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100 FOR 100. MUSICAL DECADES OF FREEDOM – POLISH MUSIC INVASION

To mark the 100th anniversary of the regaining of independence by Poland, Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne – PWM Edition embarked on a spectacular enterprise that was hailed by the media as the biggest musical project in independent Poland. Having invited collaborators from among the most important cultural institutions, leading musical ensembles and the most outstanding performers from all over the world, PWM coordinated a variety of international concerts, publishing, documentary and educational activities. *100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom* was the first ever project on such an international scale and, at the same time, an artistic invasion of Polish music across the world.

The basis of the project was the *100 for 100* list – a collection of Polish musical masterpieces written between 1918 and 2018, carefully selected by the project's Programme Board composed of the most eminent figures in Poland associated with contemporary music. The most important works, each of which represented one year from the last century, were recorded on 36 CDs in collaboration with 1700 leading Polish artists, producing over 2000 minutes of outstanding Polish music. The *100 for 100* project culminated in eleven

concerts in Poland and eleven others across the world – from Melbourne to New York, Copenhagen to Milan – featuring the greatest artists specialising in music of the last century. On 11th November 2018, more than a 100 pieces written over the last ten decades were heard by 30 000 people. Yet, the recordings and concerts are just some of the components of this unique project.



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Krzysztof Penderecki

Publications

Among the works making up the colourful landscape of the last 100 years of Polish music are pieces by 87 of the most important Polish composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, representing all forms and styles. The list opens with Karol Szymanowski's impressionistic, Orient-inspired *Songs of the Infatuated Muezzin* (1918). A symbolic conclusion as well as a new opening is provided by the *Fanfare for the Independent Poland* (2018) for wind instruments written especially for the occasion by Krzysztof Penderecki. The list encompasses both large-scale stage works, such as the ballet *Świtezianka* (1922) by Eugeniusz Morawski or the musical drama *Tomorrow* (1966) by Tadeusz Baird, and small chamber pieces, such as *Monad 3* (2003) by Cezary Duchnowski or *String Quartet For Autumn* (2001) by Zbigniew Bujarski. It features compositions inspired by folk music, such as Wojciech Kilar's *Orawa* (1986) or Michał Kondracki's *Pictures on Glass – Little Highland Symphony* (1930), as well as large religious works, including Krzysztof Penderecki's *St Luke Passion* (1965). There are neoclassical *Three Pieces in Old Style* by Henryk Mikołaj Górecki (1963) and the first Polish electronic piece – *Study on One Cymbal Stroke* by Włodzimierz Kotoński (1959). There are compositions drawing on mythology – Juliusz Łuciuk's *The Love of Orpheus* (1973) – and works commemorating historical events – Krzysztof Penderecki's *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima* (1960). The maximum complexity is reached in Barbara Buczek's *Anekumena* (1974), while minimalist simplicity can be found in Henryk Mikołaj Górecki's *Symphony No. 3 – Symphony of Sorrowful Songs*. In addition to Buczek, female composers are also represented by, among others, Grażyna Bacewicz with *Pensieri notturni* (1961), Agata Zubel with *Not I* (2010) and Jagoda Szmytka with *Electrified memories of bloody cherries* (2011).

The *100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom* project also provided for the preparation of new scores of works from the list, both chamber and large works. Electronic versions of works hitherto remaining in manuscript form, such as Krystyna Moszumańska-Nazar's *String Quartet No. 3* (1955), were produced. Old and damaged scores that could no longer be used because of wear and tear, such as Ludomir Różycki's *Apollo and the Girl* (1937), were written out anew.

Following the latest trends in technology, PWM began cooperating with music promotion and accessibility pioneers to popularise works by Polish composers. Its actions seeking to increase the accessibility to and generate interest in Polish music have resulted in a collaboration with the nkoda platform, offering streaming of sheet music of the world's biggest music publishers. It

enables users not only to view scores but also, such as in the case of traditional material, introduce their personal notes. The platform now offers sheet music and orchestral scores of works from the *100 for 100* list to people in every corner of the world.

