

## LUDOMIR ROZYCKI

David C F Wright PhD

Ludomir Rozycki was a very fine Polish composer but, like many others, is not well known and that is a disgrace. Yet he was a master of orchestration and melody as evidenced in his beautiful Violin Concerto of 1944. Someone has said this work makes for an interesting comparison with the violin concertos of Szymanowski, Karłowicz and Młynarski. Rozycki's Violin Concerto is 24 minutes of glorious music with sublime melodies, impeccable orchestration in what is a memorable and convincing work.



Rozycki was born on 18 September 1883 in Warsaw. His father was a professor of music at the Warsaw Conservatory. Ludomir was an outstanding student and passed all his exams with distinction including the Gold Medal for musicianship. He studied piano with Aleksander Michałowski, theory with Gusław Rogulski and Michał Biernacki and composition with Noskowski. He then went to Berlin to study with Humperdinck between 1904 and 1907 and, from 1907, taught piano at Lvov. He became known as a member of the Young Polish Group along with the aforementioned Szymanowski, Karłowicz and the fine conductor, Fitelberg.

Later Rozycki moved back to Warsaw where he continued to compose and his excellent gift for conducting.

One of the many distinctions in his life concerned the ballet Pan Twardowski, the first large scale Polish ballet performed in Copenhagen, Prague, Brno, Zagreb, Belgrade and Vienna and with over 800 performances in Warsaw. What other ballet has had such an instant success?

He composed seven operas, including an operetta, which were also highly regarded.

There is no doubt that he was, and is, a great composer. His music is too good to be ignored.

His Opus 1 is Stanczyk, a symphonic scherzo completed and premiered in 1904 and, after some piano music and songs, he composed his first symphonic poem, Bolesław Smiały, which later was the inspiration for the opera of the same name, Op 20, completed in 1908. The Sonata for cello and piano, Op 10, is a fine work and technically demanding. The first concertante work was the Ballad for piano and orchestra, Op 18, of 1904.

The symphonic poem Anelli, Op 22, is based on the poem of a young man who hikes through Siberia where there is the white hell where Polish exiles are, and it is a place of torment and spiritual decline.

Another symphonic poem Krol Kofetua, Op 24, followed soon after and, in 1911, the second opera, Mona Lisa Giocondo, appeared.

One of his few chamber works was completed in 1915, the Piano Quintet in C minor, Op 35, and the String Quartet in D minor, Op 49, was also completed in 1915. Between these works was the Symphonic Poem King Cophetus which is inspired by the painting of Edward Burne-Jones of the king's love for the beggar maid, Penelophon. The opera, Eros i Psyche, Op 40, took 1914-1916 to compose and, in 1917, the Piano Concerto no 1 in G minor, Op 43, appeared. It is an accomplished work of quality and is post romantic, thank goodness, although it does not break much new ground. The opera, Casanova, Op 47 occupied 1921 to 1922. It is clear that this versatile composer worked on several works at once.

In 1925, his ballet Apollo and the Girl won the Gold Medal of the French Government

Another opera, Beatrix Cence, Op 53, was composed between 1925-1928. The other operas are Diabelski mlyn which was composed between 1928 and 1930. Lili chce spiewoc, an operetta dates from 1932, and the opera Pani Walewski was seven years in the making from 1933 to 1940.

There is a second Piano Concerto of 1941-1942.

Many of his manuscripts were destroyed in the Warsaw uprising of 1944 when Poland was liberated from the Nazis and Socialism. He moved to Katowice and, from 1945, was the acting Dean of the National Higher School of Music there.

He was a loyal Polish man through and through.

His last work was a symphonic poem, Liberated Warsaw, which dates from 1950.

He died in Katowice on 1 January 1953.

This article is inadequate in that details and recordings of many of his works are not available. Some scores can be viewed on IMSLP and there are two CDs on the Acte Preable label.

## LIST OF WORKS

### Works with Opus number

- Op.1 Stańczyk, symphonic scherzo (1903-1904)
- Op.2 Preludes for piano (1904)
- Op.3 Two Preludes and Two Nocturnes for piano (1904) (published as op.3a Preludes and op.3b Nocturnes? according to HMB 1905, pages 302-303)
- Op.4 Gra fal for piano (1904)
- Op.5 Two Melodies for violin or cello and piano (1904-1909)
- Op.6 Four Impromptus for piano (1904)
- Op.8 Bolesław Śmiały, symphonic poem (1896)
- Op.9 Eight Songs after poems by Tadeusz Miciński for voice and piano (1904)
- Op.10 Cello Sonata in A minor (1906)
- Op.11 Phantasy for piano (1905)
- Op.12 Four Songs for voice and piano (1906)
- Op.14 Six Songs for voice and piano (1906)
- Op.15 Trois Morceaux for piano (1905)
- Op.16 Six Songs after poems by Tadeusz Miciński for voice and piano (1906)
- Op.18 Ballad for piano and orchestra (1904)
- Op.19 Three Songs for voice and piano (1908)
- Op.20 Bolesław Śmiały, opera (1906-1908)
- Op.22 Anhelli, symphonic poem (1909)
- Op.23 Three Songs after poems by Cyprian Kamil Norwid for voice and piano (1909)
- Op.24 Król Kofetua, symphonic poem (1910)
- Op.25 Balladyna, poem for piano (1909)
- Op.26 Contes d'une horloge for piano (1905)
- Op.27 Meduza, opera (1908-1911)
- Op.28 Air, mirage, un rêve for piano (1905)
- Op.29 Mona Lisa Gioconda, symphonic poem (1911)
- Op.30 Two Nocturnes for violin and piano (1909)
- Op.33 Rhapsody for violin, cello and piano (1909-1913)
- Op.35 Piano Quintet in C minor (1913-1915)

- Op.36 Laguna for piano (1915)
- Op.37 Polish Dances for piano (1915)
- Op.39 Neuf Esquisses for piano (1915)
- Op.40 Eros i Psyche, opera (1914-1916)
- Op.42 Four Intermezzi for piano (1915-1918)
- Op.43 Piano Concerto No.1 in G minor (1917-1918, published 1921 in reduction)
- Op.45 Pan Twardowski, ballet music (1919-1920)
- Op.46 Fantasiestücke for piano (1919)
- Op.47 Casanova, opera (1921-1922)
- Op.48 Three Songs for mixed chorus a cappella (1924)
- Op.49 String Quartet in D minor (1915)
- Op.50 Italia for piano (1923)
- Op.51 Three Erotic Poems for voice and piano (1923)
- Op.52 Four Pieces for piano (1924)
- Op.53 Beatrix Cenci, opera (1925-1926)
- Op.55 Słowik for piano (1933)
- Op.58 Six Characteristic Pieces for piano (1924)
- Op.70 Violin Concerto (1944, unfinished)

#### Works without Opus number

- Diabelski młyn, opera (1928-1930)
- Dance Suite for orchestra (1931-1932)
- Lili chce śpiewać, operetta (1932)
- Pani Walewska, opera (1933-1940)
- Apollo i dziewczyna, ballet music (1937)
- Pietà (Na zgliszczach Warszawy) for orchestra (1940-1943)
- Piano Concerto No.2 (1941-1942)
- Dzwony, poem for voice and orchestra (1942-1948)
- Polonez uroczysty for orchestra (1945-1946)
- Warszawa wyzwolona, symphonic poem (1950)

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