

## Dr hab. Włodek Pawlik – Jazz, Improvisation, Composition (02.-07.08)



Marck Balota ©

Włodek Pawlik (born 1958) - composer and pianist, the only winner of the GRAMMY award in the history of Polish jazz for the album "Night in Calisia" in the category "The Best Jazz Large Ensemble" (Los Angeles 2014). His albums achieve gold and platinum status on the market (including a double platinum album for Night in Calisia). Pawlik is a graduate of the piano class of prof. Barbara Hesse-Bukowska at the Academy of Music. F. Chopin in Warsaw, and the Jazz Department at the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg. In 2007, the artist obtained a doctorate, and in 2017, habilitation at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music, where he currently lectures on improvisation. His output includes 45 original records, a number of works of film music, orchestral compositions, including music for the ballet "Flow", opera "Via Sancta", vocal works - inspired by the poetry of such artists as: Adam Zagajewski, Józef Czechowicz, Cyprian Kamil Norwid, Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński, Czesław Miłosz, Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Zbigniew Herbert and Shakespeare (music to Sonnets). A characteristic feature of Pawlik's musical language is the unique, original ability to synthesize various musical genres. Włodek Pawlik is undoubtedly a master of music collage. Pawlik's compositional output includes many orchestral works that masterfully combine the classical formula with a jazz idiom combined with modern means of artistic expression (electronic and computer music). An example can be the "Song about the Hidden God" Oratory, the Cantata "Thinking the Fatherland", Suite "Freedom" from 2014, songs from the album "4 Works 4 Orchestra" - Piano Concerto, Cellomania, Puls 11/8 or the piece "We are from here" for two pianos, jazz section and symphony orchestra. This trend also includes two outstanding jazz / symphonic compositions - "Jazz Suite Tykocin" and the suite "Night in Calisia", for the recording of which the composer received the Grammy Award in 2014. Among the artist's rich discography there are many best-selling albums - they include, apart from the aforementioned "Night in Calisia": Anelli (2006) Włodek Pawlik Trio; Polish Christmas Carols for piano solo (2004, 2013), Stabat Mater (2001, 2005), Grand Piano (2008), America (2015), Songs without words (2017), "Pawlik / Moniuszko - Polish jazz" (2019). The artist's many awards and distinctions include: Decorating with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Honorary Citizenship of the City of Kalisz, Honorary Citizenship of Podkowa Leśna, "Koryfeusz" of Polish Music in the "Personality of the Year 2014" category. The "Fryderyk" music awards, as well as the awards of the Melomani Jazz Association. Pawlik is a laureate of awards for the best film music: Golden Lions at the 34th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia ('Reverse' film) and 2010 Eagles of the Polish Film Academy. Włodek Pawlik was a member of the jury of, among others, the 5th American Jazz Piano Competition in Indianapolis (2001). at the Eastman School of Music (U.S.A), Western Michigan University (U.S.A.), at the IAJE Jazz Conference in Los Angeles (1999), at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels. He is a laureate of, among others individual prize Grand Prix at the International Jazz Competition in Dunkirk (France 1984) and second prize at the International Jazz Composition Competition in Monaco (1988). The magazine 'Who is who at North Jazz Festival 1998' in The Hague, after the concert of his Trio, honored him as 'Vladimir Horowitz of jazz'. The Age newspaper announced the artist's tour of Australia as the greatest musical event of 2002, and the American jazz magazine Down Beat described the album Turtles (published by Polonia Records), recorded together with the famous trumpeter Randy Brecker, as 'outstanding'. 2018 of the year, the formation of Włodek Pawlik Trio / feat. Randy Brecker inaugurated the "Blue Note Jazz Festival" in New York, giving concerts at the legendary Blue Note Jazz Club. It is the first performance of a Polish band in the history of this prestigious festival. In 2020, in the difficult time of the pandemic, Pawlik implemented a number of online projects, including in cooperation with the Polish Radio Trójka - Włodek Pawlik Summer Jazz Festival, a series of recordings as part of the "Concerts behind closed doors" project at the Royal Castle in Warsaw and "Pawlik / Moniuszko - Symphonic project" with the OiFP orchestra conducted by Mirosław Jacek Błaszczyk. Concerts initially planned with the audience at New York's Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center in Washington - were realized in Vilnius with live broadcast on TV Wilnotek and broadcast via satellite in the United States in cooperation with the Polish Institute in New York, the Polish Embassy in Washington, Rock Institute of the University of Rochester, Consulates of the Republic of Poland in Houston and Los Angeles. Both of these symphonic projects were carried out as part of the "Promotion of Polish Culture Abroad" programs of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and "Cultural Bridges" of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute. The year 2021 saw the implementation of three poetry and music composers' projects: C. K. Norwid - in cooperation with TVP Kultura on the 200th anniversary of his birth; Baczyński 100 - CD; Three songs to words by Z. Herbert - commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.