh Festival, West Cork Chamber Music Festival in Ireland, Schleswig Holstein and Rheingau Festivals in Germany, Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival in Warsaw, Sacrum Profanum in Cracow (Poland), Andrzej Markowski festival Wratislavia Cantas in Wrocław (Poland), Andrzej Markowski Foundation and The Perth International Arts Festival in Australia.

Since Autumn 2012 RSQ has been Quartet in Residence at Queen's University Belfast. The Royal String Quartet has received a Special Award of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage "in recognition of their contribution to Polish culture".

"The Royals have a special feeling for texture and colour, which is vital in this music, but an equally strong sense of structure"

("BBC Music Magazine")

"Firm, full-bodied playing, with a wide range of dynamic, colour and attack, and with all the unexpected twists and turns confidently negotiated"

("Gramophone")

"The Royal Quartet is outstanding in every respect"

("International Record Review")

PROF. MAREK DYŻEWSKI



Marek Dyżewski – Polish outstanding humanist – graduated from the Academy of Music in Wrocław. He also studied history of art in Wrocław, Vienna and at the Catholic University of Lublin and did research at the university in Brussels.

As an essayist, he has contributed to many publications and appeared on radio and television. For Polish Radio he has created some masterpieces of radio art which have won many prizes for their novel approach and outstanding artistic merit; he has twice represented Polish radio in the world broadcasting forum Prix Italia.

On the radio and television he has commented on Poland's most important international musical events: the International "Wratislavia Cantans" Oratorio and Cantata Festival, the Grzegorz Fitelberg International Conducting Competition, the Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition, and the Frédéric Chopin International Piano Competition. His appearances as commentator on the Chopin Competition were acclaimed *"event of the year"* by the Polish Radio Programme Council.

He is an author of poetic translations (from Latin, French, German, Spanish and Italian). The medieval mystery play "Ludus Danielis" in his literary adaptation (based on the Latin text from Beauvais cathedral) was produced by the Great Theatre Warsaw and shown in Warsaw and in many European theatres.

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He was the founder and, for sixteen years, artistic director of Days of Music of Old Masters, an international festival of old music in Wrocław. He conceived this festival as a monographic event aimed at demonstrating chosen problems from the history of musical culture in the past centuries.

He has lectured at all Polish music academies, at several universities, as well as at seminars, conferences and workshops accompanying important musical events. He has been guest lecturer in Bonn, Nuremberg, Hamburg, Berlin, Ghent, Brussels, St Petersburg, Nice, Paris, Vienna and Washington. In his lectures and writings he shows musical phenomena in a broad cultural context – in relation to the other fields of art, and to philosophy, aesthetics and anthropology. He has summed up his reflections in an original theory comprising all aspects of the art of practising, and in his own, extremely original philosophy of artistic education, presented in a cycle of fifteen programmes on Polish Radio 2, which have met with a lively response in the music and teaching circles. In a letter addressed to the management of Polish Radio 2 the head of the chair of philosophy of education at the Catholic University of Lublin has said that he records all of Marek Dyżewski's programmes and then discusses them with his students, as they are *"a treasure trove for both scholars and students"*.

In 1990-1994 Marek Dyżewski was rector of the Academy of Music in Wrocław. Under his rectorship the Academy acquired a new, imposing building and a large collection of instruments, developed numerous international contacts, its academic staff was enlarged and new courses were introduced.

For his achievements in the field of culture Marek Dyżewski was awarded the St Brother Albert Prize.

BEATA BILIŃSKA

Beata Bilińska belongs to the leading Polish pianists.

PhD, habilitation in Musical Arts, Associate professor of The Karol Szymanowski Music Academy in Katowice.

She leads extensive artistic life for more than 20 years. She performs in Poland and abroad. At present, she also gives masterclass in Poland and abroad.

She performed during many prestigious festivals and concerts in (among others) Austria, Argentina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Germany, Norway, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukraine, USA and Italy.

