

## ABSTRACT

Music has accompanied me from an early age. I was born into a family with an established musical tradition. My father was the first clarinetist of the Wroclaw Philharmonic, then the Krakow Philharmonic, as well as lecturer at the Academy of Music in Krakow. My mother was a teacher at the Primary School of Music in Kraków and Frederic Chopin Secondary Music School. My parents from an early age shaped my musical sensibility, by attending concerts, daily nurturing and development of musical aptitude and exposing me to excellent recordings. My father inspired me with his playing and passion for the clarinet and thanks to him I decided to choose this career. A huge role in my musical quest was also played by my brother – Tomasz Lato, bassist and co-founder of the band KROKE.

I received a classical musical education. I got a PhD degree in musical arts in the discipline of instrumental arts on 4 April 2011 on the basis of the submitted thesis: *Sonata for clarinet in the works of English composers of the twentieth century based on the sonatas by Ch. V. Stanford, A. Bax, H. Howells and R.R. Bennett*. The degree was awarded by the Instrumental Faculty Council of the Music Academy in Krakow. Earlier in this Academy of Music, I did my PhD studies (2009-2011), assistant internship at the Instrumental Department at the Department of Wind Instruments, Percussion and Accordion (in 2002) and Master's studies (1997-2002) leading to a Master's degree of art in the instrumental arts and specializing in playing the clarinet, in the clarinet class of Prof. Andrzej Godek, from which I graduated with an excellent grade. Additionally, in 2001, I graduated from Pedagogical Studies at the Academy of Music in Krakow. Since 1991 I studied the piano at the Frederic Chopin Secondary Music School in Krakow with Krystyna Suzin and clarinet with Prof. Marian Lato and Prof. Andrzej Godek in the senior year. In 1997 I received a matriculation certificate and diploma from the Secondary School of Music in two specializations: piano and clarinet. My musical education began in 1984 at the Stanisław Wiechowicz Primary School of Music in Krakow, where I learned to play the piano under Malgorzata Jędrysek's guidance. I am an academic of the Academy of Music in Cracow (2006-2011 as an assistant in the clarinet class of Prof. Andrzej Godek, then an assistant professor from 2011). Since 2004, I have simultaneously been a teacher at the Wladyslaw Żeleński Secondary School of Music in Krakow, already as a qualified teacher.

My professional activity is divided into four main circles of interest: being solo, chamber and orchestral musician, as well as teaching.

Solo performances accompanied my musical education from the earliest school years. As a soloist I got a number of awards and honors in music competitions. I am the winner of the first prize in the Polish National Auditions of the Secondary Schools of Music for woodwind classes in Olsztyn (1996), the third prize in the 11<sup>th</sup> K. Kurpiński Academic Clarinet Competition in Włoszakowice (2000). In 2002, I reached the semi-final during the International Clarinet Competition "Prague Spring" in Prague and in 2003 I qualified for and took part in the ARD International Clarinet Competition in Munich. So far, I have played 32 solo recitals and 24 solo concerts both in Poland and abroad with such orchestras as: Capella Cracoviensis, the International Symphony Orchestra INSO – Lviv, Beethoven Academy Orchestra, the Krakow Chamber Orchestra, Tarnów Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of the Music Academy in Krakow, New Century Orchestra.

As a soloist, I made several world premieres of which the most significant are: *Soliloquy II. Landscape of the frozen thoughts* for bass clarinet and 20 string instruments by W. Ziemowit Zych, *Concertino* for clarinet and orchestra by M. Nerenberg, F. Poulenc's *Sonata* for clarinet transcribed for clarinet and orchestra by Bohdana Froylak as well as Polish premieres of works by composers such as: J. Klusák – *Recitativo* for clarinet and piano, R.R Bennett – *Sonatina* for clarinet solo, Ch. Stanford – *Sonata* for clarinet and piano, H. Howells – *Sonata* for clarinet and piano, I Lidholm – *Amicizia* for solo clarinet, A. Patrick – *Plenitude* for solo clarinet, J. Ryu – *Sonata* for clarinet and piano. I took part in many festivals and concert cycles such as, among others, 12 Days of Kraków composers Music, Musical Thursdays, concert series "Artists for the Kraków Philharmonic" 20th Musical Meetings at Paderewski "Visiting Paderewski", "Piotrowski musical evenings" at the 7th Festival Clarinet, meetings with the Beethoven Academy, "New Ways of the Classics" , concert series "Thursday Meetings with Music", concert series 'Masters and students', Polish – Belgian concert within "Great Music in a small assembly hall, "Still Polish Music, 27th International Festival of Cracow Composers. Solo activity has an important place in my professional activity, hence the recording implemented as part of my doctoral thesis concerned the sonatas for clarinet and piano. (Ch. Stanford – *Sonata* for clarinet and piano, A. Bax – *Sonata* for clarinet and piano, R. R Bennett – *Sonatina* for clarinet solo, H. Howells – *Sonata* for clarinet and piano / Piotr Lato – clarinet, Michał Dziad – piano/). As part of my solo activity I also started the cooperation with a world-renowned guitarist – Marcin Dylla, performing, among others, *Double Concerto* by A. Piazzolla in my arrangement and transcription from the bandoneon for clarinet, which is, in my opinion, one of the greatest achievements in this field of artistic activity. As an instrumentalist, I think regular solo activity is a basis for

