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Franz Xaver MOZART (1791-1844) :

- *Rondo in E minor for flute and piano
- *Sonata in E major for cello and piano Op. 19
- *Sonata in B flat major for violin and piano Op. 7
- *Sonata in F major for violin and piano Op. 15

Ewelina ZAWISLAK : flute

Agnieszka KOLODZIEJ : cello

Łukasz BLASZCZYK : violin

Anna LISZEWSKA : piano

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FRANZ XAVER MOZART IN SEARCH OF AUTONOMY

At the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, Europe experienced numerous political and social changes. The outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 not only entailed changes in yet stable state structures in a short time, but also influenced the normative canons in art, which resulted in a new epoch – the Romanticism. Nowadays, we find its ideas in poetry, painting, and music. Those arts drew from each other; therefore, they were intertwined and they complemented themselves by expressing interior spiritual and emotional states of their authors. It is very interesting to see in this background the person and works of Franz Xaver Mozart – a pianist and composer, the youngest son of great Wolfgang Amadeus.

Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart, Jr. was born on 26 July 1791 in Vienna, only four months before his famous father's premature death. Therefore, now it seems natural that his mother, Constanze, dreamt of the hereditary continuation of the occupation of a musician for her youngest child. Already as a two-year-old boy, Franz took his first music lessons; since 1796, his piano education was taken care of by successively František Xaver Dušek in Prague and Johann Nepomuk Hummel in Vienna. He continued his thorough music studies with Joseph Haydn, Sigismund von Neukomm, Andreas Streicher, Johann Georg Albrechtsberger, Georg Vogler, and Antonio Salieri. Hence, since his earliest years, he had studied the craft and followed in his father's footsteps. His first composition – the Piano Quartet in G minor, Op. 1 – was published already in 1802. The young pianist's and composer's great public debut took place in Prague in April 1805. During that concert, which was both a great artistic and financial success, F. X. Mozart performed the Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, KV 467 by W. A. Mozart and conducted his own cantata composed for the 73th anniversary of Joseph Haydn. Having gained popularity in music as a son of brilliant Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (he was presented to the public and perceived in this manner), he decided to leave Vienna in 1808 order to follow his own path. In 1813, he settled in Lviv, where he lived for more than 25 years. He was given a job of a music teacher by, among others, count Baworowski in Podkamień near Rohatyń and by Janiszewski family in Burshtyn. While he lived there, he drew Slavic inspirations for his piano cycles of variations based on the themes of Russian folk songs and melancholic polonaises. Thanks to extraordinary possibilities and piano skills, he also gave concerts in many European countries: Russia, Poland (Warsaw, Elbląg, Gdańsk), Prussia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland, where he mainly performed his own compositions, but also his father's and contemporary composers' works.

The majority of F. X. Mozart's works are piano compositions (solo or with orchestra) and vocal-instrumental ones (songs, cantatas). Among 30 works with opus number and around 20 that have not been classified, there are only 4 duos, all of which are included on the CD: **Sonata in B flat major, Op. 7 for violin and piano** (1806), **Sonata in F major, Op. 15 for violin and piano** (1811), **Sonata in E major, Op. 19 for cello and piano** (1814), and **Rondo in E minor for flute and piano** (1810) composed on commission of Gottfried Christoph Härtel, a Leipzig publisher, as one of the movements of an unfinished Sonata. All those pieces bear marks of classical form with elements of the galant style characterized by homophonic texture, accessible themes, elegance, grace, and light sound. However, there is something interesting in the melody of the themes and their piano elaboration in the development, which brings a breeze of Romanticism. Thorough studies of composition, harmony, and counterpoint, which F. X. Mozart completed with Johann Georg Albrechtsberger, affected him as far as the canon of form was concerned, but they did not deprive him from his own invention concerning cantabile and fresh melodies with addition of Slavic note of melancholy. F. X. Mozart was not a composer who provoked a significant revolution in the history of music with his output; he brought to it a particular kind of sensibility and emotionality expressed in melody, which served as an inspiration to other authors of the Romanticism. He was a person who told an interesting and emotional story to a great writer, who on the basis of it wrote a memorable work. The elements of his melodies can be heard in works of F. Schubert and F. Chopin. As a descendant of a genius composer, he could never level or even face the achievements of his father, whom he could only get to know through his compositions. He addressed both the figure and compositional output of W. A. Mozart with respect and humility. By performing his piano concertos during official ceremonies, by collecting and bequeathing all personal belongings, autographs, documents, and souvenirs of his father to the Dommusikverein and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, he became the greatest ambassador of his father's works. However, he did everything to try to live and work autonomously, without copying his father. He never founded a family; he died on 29 July 1844 during a treatment at the Karlsbad health resort caused by his poor health conditions; he was surrounded with friendship and respect of his friends and students.