PWM Edition in collaboration with distinguished Polish artists, outstanding conductors and the best Polish orchestras, choirs and ensembles has made 60 new recordings of works from the list in the best concert halls and recording studios in Poland. The remaining, carefully selected recordings come from, for instance, the archives of the Polish Radio and the Polskie Nagrania label. The recordings feature performances by 24 choirs, orchestras, symphonic and chamber ensembles (such as Polish Radio Choir, NOSPR, AUKSO, Silesian Quartet, Lutosławski Quartet), 23 soloists (Olga Pasiecznik, Tomasz Konieczny, Łukasz Długosz and so on), 20 conductors (such as Szymon Bywalec, Marzena Diakun and Marek Moś) as well as 14 chamber musicians (for instance, Andrzej Bauer, Jakub Jakowicz). The recordings have been made available on 36 CDs in exclusive box sets. Additionally, they are also available to users of streaming platforms – Polish music composed over the last one hundred years can be accessed all over the world by streaming through over 30 apps such as Spotify, iTunes, YouTube or Tidal.

In addition to CD recordings of all the works, the box sets also include the so-called ‘Decade Books’ (3000 copies in total), in which experienced musicologists provide the most valuable and accessible information about the life and work of Polish composers, as well as a monograph on new Polish music, *100 Years of Polish Music History*, by Danuta Gwizdalanka. Writing in an accessible and, at the same time, profound manner, the author presents various strands of contemporary Polish music in the context of music from other countries, taking into account the huge role of Polish composers and performers in promoting Polish culture in the world. Gwizdalanka’s book will be published as a stand-alone book in nine languages: Polish, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Japanese.

Education and Promotion

A key aspect of the *100 for 100* project was not so much to revive and preserve works from the last century but to present them to as many listeners as possible. This is the purpose of the 100 movie clips – short films presenting all works from the *100 for 100* list. The presentations, each approximately three minutes long, make up a 300-minute story of the works, the composers and their times, interspersing

the narrative of the musicologist Mariusz Gradowski, author of the scripts and host of the clips, with interviews of all living composers whose works are included in the projects as well as of musicians, conductors, musicologists, and experts who provided insights into the various pieces. The visual layer comprises photographs from recording studios, concert halls, museums, storage rooms or composers' studies as well as rare archive materials, including footage from the Polish Television archives, photographs and scores.

The clips, together with the composers' biographies and stories of the works as well as recordings made especially for the project, can be found on the website www.stonasto.pl, a multimedia encyclopaedia of contemporary Polish music.



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100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom, concert in Katowice, NOSPR



© PWM / Mark Allan

100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom, concert in London, London Sinfonietta, Elizabeth Atherton, David Atherton



© PWM / Wojciech Wądział

100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom, concert in Warsaw, Teatr Wielki - Polish National Opera, Garrick Ohlsson

The educational component of the website contains sixteen examples of downloadable lesson scripts to be used by teachers in general and artistic schools. They have been prepared by experienced teachers: Anna Pęcherzewska-Hadrych (general schools) and Katarzyna Broj (music schools). Pęcherzewska-Hadrych was also behind the idea of a series of educational books for children entitled *Sonia in the Land of the Sonoroos* (*Ostinato*, *Harmonics* and *Glissando*), written in verse by Katarzyna Huzar-Czub and illustrated by the well-known Polish graphic artist Gosia Herba. The books are accompanied by mobile games and apps (downloadable for free from Google Play and App Store), enabling users to experiment with sounds and create their own compositions.

One of the promotional elements of the project is the mascot *Bambak Wojtek the Composer*, inspired by the figure of Wojciech Kilar. This hand-made, unique cuddly toy promotes 20th century music and the PWM catalogue in an original way, among the youngest and the older listeners.

