

Professor Krzysztof Sowiński, PhD, DSc

Education

He graduated from the Mieczysław Karłowicz High School of Music in Poznań in the piano class of Zbigniew Świerzyński, M.A. He completed his piano studies with honors in 1993 in the class of Professor Alicja Kledzik at the I. J. Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań.

Professional career

Immediately after graduation, he was employed at the Poznań academy. In the years 1993-2001 he was an assistant to Prof. Waldemar Andrzejewski. Parallel to his duties at the Chair of Piano, he worked with the cello class, and since 2005 with the viola class. Currently, in his teaching role, he is associated with the Chair of Chamber Music. For many years he taught piano and chamber music at a branch of the Poznań Academy in Szczecin, as well as at the Poznań Higher School of Music (Poznań School of Talents). In 1999 he obtained a first degree qualification (equivalent to a doctoral degree). The recital program included piano works by W.A. Mozart, F. Chopin, Sh. Rachmaninoff, F. Liszt, and K. Szymanowski. In 2014 he was awarded the postdoctoral degree on the basis of an overall assessment of his achievements and artistic work in the form of a CD *Xaver Scharwenka - Piano & Chamber Music*.

Artistic achievements

In 1992 he won third prize at the C. Kahn European Piano Competition in Paris. He was the recipient of scholarships from the F. Chopin Music Society in Warsaw, the F. Liszt Music Society in Wrocław, and the Minister of Culture and Art. He was a participant in the second stage of the Polish National Auditions for Scholarships for Candidates to the 13th International F. Chopin Competition in Warsaw in 1995. He has performed throughout Poland and in Austria, the Czech Republic, Spain, Holland, Germany, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Italy (Sicily), and Hungary, giving a total of about 400 concerts. He partnered such artists as Jadwiga Kaliszewska, Iwona Hossa, Maria Pawlaczyk, Bartosz Bryła, Jarosław Żołnierczyk, Stefan Kamasa, Jan Paruzel, Lech Bałaban, Katarzyna Budnik-Gałązka, Roman Jabłoński, Andrzej Wróbel, Dominik Połowski, Paola Mosca (Italy), Thierry Barbé (France), Maxim Rysanov (Ukraine), Kenneth Martinson (USA), and many others. He collaborated with the Wieniawski Quartet.

He received multiple awards for his creative contribution to the presentations of participants of instrumental competition. He worked at courses and summer academies with outstanding viola and cello players such as: Cecylia Barczyk (USA), Stanisław Firlej, Hans Joachim Greiner (Germany), Roman Labłoński (Spain), Stefan Kamasa, Jerzy Kosmala (USA), Avri Levitan (Israel), Zara Nelsowa (USA), Marcus Nyikos (Germany), Kazimierz Michalik, Janusz Pisarski, Jan Paruzel, Elizabeth Simkin (USA), Ulf Tischbirek (Germany), Victoria Yagling (Finland), Andrzej Zieliński.

He collaborated with the National Cultural Center as part of the "Gaude Polonia" program promoting young artists from Eastern Europe. He conducted piano courses and open lessons in Poland, Portugal and China, and repeatedly sat on juries of national and European music competitions.

His repertoire ranges from the Baroque to the 21st century -- a total of about 350 solo and chamber pieces. They include K. Szymanowski's *Piano Sonata No. 3*, Op. 36, for which he is one of the few performers in Poland. He performed more than 20 premieres of chamber works presented at significant festivals such as the International Festivals of Contemporary Music "Poznań Music Spring" and "Warsaw Autumn", the W. Lutosławski Festival of Contemporary Music in Szczecin, the Festival of Polish Chamber Music (Warsaw), the Festival of Contemporary Music "New Music" in

Bydgoszcz. He was the official pianist of the 46th International Viola Congress in Poznań (2019). He made a recording session for the *Let's Play Together* series for the Diginet and Polish Jazz corporation based in Auburn, California. The material is available online in MP3 format. In 2012--2020, he served successively as deputy dean, dean of the Faculty of String Instruments, Harp, Guitar and Violin Making, and then as head of the Institute of Violin Making. Currently, he is the dean of the Faculty of Instrumental, Jazz and Stage Music [proszę zwrócić uwagę, że w ostatnim Informatorze nazwa wydziału została na Państwa prośbę zmieniona na „...Pop Music”] at the Poznań Academy. In 2017--2020, he was a member of the board of directors of the I. J. Paderewski Academy of Music Foundation in Poznań.

In 2020 he received the title of professor of art. His name was included in Stanisław Dybowski's *Dictionary of Polish Pianists*, published by the Selene publishing house (Warsaw, 2003). Reviews of his albums were published in magazine *Ruch Muzyczny*. His phonographic output includes the following CDs:

- *Zapomniane i nowe utwory na klarnet kompozytorów szczecińskich XIX, XX, XXI wieku* [Forgotten and new works for clarinet by szczecin composers of the 19th, 20th, 21st centuries]; works by Carl Loewe, Ryszard Kwiatkowski, Waldemar Sutryk and Artur Cieślak (co-performer: Bogusław Jakubowski - clarinet)

- *Sonatas*; works by Luigi Boccherini, Ludwig van Beethoven and Dmitri Shostakovich (co-performer: Maciej Mazurek - cello)

- *Młodzi Laureaci w Wadze* [Young Laureates in the Scales]; excerpt from *Cello Concerto in A-Minor* by C. Saint-Saëns (co-performer: Zuzanna Szambelan - cello; published for educational use)

- *Xaver Scharwenka – Piano Piano & Chamber Music*; works by Xavier Scharwenka (co-performers: Bartosz - violin, Michał Bryła - viola, Tomasz Lisiecki -- cello)

- *Viola & Piano Duo*; works by Ernest Bloch, Philipp Scharwenka, Dmitri Shostakovich (co-performer: Lech Bałaban - viola)

- *Polish Viola Music XXI*; works by recent Polish composers (co-performers: Lech Bałaban - viola, Jan Bałaban - violin, Agnieszka Bałaban - cello)

- *Wandering Cloud*; works by Poznań composers (co-performers: Lech Bałaban - viola)

- *Viola Trace 2020* ; works by recent Polish composers (co-performers: Lech Bałaban - viola, Jan Bałaban - violin, Agnieszka Bałaban - cello)

Decorations

He was awarded the Bronze Medal for long service by the President of the Republic of Poland, and also received the Honorary Medal of "Merit for Polish Culture" from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. In 2012 he received the Rector's Award of the I. J. Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań.

Family

Wife Marzena - educated in economics

Son Konrad - a student at the University of Economics in Poznań

Artistic preferences

In his artistic activity, he likes to combine classical, romantic or modernist literature with the achievements of contemporary artists. This is in line with the recently noticeable parallel of artists' interest in contemporary music, on the one hand, and on the other hand, with the skill of the composers of neo-romanticism of the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

This is evidenced by the concerts with works by Mieczysław Śurzyński, whose repertoire will hopefully find its place in the phonographic edition.