The incentive to create the CD was my discovery of similarities between music fragments of Rondo in E minor for flute

and piano by F. X. Mozart and the first movement of the youthful Trio in G minor, Op. 8 by F. Chopin. I was so curious about the figure of the composer and his works that I started looking for his other chamber music and solo compositions. I managed to convey my interests to my friends and at the same time instrumentalists who made an immense contribution to the interpretations of the registered pieces with their personalities. For the recording, we used the first edition of **Violin Sonatas** from 1813 (Breitkopf & Härtel), which constituted a source for the publishing house Amadeus Verlag (Bernhard Pauler) Winterthur/Schweiz, of **Sonata in E major, Op. 19 for cello and piano** published by the Schott Musik International, Mainz (edit. Wolfgang Boettcher), and **Rondo in E minor for flute and piano** published by the Heinrichshofen's Verlag, Amsterdam. We tried to faithfully execute the score of the compositions, but above all, the intentions of the composer, which are hidden between the notes.

Anna Liszewska

Anna LISZEWSKA graduated from the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw (1995) in the class of Prof. Lidia Kozubek. In 1998, she graduated from two-year Postgraduate Chamber Music Studies at the same university under the direction of Prof. Barbara Halska. She has participated in masterclasses of such artists as Prof. John Owings (Warsaw, 1993) and Prof. Andrzej Jasiński (Wrocław, 1993). Her diploma thesis titled *Józef Hofmann as a Teacher* was published in *Zeszyty Naukowe Katedry Pedagogiki AMiFC* (Scientific Papers of the Chair of Pedagogics of the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music) (No. 30, 1996). In 1998-1999, she worked with the Polish Radio Orchestra in Warsaw, with which she took part in numerous concerts in Poland and abroad, as well as in recordings. She was also present during the orchestra's tour in Germany, where she performed the piano part of the Concerto for Orchestra by Witold Lutosławski (conductor Wojciech Rajski). As a soloist, she has given concerts with the Chamber Orchestra Polish Camerata under the direction of Marek Głowacki, inter alia, in the Concerto B-flat major KV 595 and A major KV 414 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. She has given a number of chamber music recitals, both with vocalists and instrumentalists, presenting a stylistically varied repertoire. She has accompanied vocalists during the vocal song and opera competitions, such as, the Inter-University Competition of Artistic Polish Song Interpretation in Warsaw (2001, 2010), the National Halina Halska Vocal Competition in Wrocław (2003, 2005), the National Halina Słoniowska Vocal Competition in Duszniki Zdrój (2002, 2008), the Neue Stimme International Competition in Dresden (2007), the 2nd International Adam Didur Opera Singers' Competition in Bytom (2008), the 1st European Tenor Competition in Sosnowiec (2009), the 13th Ada Sari International Vocal Artistry Competition in Nowy Sącz (2009), the 7th International Stanisław Moniuszko Vocal Competition in Warsaw (2010), and many others. The vocalists that often work with her have won many awards and honourable mentions, among them there are: Bernadetta Grabias, Piotr Hruszwicki, Szymon Komasa, and Aleksander Jan Zuchowicz. She received honourable mentions for accompaniment at the 2nd National Halina Halska Competition in Wrocław (2003) and the 4th National Krystyna Jamroz Vocal Competition in Kielce (2010). She has been invited as an accompanying pianist to participate in the summer Courses of Music Interpretation in Nowy Sącz a number of times (1998-2001, 2007). Since 1999, she has been related to the Academy of Music in Łódź. Since 2010, she has worked as an accompanying pianist at the Department of Vocal and Acting Studies in the vocal classes of, inter alia, Prof. Delfina Ambroziak, Prof. Urszula Kryger, Prof. Zdzisław Krzywicki, Prof. Leonard Andrzej Mroz, and Prof. Włodzimierz Zalewski, as well as in the viola class of Prof. Zbigniew Frieman, cello class of Prof. Agata Jarecka, and flute class of Prof. Antoni Wierzbiński. The artists is passionate about the Slavic composers' music. She received the title of Doctor in Arts for the thesis titled *Folklore as an Inspiration for Compositions of Chosen Slavic Composers of the 19th and 20th Century* at the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź (2009). It is also to Slavic music that she dedicated her first monographic CD titled *Entuzjasta (Enthusiast)*. The material recorded with young vocalist Piotr Hruszwicki was released in April 2013 and includes chosen songs, ballads, and piano works by Stanisław Moniuszko.

