



DUX 0951 / 2015

Joseph (Józef Zygmunt) SZULC
Works for Violin and Piano

Jarosław PIETRZAK – violin
Julita PRZYBYLSKA-NOWAK – piano

Joseph (Józef Zygmunt) SZULC (1875–1956) :

- * Sonate en la mineur op. 61 pour piano et violon
- * Berceuse op. 4 pour violon et piano
- * Mélodie orientale pour violon et piano
- * Sérénade pour violon et piano

DUX Małgorzata Polańska & Lech Tołwiński ul. Morskie Oko 2, 02-511 Warszawa

tel./fax (48 22) 849-11-31, (48 22) 849-18-59

e-mail: dux@dux.pl, www.dux.pl

Aleksandra Kitka-Coutellier – International Relations kitka@dux

Joseph (Józef Zygmunt) SZULC (1875–1956) was born in Warsaw into a Jewish family of musical traditions. His father, Henryk Szulc (1836–1903), was a violinist, conductor, composer of dance music, a long-serving member of the orchestra of the Grand Theatre in Warsaw and a lecturer at the Music Institute. Józef's brothers also had a thorough musical education: Michał (1875–1930) was a violinist and Bronisław (1881–1955), a horn player and conductor, in 1936 joined the Palestine Symphony Orchestra (now the Israel Philharmonic), founded in Tel-Aviv by Bronisław Huberman, the Polish violinist of Jewish origin.

Józef Szulc studied composition (with Zygmunt Noskowski) and piano at the Music Institute in Warsaw. One of the pieces most probably dating from his youthful period is *Berceuse* Op.4 (published by Gustaw Sennewald's company, existing to 1901, it is in the collection of the National Library in Warsaw). Szulc continued his pianistic studies with Maurycy Moszkowski in Berlin, where he soon made a name as a virtuoso soloist and accompanist. He also served for some time as conductor in the Wurttemberg National Theatre in Stuttgart. In 1899 he moved to Paris to study composition with Jules Massenet. He also developed his pianistic skills under the guidance of Ignacy Jan Paderewski and studied conducting.

In 1903 he took up the post of conductor at the Théâtre da la Monnaie in Brussels. His wife, the singer and operetta star Suzy Delsart, became an inspiration for his first works for the stage: the ballet: *Nuit d'Ispahan* (1910) and the operetta *Flup!* (1914). The operetta became the main genre of Szulc's compositional activity. His subsequent works – *Titin* (1920), *Mannequins* (1925) and *Sidonie Panache* (produced at the prestigious Théâtre du Châtelet in 1931) – were enormous successes in the French capital. His last work to win popular acclaim was the operetta *Pantoufle*, produced in 1945. The composer died in Paris in 1956.

Works for the stage apart, Józef Szulc's output includes chamber music, numerous piano pieces and songs for voice and piano. All of these compositions, even though of great merit and originality, are almost totally forgotten. One of the finest examples is the Sonata in A minor for piano and violin, dating from before 1908. It is in the collection of the library of the University of Rochester and can be accessed on the website of the Petrucci Music Library. *Mélodie orientale* (1911) and *Sérénade* (1925) are the miniatures for violin and piano. We are grateful to Editions Henry Lemoine and Edition Combre for their permission to use the music materials.

Jarosław Pietrzak

Julita PRZYBYLSKA-NOWAK

started her piano lessons under the supervision of Janina Butor in her home city of Wrocław. After graduating, with honours, from the Secondary School of Music, she continued her studies with Czesław Stańczyk at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. She obtained two scholarships from the Fryderyk Chopin Society in Warsaw. She frequently participated in piano competitions in Poland and abroad, in Göttingen and Darmstadt, Germany, and Mariánské Lázně in the Czech Republic. She improved her skills at master courses given by Halina Czerny-Stefańska, Edith Picht-Axenfeld, Szabolcs Esztényi, and Aleksey Orlovetsky. She also completed post-graduate studies with Włodzimierz Obidowicz and Józef Stempel.

