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PIAZZOLLA | SZMEREK

***Astor PIAZZOLLA**

Hommage à Liège

Concerto for bandoneon, guitar and string orchestra

***Adam SZMEREK**

Fantazja for accordion and chamber orchestra

***Astor PIAZZOLLA**

Escualo

Tanguedia

***Adam SZMEREK**

Concerto for accordion and chamber orchestra

Elwira SLIWKIEWICZ-CISAK - accordion

Jakub NIEDOBOREK- guitar

Tanguillo Quintet

Lublin Chamber Orchestra

Piotr WIJATKOWSKI – conductor

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Astor PIAZZOLLA (March 11, 1921 – July 4, 1992) was a composer, bandoneon virtuoso and creator of *tango nuevo*. He began learning to play the bandoneon in 1930. At the very beginning of his career, Astor Piazzolla performed with Aníbal Troilo's tango orchestra. The scholarship awarded to Piazzolla in 1954 and his subsequent trip to Paris to study with Nadia Boulanger made him intensively grow as a composer. In his compositions, Astor Piazzolla introduced the elements of both jazz and classical music. His pieces are marked by the atmosphere of some melancholy, the rhythm of tango, the harmony diverging from the tradition (dissonant chromaticism) and the allusions to the baroque music which are reflected in the imitation technique or the *passacaglia* form. Astor Piazzolla formed his own band (Quinteto Tango Nuevo) and performed with it on four continents, which brought him international renown. His career was disrupted by a cerebral stroke. He died in Buenos Aires. Astor Piazzolla's oeuvre is comprised of over 300 tangos, and music to circa 50 films, theatre and ballet performances.

Major works: *Libertango*, *Adios Nonino*, *La Muerte del Angel*, *Oblivion*, *Escualo*, *Hommage à Liège* (concerto for bandoneon, guitar and string orchestra), *María de Buenos Aires* (opera), *La Historia del Tango* for guitar and flute.

Astor Piazzolla celebrated his 64th birthday in Paris. Two days later, he travelled to Liège to give a performance at the Fifth International Guitar Festival where he performed his concerto for bandoneon, guitar and string orchestra for the first time on March 15, 1985 (*Hommage à Liège*). The work was rendered by such performers as Astor Piazzolla (bandoneon), Cacho Tirao (guitar) and the Liège Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Leo Brouwer. In this composition, Astor Piazzolla managed to maintain the balance between the two main instruments. As suggested by Pablo Ziegler (one of Astor Piazzolla's biographers), the composer was inspired by the music of William Walton.

Adam SZMEREK (*1948) is a composer, teacher and graduate of the Academy of Music in Kraków. He started his artistic career after completing his education. At the very beginning, Adam Szmerek – as a composer – was interested in literary song. He received numerous awards for composing music to poetic texts.

Major works: *Koncert fortepianowy* (*Piano Concerto* – for four hands), *Zakopiańska legenda* (*Legend from Zakopane* – the cantata for mezzo-soprano, choir and orchestra), *Trzy erotyki* (*Three Love Poems* for mezzo-soprano and orchestra), *Suita in memory of A.P.* for accordion and orchestra (in symphonic and chamber versions), *Fantazja* (*Fantasy* for accordion and orchestra), *Koncert* (*Concerto* for accordion and orchestra in symphony and chamber versions), *Tango* for accordion and orchestra (in symphony and chamber versions).

"My journey as a composer started with a song. I won several awards at competitions and composed songs for cabaret performances. To sum up, I was rather dealing with light music. Pieces composed for a dozen or so theatre performances were a form of escape for me. However, I was still driven by light music, therefore, I decided to incorporate it into bigger forms. As a result, I composed the cantata *Legend from Zakopane* [...]. When I started teaching at the high music school in Kielce, my artistic career was put on hold for twelve years. The return to composition was caused by my experience as a teacher. At first, I created works for teaching purposes only (piano pieces for four hands, short chamber music pieces). At that time, *Piano Concerto* for four hands was composed. In this piece, I tried to incorporate slightly different content into its classical form... Following the inspiration of Prof. Jerzy Mądrawski and quite a long period of hesitation, I decided to compose a piece for accordion with orchestra. I hesitated because I was not familiar with this instrument and its potential. While creating *Fantasy* for accordion and orchestra, and the three-movement *Concerto* for accordion and orchestra, I was advised by Prof. Elwira Śliwkiewicz-Cisak, to whom I dedicated both compositions," says Adam Szmerek.