Apart from artistic activity, the pianist dedicates herself to pedagogical work. Since 1995, she has continuously led the piano class at the Henryk Wieniawski Primary and Secondary General Education Music School in Łódź. Since 2010, she has been an Assistant Professor at the Chair of Chamber Music at the Academy of Music in Łódź at the Department of Piano, Organ, Harpsichord, and Early Music Instruments. Currently, she holds the function of Vice-Dean of the aforementioned Department.

Ewelina Agata ZAWIŚLAK graduated with honours from the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź in the class of Prof. Antoni Wierzbiński in 2004. In 2003-2004, she studied at the Franz Doppler Institute in Budapest in the class of Prof. János Bálint. Since 2002, she has been a flautist of the Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra of Łódź; since 2004, she has worked at the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź. In 2013, she received the title of Doctor at the Academy of Music in Łódź and in the same year she became an Assistant

Professor - Doctor of her Alma Mater. In 1995, she received a title of Music Talent during the Talent Week in Tarnów. Due to the fact that she graduated as one of the best students in 2004, the Ministry of National Education refunded her the student scholarship. In 2005, she was a finalist of the International Gaetano Zinetti Chamber Music Competition in Sanguinetto (Italy). In the same year, she reached the semi-finals of the International Chamber Music Competition in Nichelino (Italy), whereas in 2007, she became a laureate of the International Chamber Music Competition in Horn (Austria). In 2010, she received a Minister of Culture and National Heritage Award for artistic and didactic achievements; in 2011, she became a laureate of an award in culture of the Head of Łódź Province; in 2013, she received the "Medal of Merit for the Polish Culture" of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage; in 2014, she received a third grade award of rector for the activity for the academy and her commitment to work with students, artistic activity, and successful performances of her students at both national and international auditions. In 2014, she was also awarded the "Bronze Cross of Merit" granted by the President of the Republic of Poland; in 2015, she received a first grade individual award of the Head of the Artistic Education Centre in Warsaw for her singular contribution to the development of artistic education in Poland and in 2015, she received a Diploma of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage for her fully dedicated pedagogic work. She has participated in numerous masterclasses led by such outstanding flautists as: János Bálint, Peter Lucas Graf, Patric Gallois, Robert Morris Aitken, Emmanuel Pahud, Benedek Csalog, and Craig Goodman, among others. Since 1990, she has been giving concerts as a soloist and chamber musician both in Poland and abroad (e.g. in Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Germany, and China); in 1995-1996, she worked with the Tarnów Chamber Music Orchestra. Since 2006, she has been a part of a trio with Prof. János Bálint, flute, and Kinga Firlej-Kubica, piano. In 2008, she began to work with the Polish Camerata Orchestra. She has participated in many recordings for radio and television.

