

ZYGMUNT NOSKOWSKI

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Poland has produced many fine and interesting composers, some of which are ignored or forgotten.

Zygmunt Noskowski was born in Warsaw on 2 May 1846 into an intellectual family, His mother, Amelia de Salis, had French ancestors. Noskowski became a composer, teacher, conductor and writer on musical topics. He was a contemporary of Zelenski.

It has been said that Ignacy Dobrzynski ‘discovered’ Noskowski. Dobrzynski (1807-1867) was Polish, albeit born in Russia, and composed a piano concerto at the age of 17, two symphonies, an opera, a cantata, three string quartets and two string quintets.

Zygmunt studied at the Warsaw Conservatory with tuition in violin and piano. He was awarded a scholarship which took him to Berlin in the years 1864 to 1867 studying with Friedrich Keil.



Keil (1821-1885) was an admired teacher and composer of a piano concerto, two string quartets, three piano quintets, piano trios, two piano quintets, a cello sonata and two requiems.

Noskowski graduated in 1875 and his Symphony no 1 in A was premiered on this occasion. It is competent and very good in parts but tends to be episodic. He went to Constanze as Kapellmeister of the Bodan Choral Society before returning to Warsaw in 1880 as the head of the Conservatory. At one time he was a violinist in the opera orchestra in Warsaw.

He was a famous teacher and among his pupils were Karol Szymanowski, Grzegorz Fitelberg, Karłowicz, Melcer, Sachon, Moranski, Wertheim, Maszynski, Adam Wieniawski and Piotr Rykl.

Noskowski was a great advocate of Polish music. He highly regarded Moniuszko (1819-1872) who composed about fourteen operas and eleven operettas and other stage works, cantatas, sacred works, two string quartets and piano pieces.

Held in the highest esteem as Poland's leading composer during the last two decades of his life. His Piano Quartet in D minor Op 8 was hailed as a very fine chamber work. He was an accomplished conductor and, as a journalist and writer on music, he showed great insight.

[PDF of Piano Quartet op. 8](#)

Works include

Orchestral

- Symphony no 1 in A (1874-5)
- Symphony no 2 Elegiac (1878-9)
- Symphony no 3 in F (From Spring to Spring) (1903)
- Concert Overture : Morskire Oko (this is a lake in Poland)
- Polonaise elegiaque in E minor (1885)

Symphonic Poem : The Steppes
Funeral March (1897)
Symphonic Variations on Chopin's' Prelude in A (The Life of the Nation)

Opera

Livia Quintilla (1895)
Wyrok
Revenge for the Boundary Walk

Chamber

String quartet no 1 in D minor (1875)
String quartet no 2 in E
String quartet no 3
Fantasy for string quartet
Piano quartet in D minor Op 8
Viotti variations
Humorous quartet
Violin and cello duo

Violin and piano

Three pieces
Chansonette of the Ukraine
Berceuse
Sonata in A minor

Piano

Three pieces Op 22
Impressions Op 29
Moments melodique Op 56
Feuilles de trefle Op 44
En pastel, three pieces Op 30
Cracovienne (four hands)
Tanice cyganski i kolonyska (four hands)
Piano school after Ludwig Kohler

Lieder for ssa and piano Op 12

Although he was acclaimed as Poland's finest musician in the last two decades of his life , he did have opposition largely fuelled by jealousy. He had financial problems and increasing health problems.

He died in Warsaw on 23 July 1909. He was 63.

(562)