Elwira ŚLIWKIEWICZ-CISAK is a graduate of the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw (currently: the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music) in the accordion class of Prof. Włodzimierz Lech Puchnowski. She is a winner of the fourth prize at the All-Polish Accordion Competition in Białystok (1985). In 2013, by the decision of the President of the Republic of Poland, Elwira Śliwkiewicz-Cisak was awarded the degree of Professor of Musical Arts. Not only does she frequently perform both as a soloist and a chamber musician, but also appears with orchestras in Poland, Lithuania, Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy. She is a member of the following groups: El Duende (contemporary music), Kwintet Tanguillo (Argentine tango) and Świętokrzyski Duet Akordeonowy (contemporary music, musette). Elwira Śliwkiewicz-Cisak is also renowned for 14 premieres of contemporary music compositions. Her artistic achievements were registered on numerous electronic CD media, i.e. *15-lecie Zakładu Pedagogiki Instrumentalnej UMCS*, Lublin 2005;

Cztery Pory Roku, Akademia Świętokrzyska, Kielce 2006; *ISKRY*, MEGAVOX 040, Lublin 2008; *Chopin, Brahms, Niziurski, Marek Mizera – piano, Elwira Śliwkiewicz-Cisak – accordion, Jerzy Mądrawski – accordion*, DUX 0749 2010; *Kwintet Tanguillo*, PROQ 07/2010. Elwira Śliwkiewicz-Cisak published an article entitled *The Art of Transcription for the Concert Accordion on the basis of Selected Compositions by Domenico Scarlatti, Isaac Albeniz, Astor Piazzolla, Henryk Wieniawski, Johann Sebastian Bach and Moritz Moszkowski*, Polihymnia, Lublin 2010. She serves as a jury member at international, all-Polish and regional accordion competitions. She also lectures during international and all-Polish master courses, workshops and seminars for accordion players (in Poland and Lithuania). Elwira Śliwkiewicz-Cisak was honoured with the Golden and Silver Crosses of Merit (2009, 2004), the medal of the Commission of National Education (2004), the Brown Medal for Merit to Culture – Gloria Artis (2013). She is currently employed at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin as an Associate Professor. There she serves as a director of the Instrumental Pedagogy Unit of the Institute of Music of the Arts Department.

Jakub NIEDOBOREK is a graduate of the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice in the guitar class of Prof. Alina Gruszka. In 2006, the Faculty Council of the Instrumental Department of the Academy of Music in Katowice awarded him the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in instrumentalist studies. Jakub Niedoborek is a winner of numerous music competitions, *inter alia* in Tychy, Warsaw, Przemyśl and Lublin. He performed with the Silesian, Lublin, Kielce Philharmonic Orchestras, and Camerata Impuls. He is also a member of the following groups: Por Fiesta (flamenco), Kayah & Transoriental Orchestra (world music), Kwintet Tanguillo (Argentine tango), Aires De Los Andes (Latin American music), Fuente (oriental music), El Duende (contemporary music), Dżango & Bango (Roma music), Akustycznie (sung poetry). Jakub Niedoborek also collaborates with numerous outstanding musicians such as Jadwiga Rappé, Kayah, Krzesimir Dębski, Borys Somerschaf, Marek Andrzejewski and Marek Ravski. Moreover, he organizes lessons on how to play in the flamenco style in the entire country (e.g. in Warsaw, Katowice, Kraków, Krzyżowa and Jedlina-Zdrój). Jakub Niedoborek is one of the few guitarists who perform both classical and flamenco music during their recitals. He gives concerts in Poland and abroad (Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Spain, Holland, Israel, Lithuania, Germany, Norway, Slovakia and Ukraine). He records pieces for the Polish radio stations and television channels. His artistic achievements were registered on numerous electronic CD media. Since 1997, Jakub Niedoborek has been employed in the Instrumental Pedagogy Unit of the Institute of Music of the Arts Department of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. Currently, he works there as an Assistant Professor.

TANGUILLO QUINTET is a Lublin instrumental group established in 2003 which is comprised of Elwira Śliwkiewicz-Cisak (accordion), Piotr Chilimoniuk (piano), Jakub Niedoborek (guitar), Dariusz Drzazga (violin) and Robert Brzozowski (double bass). The instruments used by Tanguillo Quintet allude to Quinteto Tango Nuevo, a group established by the Argentinian master of the bandoneon – Astor Piazzolla.

The performance manner of the group results from the combination of excellent technique and precision of performance with the artistic expression. Kwintet Tanguillo's play is compared to the fire – the one which does not burn, but stimulates the imagination. It is due to the variety of styles (i.e. classical music, jazz, sung poetry, flamenco, Russian romance or folk music) applied by the group that the tangos performed by the musicians are of a unique value.