development and it guarantees a consistent high level of performance. In addition, solo performances are a great incentive for continuous work, exercise and improving your technical skills and the possibilities of interpretation. Performances with orchestras or a piano give me great pleasure and satisfaction as well as make it possible to continuously learn new skills. I actively use the experience I have gathered working with students at the Academy of Music.

The second direction of my artistic activity concerns chamber music. This is not limited to classical compositions dedicated to the clarinet, such as a trio or quintet but I reach for the rarely performed works, sometimes in unusual instrumental combinations. So far, I have performed about 61 chamber concerts in Poland and Europe (including about 30 concerts after obtaining a doctoral degree), cooperating, among others, with bands such as: Trio *bluette*, Lutoslawski String Quartet, AIRIS Quartet, Messages Ensemble, The Rosenberg Trio, Paris Warsaw Quintet, Anawa, Barock Quartet, DAFO quartet. I had the honor of working with many distinguished chamber musicians, such as: Janusz Widzyk – the bassist of the Berlin Philharmonic, singers – Olga Pasiiecznik and Urska Arlič Gololičič, violinists – Janusz Wawrowski, Jakub Jakowicz, Piotr Tarcholik, Marcin Markowicz, violist – Katarzyna Budnik-Gałązka, cellist – Piotr Hausenplas, oboist – Arkadiusz Krupa. I have performed in 31 national festivals and concert cycles and at 17 international festivals. Initial experiments, including the third prize at the International Chamber Music Competition in Gdańsk with the trio *BLUette* (Beata Urbanek-Kalinowska – cello, Piotr Lato – clarinet, Anna Boczar – piano), as well as its repercussions in the form of workshops and numerous master classes, allowed for further development and expansion of the chamber repertoire. Among the many courses and workshops – a key experience was meeting authorities in their field such as the cellist Niklas Schmidt from the legendary Trio Fontenay and Peter Buck from the Melos Quartet of Stuttgart. Since 2000 I have taken part in many important festivals and cycles of concerts, among which are: the Music Festival "Music in the historical churches and interiors of the Duchy of Nysa", the International Festival of Borderland Contemporary Music, Festival of Jewish Culture, National Festival of Music Competition Winners "Week of Talents" Tarnów - Kąсна Dolna, "Oliwa chamber concerts", Days of Music of Kraków Composers, Music Festival Wawel at Dusk, the International Chamber Music Festival – Music on the Heights, Chamber Music Festival – Music of sources, the International Film Music Festival, Still Polish Music, Concerts in St. Martin's organized by the Polish Society of Bach, Tyniec Artistic meetings in memoriam of fathers Augustine and Adam – Abbots of Tyniec, Tyniec Organ Recitals, concert series "Masterpieces of Chamber Music", Festival of Young Pianists

Premia, 2 Days of Music by Bohuslav Martinu. As a chamber musician I have made both Polish and foreign premieres, working with many Polish and foreign composers. Among the important world premieres certainly worth mentioning is *Epifrazy* for wind quintet by A. Zawadzka-Gołosz, *Games* by Z. Bujarski; moreover, Polish premieres of works by K. Kikuchi, R. Waschburn, R. Muczynski, W. Ziemowit-Zych and E. Goldenthal. As a chamber musician I have also made both album and archive recordings, among which particularly appreciated recording is a CD of the Second International Chamber Music Festival in Zakopane (D. Przybylski – Clarinet Quintet "*Eine kleine Morgenmusik*" / Piotr Lato – clarinet, Jakub Jakowicz – violin, Anna Maria Staśkiewicz – violin, Arthur Rozmysłowicz – viola, Martin Zdunik – cello /). The experience gained led to the development of cooperation with other chamber music formations, among others, as a guest of the Kraków Reed Trio, then with Damian and Maksymilian Lipień with whom I worked on the works of Alexander Tansman and Erwin Schulhoff. At the same time I developed my interest in contemporary Polish music, hence very fruitful collaboration with Marek Szlezer and Jan Kalinowski on the works of Marek Stachowski. We have made many performances of his compositions, thus having a chance to work under the guidance of a master. Interest in the music of Marek Stachowski turned into the cooperation with derived from the Academy of Music in Kraków quartet AIRIS, which in 2013 resulted in recording *Musique en quatre scenes* for clarinet and string quartet included in the CD "Krakow Composing School – Moszumańska-Nazar, Bujarski, Stachowski ". **In reference to the Law on scientific degrees and academic title (Art. 16 paragraph. 1 and 2 of the Act of 14 March 2003 Dz. U. No. 65, item. 595) this work as well as two woodwind trios by A. Tansman – *Suite pour trio d'Anches* and by E. Schulhoff – *Divertissement*, which I recorded in 2015 with the participation of Maksymilian and Damian Lipień released on CD is for me the most important artistic achievement, which, in my opinion, may give rise to my applying for habilitation.** The choice of songs contained on the album is the result of my personal experiences related to the work on these pieces and performing them during concerts as well as exploration to gain greater knowledge of chamber music with the participation of the clarinet. My fascination with the little-known literature of the twentieth century chamber music is rooted in the aesthetics of beauty and requirements of the interpretation which this music poses for the performer, and in the need to expose the noble values and the classic sound of woodwind instruments. Also, expanding the elements of the sound coloring of the clarinet is an important feature. Job satisfaction over some of my songs is dictated by their undeniable