In 1996 she graduated with distinction from the Karol Szymanowski Music Academy in Katowice in the class of Professor Andrzej Jasiński. Upon graduation, she joined the Academy's faculty. She worked for six years as Professor Jasiński's assistant becoming an associate professor.

Foreign tours have taken her to Austria, Argentina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Norway, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukraine and the USA.

Beata Bilińska is prize winner of such competition as Second Prize at the 1st International Young Pianists Competition "Arthur Rubinstein In Memoriam" in Bydgoszcz (1993), Finalist – 46th Ferruccio Busoni International Piano Competition, Bolzano, Italy (1993), 1st Prize and Audience Award – 17th International Piano Competition "Rina Sala Gallo" in Monza, Italy (2002).

Beata Bilińska has recorded 10 CDs with e.g. Piano concertos by L. van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin, Sergey Rachmaninov, Modest Musorgsky and Sergey Prokofiev solo music, 20th – Century Polish Music for Violon & Piano, chamber music by Aleksander Tansman and Piano Concerto "Resurrection" by Krzysztof Penderecki (2005) and 2nd Piano Concerto by Wojciech Kilar (2014).

For the recordings she received many other awards: "Pizzicato Supersonic Award" in Luxemburg, "Joker Award" by Belgium "Les Crescendo", "Scherzo Award" in Madrid, "Musica Award" in Rome and the most prestigious MIDEM Classical Award 2008.

14th October 2011 Beata Bilińska was the first performer of 2nd Piano Concerto by Wojciech Kilar (world premiere with National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra).



DR. KENNETH SLOWIK

Artistic Director of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society since 1985, Kenneth Slowik first established his international reputation primarily as a cellist and viola da gamba player through his work with the Smithsonian Chamber Players, Castle Trio, Smithson String Quartet, Axelrod Quartet, and with the Amsterdam-based ensemble *L'Archibudelli*. Conductor of the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra since 1988, he led the Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra from 1998 to 2004, and has been a featured instrumental soloist and/or guest conductor with numerous other orchestras and ensembles, among them the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, the Vancouver Symphony, the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic, the Pleven Philharmonic, the Twenty-First Century Consort, the Washington Bach Consort, and the Cleveland Orchestra.

Slowik's impressive discography comprises over seventy recordings featuring him as conductor, cellist, gambist, and keyboard player for music ranging from the Baroque (Marais, Corelli, Bach) through the Classical (Haydn, Boccherini, Beethoven, Schubert) and Romantic (Mendelssohn, Schumann, Mahler) to the mid twentieth century (Schönberg, Bartók, Stravinsky). Of these, many have won prestigious international awards, including France's *Diapason d'Or* and *Choc*, the "British Music Retailers' Award for Excellence," Italy's *Premio Internazionale del Disco Antonio Vivaldi*, two GRAMMY® nominations, and numerous "Record of the Month" and "Record of the Year" prizes.

Dr. Slowik has presented lectures throughout the United States and has contributed to a number of symposia at American and European universities and museums. Artistic Director of the Baroque Performance Institute at Oberlin since 1993, he serves on the faculties of the University of Maryland, the American Bach Soloists Academy, and *L'Académie internationale du Domaine Forget*, and received the Smithsonian Secretary's Distinguished Scholar Award in 2011.

The present project is the second in which Slowik has appeared in the Andrzej Markowski Foundation's series *Musica Vincit Omnia*. In 2014, he was invited to work with the excellent Polish national youth orchestra, the *Polska Orkiestra Sinfonia Iuventus*, to prepare and perform a program of mid-20th-century works by Grazyna Bacewicz, Charles Ives, Igor Stravinsky, and Aaron Copland, giving those next-generation musicians an exciting introduction to some American symphonic masterworks. As part of the same project, he also presented, at the *Uniwersytet Warszawski*, a lecture on music in the life of three Washington, D.C., cultural institutions: the Library of Congress, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Smithsonian.





Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland



The Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Washington, D.C.



Smithsonian
Institution



MILLER
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