The Kwintet Tanguillo's works include their own album, *Kwintet Tanguillo*, PROQ07/2010, on which the group recorded seven tangos of Astor Piazzolla. The following artists also collaborate with Kwintet Tanguillo as guests: Grzegorz Cholewiński (violin), Michał Kowalczyk and Urszula Czerniak (double bass).

Piotr CHILIMONIUK is a graduate of the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź in the piano class of Prof. Zbigniew Lasocki. In 2007, the Faculty Council of the Instrumental Department of the Academy of Music in Łódź awarded him the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in instrumentalist studies. Piotr Chilimoniuk performs both in Poland and abroad (Austria, Great Britain, United States, Spain, Ukraine, Hungary, France, Lithuania), and also collaborates with Lublin Philharmonic orchestras (both chamber and symphonic ones). Under the alias of Piotr Selim, he composes and performs literary songs. In 2012, Piotr Chilimoniuk released his solo album entitled *W rytmie bolera (In the Rhythm of the Bolero)*. Furthermore, he is a composer and co-performer of *Z ziemi wiernej (From the Faithful Land)*, which is a vocal and instrumental piece prepared to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's pilgrimage to Lublin. Piotr Chilimoniuk's achievements were registered on numerous electronic CD media. He is also a member of the jury of numerous piano competitions and festivals of literary song in Poland. Since 1997, Piotr Chilimoniuk has been employed at the Instrumental Pedagogy Unit of the Institute of Music of the Arts Department of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. Currently, he works there as an Assistant Professor.

Dariusz DRZAZGA is a graduate of the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw (currently: the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music) in the violin class of Prof. Marek Ławrynowicz. In 1991, he was granted one-year scholarship at the Royal Conservatoire of Music in Toronto. In 1992-1995, Dariusz Drzazga received a full scholarship at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, where he was awarded the degree of the Master of Music in Violin after having been supervised by Professor Wladimir Danczenka. In 2010, the Faculty Council of the Instrumental Department of the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice awarded him the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in instrumentalist studies. Since 1997, Drzazga has been employed in the Instrumental Pedagogy Unit of the Institute of Music of the Arts Department of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. Currently, he works there as an Assistant Professor.

Robert BRZozowski is a graduate of the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz in the double bass class of Prof. Piotr Kurzawa. Robert Brzozowski is interested in classical and light music. He is also a member of the following groups: Čači Vorba, Się Gra Trio and Askak Balkan Trio. Brzozowski collaborated with such performers as Zespół Pieśni i Tańca Ziemi Lubelskiej im. Wandy Kaniorowej, Odpust Zupełny and Orkiestra Świętego Mikołaja. He permanently works with Witold Dąbrowski, an actor from the NN Theatre in Lublin. Brzozowski's achievements were registered on numerous electronic CD media. Since 2002, he has been employed in the Henryk Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra in Lublin as a double bass player.

Piotr WIJATKOWSKI is a graduate of the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw (currently: the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music) in the conducting class of Prof. Henryk Czyż, as well as a graduate of Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst Mozarteum in Salzburg in the class of Michael Gielen. In 2008, the Faculty Council of the Conductorship, Composition and Theory of Music Department of the Academy of Music in Warsaw awarded him the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts. Piotr Wijatkowski performs both in Poland and abroad (*inter alia* in the United States, South Korea, Egypt, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Portugal, Sweden, Holland, Denmark, Albania and Ukraine). Piotr Wijatkowski collaborated with renowned soloists, including Wanda Wiłkomirska, Idil Biret, Aldona Dvarionaite, Marina Jaszwilli, David Garrett, Mohamed Saleh, Krzysztof Jakowicz, Jakub Jakowicz, Konstanty Andrzej Kulka, Alena Baeva, Avri Levitan, Radovan Vlatković, Ewa Pobłocka, Piotr Paleczny, Stanisław Drzewiecki, Leszek Możdżer, Jadwiga Rappé and Wiesław Ochman. His artistic achievements were registered on numerous electronic CD media in Poland (DUX), France (Orphée) and South Korea (SEM Gramophone). He frequently participates at national and international festivals. His repertoire includes all the most important symphonic and chamber music pieces. He is known for international and European premieres of B. Hummel, C. Russel, M. Millan, D. Galay and P. Chamourard works. He records compositions for Polish and international radio stations and television channels. Since 1993, Piotr Wijatkowski has been employed in the Choir Art Unit of the Institute of Music of the Arts Department of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. In 1993-2011, he worked at the Henryk Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra in Lublin as the first conductor and artistic director. Since 2013, he has also been employed by the Musical Theatre in Lublin. He currently works as an Associate Professor.