The beginnings of her artistic career were associated with the music of Chopin, which she performed at the Piano Festivals at Żelazowa Wola and Duszniki Zdrój. She also gave a series of Chopin recitals at the World Euro Gate Exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan, and at the Expo Exhibition in Hanover in 2000. She has performed the concertos by Chopin, Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Mendelssohn with the orchestras conducted by Mirosław Błaszczyk, Jacek Rogala, and Marzena Diakun. In 2002, she gave the world premiere and made the premiere recording of the piano sonatas by the Wrocław-based composer Ryszard Bukowski.

Since 2001, Julita Przybylska-Nowak has been a member of faculty of the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław where she gained a doctorate in the arts. In 2013, she conducted a chamber music course at the National University of Music in Bucharest. She has given recitals at the Polish Institute in Rome and at the University of Ostrava, the Czech Republic.

She currently works closely with the violinist Jarosław Pietrzak, a Professor at the Academy of Music in Wrocław. They perform works by Polish composers of Jewish origin, some of whom have remained in obscurity and have been only recently rediscovered thanks to their efforts. Their concerts have included those at the *Mazel Tov* Festival in the synagogue in Ostrów Wielkopolski, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw (in tribute to the Jewish Symphony Orchestra in the Jewish Ghetto) and the Under the White Stork Synagogue in Wrocław (to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day). In 2010 they performed during the ceremony of awarding the Righteous among the Nations Medals of the Yad Vashem Institute. In 2014 they participated in the *Singer's Warsaw* Festival, presenting the programme *Manginot Avudot – rediscovered music*.

Jarosław PIETRZAK

graduated with honours from the Henryk Wieniawski Secondary School of Music in Łódź. He continued his studies in Zenon Brzewski's violin class at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, from which he graduated in 1986. He won the Young Violinists Festival in Lublin in 1980 and the Karol Szymanowski Chamber Music Competition in Łódź in 1986. He improved his skills at numerous masterclasses, given by such household names as Jean Fournier, Irena Dubiska, Wolfgang Marschner, Oleg Krysa, Renato de Barbieri, and Zachar Bron.

In 1988, he became a member of the Polish Chamber Orchestra and of *Sinfonia Varsovia*, with which he made many CD and television recordings and toured across Europe, as well as Argentina, Brazil, Japan, and the United States. He also participated in the world tour of the *Menuhin Festival Orchestra*, conducted by Sir Yehudi Menuhin. In 1992-1994 he was a member of the L'Orchestre National de Chambre de Toulouse.

In 1996 he co-founded the Wratislavia Chamber Orchestra in Wrocław, of which he is the concertmaster. He has also developed a fine career as a soloist and chamber musician, with performances in many prestigious venues, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the Spivey Hall in Atlanta, the City Hall in Glasgow, and the Concert Hall of the Philharmonic Orchestra in Sofia, Bulgaria. He has been invited several times by the *Musique et Amitié* Festival in Biel, Switzerland. In Poland, he has performed at such festivals as *Forum Musicum*, *Evenings at the Arsenal*, *Warsaw Musical Meetings*, *Musica Polonica Nova* and *Musica Electronica Nova*. He recorded the CD *Polish Violin Duos* (with Bartłomiej Nizioł), featuring works by contemporary Polish composers. His discography also includes concertos by Baroque composers which he has conducted from the front desk with the Wratislavia Chamber Orchestra.

Jarosław Pietrzak is a Professor at the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław where he has led the violin class since 1994. He also teaches at the Summer Courses of Musical Interpretation at Duszniki Zdrój. Earlier, he gave masterclasses in Daejeon, South Korea, and at the University of Ostrava, the Czech Republic. For several years, he has been giving concerts with the pianist Julita Przybylska-Nowak. Their repertoire focuses on works by Polish composers of Jewish origin, many of which have not been performed since 1945. In May 2010 they performed during the ceremony of awarding the Righteous among the Nations Medals of the Yad Vashem Institute. They have given concerts at numerous festivals of Jewish culture, including the 2014 *Singer's Warsaw* Festival.