

FRANCISZEK BRZEZINSKI

David C F Wright PhD

Franciszek Brzezinski has been dismissed as an amateur composer because he was a journalist and a critic and, by profession, a lawyer and this education took place in Dresden. As to his amateurism, I know of famous composers who are highly regarded but whose music is often amateurish.

Brzezinski was born in Warsaw on 6 September 1867 and died there on 6 August 1944. He studied music with Jan Kieczynski for piano and Reger for composition in Leipzig. He wrote some piano pieces and a Piano Concerto as well as an admired Sonata for violin and piano. His Triptych for piano Op 5 won the Chopin Competition in Lviv in 1910.

He was well known for his reviews of music in Kurier Warszawski between 1916 and 1921 and held similar positions in Nowiny Muzyczne in 1929 and Rzeczpospolita in 1930 -1931. He wrote articles elsewhere and wrote a biography of Smetena published in Warsaw in 1931. As for his own compositions, they belong to the Romantic style.

His Theme and Variations Op 3 was published by Bote and Bock in 1908 and is a typical set of variations with good variety, although there is a Chopinesque mazurka and a Krakowiak, but there are also some welcome original features The Polish Suite Op 4, also dates from 1908 and begins with an Introduction and Fugue followed by an Oberek, which is a Scherzo, and then an Intermezzo which is a Sarabande and, finally, a Krakowiak, which is a Rondo. The Trypytch Op 5 is three preludes and fugues dating from 1911 in which the composer introduces elements of a more modern style. The Toccata op 7 owes something to the German school of composition. As for the Waltz, it is predictable and reminiscent of Chopin and has nothing to commend it.

(307)

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