

JOZEF KROGULSKI

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Here is yet another neglected Polish composer who died young.

Jozef Wladyslaw Krogulski was born in Tarnow on 4 October 1815, and died in Warsaw on 9 January 1842 at the age of 27, having suffered ill health for some time. He was an excellent pianist, performing to great acclaim in Poland, Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig. He was also a teacher, conductor and composer. His father was Michael, an accomplished musician and composer.

He was far more able and versatile than Chopin since he wrote three masses

(No. 1 in F, No 2 in C and No 3 for three voices and orchestra), a cantata, Kolenda for chorus and organ or piano, Justus ut Palma, a graduate for three voices and orchestra, an opera Oh Zoneka of 1830, and, remember no such works were written by Chopin. Krogulski wrote two piano sonatas, two piano concertos, a very fine Piano Quartet in D Op 2, an Octet for piano, flute, clarinet and strings including a double bass, Op 6. His Op 1 was La Belle Crocoviennne, a fantasy and variations for piano and other piano works include a National March, March Sokolow as well as two mazurkas, one headed A la Chopin. There is also a mazurka entitled A Galloping Englishman of 1833 the significance of the title has not been ascertained



The Piano Concerto in E is an interesting work written when the composer was only 15. It has a strong orchestral introduction and is expertly orchestrated. It is full of melodies which are neither feeble nor effeminate. The music is strong and worthwhile. The adagio is not weak either nor is it dreamy. Melodies abound here as well. The final is a Rondo and is weak because it is full of Chopinesque cliches and a lot of tinkling music. What other piano concerto is in E?

I have enjoyed the last two movements of his Piano Quartet in D Op 2 for piano and string trio which comprise a scherzo marked *allegro molto vivace* and a final. Both movements are exciting and very well written, profoundly mature and original. The music conveys a real joy.

Some foolish person compared Krogulski's Piano Octet Op 6 to Schubert's Trout Quintet which is ridiculous. It is true that they both have a part for double bass but the works are as different as chalk and cheese. Krogulski scores his work for flute, clarinet, string quartet, double bass and piano. It is a mature and attractive piece. There are many foolish people who write about music. The editor of MusicWeb International wrote that Dvorak was influenced by Benjamin Britten and that Liszt was a poor composer and did not understand the piano.

Like Stople, Krogulski was a fine composer and they both achieved much much more than Chopin ever did.

There are people in Poland, and in other parts of Europe, who believe that some Polish composers are ignored in order that Chopin can retain top spot and, as is the case in the UK, many British composers are ignored so that Elgar can be top of the league.

Krogulski deserves performances, recordings and recognition. How long do we have to wait?

SCORES:

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