

## WOJCIECH LUKASZEWSKI

David C F Wright PhD

Here is another gifted Polish composer who died young, shortly after his 42nd birthday.

Wojciech Lukaszewski was born on 10 March 1936 at Czestochowa in southern Poland and died there on 13 April 1978.

His father, Antoni, worked in a legal firm and took part in the Third Silesian Uprising which were armed conflicts against German rule. These uprisings took place between 1919 and 1921.

Antoni married Helena nee Michalska.

Wojciech started to study music at the age of fifteen and graduated from the National 1st and 2nd Degree School of Music in Czestochowa having studied piano with Wacława Sakowicz. In the five years from 1960 he studied composition with Tadeusz Szeligowski and, on his death, studied with Tadeusz Paciorkiewicz both at the Warsaw PWSM.

In 1962, he married Maria Patrzyk and had two sons, Pawel who is a composer and Marcin who is also a musician. During 1966-67, Wojciech was in Paris studying with Nadia Boulanger. On his return to Poland, he worked at the Musical Education Department at PWSM in Warsaw and, a year later, went back to Czestochowa where he lived for the rest of his life.

1971 saw him as the director of the National 1st and 2nd degree School of Music in Czestochowa where he received his Minister of Culture award.

For his compositions he won many prizes:

1965 Composer Competition prize for *Nazywam Ciebie Morze*, a cappella

1968 Young Composers Competition for *Musica per archi*

1969 Composers Competition second prize *Mazowsze* for male chorus a cappella

1970 Composers Competition for *Piesn o zolnierzach z Westerplatte* SATB a cappella

1970 Composers Competition for *Freski Wroclawskie* for baritone, narrator, choir and orchestra

1973 National Composition *Concertino* for piano and orchestra.

His works were frequently played throughout Poland. His works include :

### Orchestra

*Concertino* for piano and orchestra no 1 (1964)

*Musica per archi* (1968)

*Confessioni* for orchestra (1970)

*Concertino* for piano and orchestra no 2 (1972)

*Epizody* for large orchestra, premiered 1984

Chamber music



Kaprys na skrzypce Violin (1963)  
Cztery miniatuury Clarinet and piano (1963)  
Utwor na kwartet smyczkowy (1967)  
Cztery miniatury no 2 (1974)  
Quartet for trombones 1975  
Suite in the Early Style(1976)

#### Solos

Wariacje, C minor for piano  
Prelude for piano 1961  
Toccata for piano 1962  
Sonatina no 1 for piano 1963  
Sonatina no 2 for piano 1963  
Wariacje na temat melodii ludowej piano 1977  
Prelude for accordion 1978

#### Choral a cappella

Nazywam Ciebie Morze 1965  
Tysiaclecie (1966)  
Catulli carmina (1967)  
Mazowsze (1969)  
Piesn o zolnierzach z Westerplatte (1969)  
Tryptyk ludowy (1969)  
Dwie piesni (1969)  
Nike (1971)

#### Many vocal works with instruments

#### Songs voice and piano

#### Music for the theatre

Wszystko dobre co sie dobrze konczy (1971)  
Milosc i proznosc (1974)  
Wierna rzeka (1975)  
Czarodziejskie okulary (1977)

He collaborated with the Czestochowa Philharmonic orchestra as a lecturer at concerts (1968-1971) and wrote programme notes for concerts. He lectured throughout the area. He collaborated with the Music Lovers Group active in the late sixties and seventies and was a member of the jury at various competitions. He was a board member of the Grazyna Bacewicz National Violin Festival and a founder of the Czestochowa Music Society.

From 1963, he was a member of the Polish Composers Society.

He was highly thought of by fellow musicians. Boulanger spoke of his excellent skill in composition and that his works are well worth to be presented to the public. Paciorkiewicz wrote, Among all my students Lukaszewski stood out. He was diligent, keen and hard working. Witold Rudzinski wrote that Lukaszewski was always focused and concentrated and was an introvert expressing himself excellently through his music. We went to Leningrad where his string quartet was received with great enthusiasm. He was righteous man and a great musician.

Marian Borkowski wrote: He died so long ago. He was a loyal friend, a very fine musician. He deserves our continual respect and all who knew him cherish him.

His first Concertino was his earliest work with orchestra dating from 1964 and is neo-classical. It was premiered on 20th March 1970. There are three sections with the outer movements being fast and the central movement being slow, lyrical and charming. The fast movements have a vigour and onward drive and the piano part scintillates. *Musica per archi* is totally different and written during the early months of 1968. There are new sonorities and clusters of sound and the first example of the use of controlled aleatorism. *The Confessions of St Augustine* was written as a response to a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture and the Arts and was premiered by the Czestochowa Philharmonic on 25 May 1973.

The work is short and, again, has some controlled aleatorism but it is full of deep feeling without being banal. *Musica da camera* dates from 1971 and was premiered on 12 December 1975. Its seriousness is never oppressive. *Epizody* is his last orchestral work, premiered again by the Czestochowa Orchestra, on 6th May 1975. His original use of the orchestra is impressive.

This excellent composer died of an embolism and heart attack.

What makes a great composer is their originality, technique and skill. Wojciech Lukaszewski has all these qualities and more.

(864)

---

© COPYRIGHT David C F Wright PhD 1984 revised 2014. This article or any part of it, however small, must not be copied, quoted, reproduced, downloaded or altered in any way whatsoever nor stored in any retrieval system. Failure to comply is in breach of International Copyright Law and will render any offender liable to action at law.