Since 2005, she has participated as a member of jury of the National Woodwind Instruments Auditions. As a lecturer, she has been also invited to lead Methodic Workshops for flute teachers of Polish music schools, as well as Flute Master Courses. In the same year, she initiated two cyclical projects: the International Ventus Optimus Summer Master Course (in 2016, it will be its 8th edition) and the International Il Flauto Ricercato Solo Flute Competition (in 2016, it will be its 5th edition). Due to her editorial activity (she arranges and transcribes works for flute and piano), the artist contributes to the extension of flute literature.

She is a very successful teacher, which is proved by awards and honourable mentions won by her students at national and international competitions.

Agnieszka KOŁODZIEJ graduated from the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź under the direction of Prof. Stanisław Firlej. She also studied at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels in the class of Prof. Jeroen Reuling, where she received a diploma with honours and a number of awards, inter alia, an award of the Belgian Government. After her win at the prestigious K. Wiłkomirski International Competition in Poznań, she received the Golden Merit Award, as well as the possibility to study at the Towson University (Baltimore).

She is a laureate of first prizes at other international competitions, such as the Peggy Gordon Competition (Baltimore) and the Edmont Baert Competition (Brussels). She won prizes at the Kingsville Competition (Texas), the 5Towns Arts (New York), and many others. As an eager chamber musician, she develops her career in this area by giving concerts in Poland and abroad. As a member of the Cordis Quartet, the Sequenza Trio (the NSKA studies, Amsterdam), or the Resonance Trio (Brussels), with which she debuted at the prestigious Palais des Beaux Arts (Brussels).

Her intense chamber music activity was enabled by having completed studies at the renowned Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in the class of Prof. Gary Hoffman. Recently, she has had an honour to perform at the Presidential Palace in Germany during the Beethoven Abend with participation of the president of Germany J. Gauck with spouse.

She has worked with such cellists as N. Gutman, F. Helmerson, P. Wispelwey, and R. Wallfisch. She has been invited to the following festivals: the Schiermonnikoog Chamber Music Festival (the Netherlands), the Paganini Festival (Italy), the Festival de Consonances (France), the Piatigorsky Seminar (Los Angeles), the Music X (the Hindemith Foundation, Switzerland). She has performed in the Casa da Música (Portugal), the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (Paris), the National Auditorium of Music (Madrid), the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), and many other concert halls.

She has received the scholarship of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, the scholarship Młoda Polska (Young Poland), the scholarship of the Lyra Foundation in Zurich, of the Belgian Government, and of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel several times. Currently, she is the concertmaster of the Great Theatre in Łódź.

Łukasz BŁASZCZYK is a laureate and winner of many extra-statutory awards at the 11th International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition in Poznań in 1996. He is an outstanding Polish violinist, soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. He received education from excellent teachers, such as Iwona Wojciechowska, Zakhar Bron, Aleksandr Kramarov, and Marina Jaszwilli. He graduated with honours from the Academy of Music in Łódź and from the Music Conservatory in Enschede. He is a laureate of numerous prizes at national and international violin and chamber music competitions, inter alia, the European Radio Union Competition in Ljubljana and the 11th International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition in Poznań. Thanks to these achievements, he performs as a soloist and chamber musician all over the world. He pays special attention to the promotion of Polish music. He was honoured with an Award of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Silver Cross of Merits, and an Award of the President of the City of Łódź for his abundant artistic activity. In 1999, he participated in Krystian Zimerman's huge world tour as one of the concertmasters of the Polish Festival Orchestra, where he performed in the most famous concert halls in Europe and the USA. In 2005-2015, he was the concertmaster of the Great Theatre – Polish National Opera in Warsaw. Łukasz Błaszczyk is a founder and artistic director of the String Orchestra PRIMUZ, with which he gives concerts at numerous festivals and concerts both in Poland and abroad. He is also very active as a member of jury at national and international competitions, as well as a teacher at various violin courses and workshops. At present, he is a Professor at the Academy of Music in Łódź, where he manages the work of the Chair of String Instruments. Łukasz Błaszczyk's students and graduates have won main prizes at national and international violin and chamber music competitions at numerous occasions.