Concerts

The project culminated in concerts held on 11th November 2018 and beginning every hour at 11 of the most important music centres in Poland. From the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra's concert hall, through the National Forum of Music in Wrocław to Teatr Wielki-National Opera in Warsaw, audiences were able to listen to Polish music composed since 1918. On the same day, works by composers from the *100 for 100* list were performed in eleven cities across the world by leading artists specialising in contemporary music. Thanks to the collaboration with renowned ensembles such as the Chicago Philharmonic, Theatre of Voices, London Sinfonietta, Klangforum Wien, Ensemble intercontemporain, Sentieri Selvaggi, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Silesian Quartet, Ensemble Nostri Temporis or Ensemble Modern, concerts were organised in New York (Roulette Intermedium) and Chicago (St. Hyacinth Basilica), Tokyo (Sumida Hokusai Museum), Melbourne (Meat Market), London (Royal Festival Hall), Paris (Le Carreau du Temple), Frankfurt am Main (Clara Schumann Saal), Milan (Auditorium Lattuada), Lviv (Lviv Philharmonic Hall), Vienna (Semper Depot) and Copenhagen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek). In total, on 11th November, 100 works by 20th and 21st century Polish composers were performed: the audience in Tokyo heard eleven string quartets (by Karol Szymanowski, Krzysztof Penderecki and Grażyna Bacewicz among others); Wojciech Kilar's *Missa pro pace* was presented in Chicago, while in Gdańsk, Jacaszek prepared a special mix of pieces created in the Polish Radio's Experimental Studio. Paris hosted the premiere of Andrzej Kwieciński's *no.27[A]* and Frankfurt a composition

commissioned from Dariusz Przybylski – *Ich war, ich bin, aber ich werde nie wieder sein.*

The events were attended by 30 000 music lovers in Poland and across the world, and thanks to television (Kraków, Katowice and Warsaw) and radio broadcasts (Frankfurt am Main, Copenhagen, London, Katowice, Łódź, Szczecin, Poznań, Wrocław, Warsaw and Gdańsk), by radio listeners and television viewers. Every concert featured specially prepared materials promoting the project and was attended by representatives of PWM and Polish diplomats: ambassadors, consuls and directors of Polish cultural institutes. Every concert began with Pendrecki's *Fanfare for the Independent Poland*, performed live or played from a recording.

The *100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom* project also featured an exhibition of photographs by Bartek Barczyk, one of the most important Polish photographers, who specialises in photographs of musicians. A starting point for this extraordinary exhibition was thirty photography sessions commissioned by the PWM, the protagonists of which were active contemporary Polish composers. The refined artistic photographs of the most interesting figures in contemporary Polish music, whose works were included in the *100 for 100* list, were also used to make exclusive calendars for 2018. The exhibition *Pictures of Music. Music in Pictures* will be presented until the end of 2019 in eleven concert cities in Poland.

Benefits After the Project

All the components of the *100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom* project culminate to bring long-term benefits. New performance materials will bring back to the concert halls forgotten works of Polish masters, while new editions will enrich sheet music collections of musicians all over the world. The recordings made under the project do not just constitute documentary material – they will make it easier for performers and listeners to get to know the music of the last century and, together with the Decade Books, the monograph and the movie clips will expand the historical knowledge and awareness of music lovers, facilitating a positive reception of contemporary music. The lesson scripts and the materials collected on the stonasto.pl website are an important aid in disseminating knowledge of contemporary music literature. The concerts held in 22 cities popularised works by Polish composers but, above all, they became an opportunity to attract the interests of leading international ensembles, creating a bond between them and the PWM and further strengthening collaboration in Polish music performances.

The *100 for 100. Musical Decades of Freedom* project was very well received by international critics. It was mentioned in The New York Times, Washington Post, Gazeta Wyborcza and Rzeczpospolita and discussed on the Polish Radio, BBC Radio, Danish Radio, Hessischer Rundfunk and other stations that are members of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). The illustrator of the children's books was nominated for her work for the 2018 Book of the Year award in a contest organised by the Polish Section of International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), while the project itself was among three of the nominees in the Classical Music and Jazz category in O!Lśnienia, a national competition organised by a leading web portal in Poland, www.onet.pl.

Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne – PWM Edition is the most important Polish publisher and one of the leading European publishers of sheet music and, at the same time, an important Polish cultural institution. Its catalogue contains works by over 1000 composers, over 120 books and sheet music series, 1200 books (first editions) and 12 000 scores (first editions). PWM co-creates Poland's cultural policy, consolidates and promotes the country's music heritage, and establishes close relations with professionals, teachers, amateurs as well as international musical institutions, performers and publishers. Given its considerable expertise and extensive archives, PWM is among the leading Polish institutions that promotes Polish culture.