artistic value. This heightens the desire to take challenges, face my own abilities and to confront them with the proposals of my partners, co-performers.

A wide range of repertoire, developing interest in this field, collaboration with composers, introducing new works in the cultural circulation as well as restoring and reminding the general public the forgotten works are important points of my activities as a chamber musician. The experience gained through numerous festivals, concerts and recordings became for me a starting point for teaching at the Academy of Music in Kraków. As a teacher, while working with students I have the chance to share my experience and many collected music materials as well as recordings. I have conducted the chamber classes independently since the academic year 2013/2014, but so far the ensembles working under my supervision have received several significant awards at national and international competitions.

Another circle of my professional activity is an orchestral activity, which occupies a large part of my current artistic achievements. For 11 years I have been the first clarinetist as well as brass group leader of the Beethoven Academy Orchestra. In cooperation with this orchestra I have performed approximately 400 concerts in Poland and abroad, conducted, among others, by Krzysztof Penderecki, Jacek Kasprzyk, Alexander Liebreich, Jose Cura, Gabriel Chmura, Cristiano Vasquez, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Christian Schumann, Eugene Tzigane'a, Antoni Wit or Vasily Petrenko with the participation of soloists such as: Rainer Honeck, Sergey Dogadin, So-Ock Kim, Kaja Danczowska, Tai Murray, Nigel Kennedy, Daniel Stabrawa – violin, Steven Isserlis, Arto Noras, Pieter Wispelway, Fenyó László, Tatjana Vasziljeva, David Geringas, Claudio Bohorquez, Julius Berger – cello, Aleksandra Kurzak, Małgorzata Walewska, Iwona Sobotka, Thomas Quasthoff, Andrzej Dobber, Maria Forsstom – singing, Yulianna Avdeeva, Ingolf Wunder, Alexander Kobrin, Konstantin Scherbakov, Krzysztof Jabłoński, Wibi Soerjadi, Piotr Paleczny, Kevin Kenner, Daniil Trifonov, Tatiana Shebanova, Simon Trpceski, Masakada Takada – piano, Łukasz Długosz – flute, Łukasz Kuropaczewski, Lara Coryell, Jarosław Śmietana, Krzysztof Scierański – guitar, Gary Guthman, Tom Browne, Robert Majewski – trumpet, Henryk Miśkiewicz – saxophone, Christian Lindberg – trombone, Oystein Baadsvik – tuba, and Martin Frost – clarinet. Original programs realized by the orchestra in concert cycles *B9 New Way of the classics*, in particular *Still Polish music*, allowed me to discover the forgotten music of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and putting it into a living cultural circuit. Restoring to the public's mind the works of Francis Lessel, Maximilian Einert, Wojciech Sowiński or Ignacy Feliks Dobrzyński confronts the performers with a dual task of properly reading and presenting

artistic works often having their world premiere. A wide range of artistic repertoire realized by the orchestra, including both classics of the orchestral repertoire as well as contemporary or film music allows me to develop gradually. Several years of intensive work has allowed me to explore the intricacies of fine orchestral playing, co-creation of the group, as well as exploration of a wide range of extremely rich symphonic literature. My suggestions and artistic creations meet with the favor of cooperating conductors, as well as become an inspiration for both the group run by me and the whole orchestra.

As part of my teaching activities in the field of orchestral studies, I try in the widest possible way to bring my experience gathered over many years of work to improve my teaching methods. Thanks to the position of the brass group leader in the Beethoven Academy Orchestra, I also have the chance to enable outstanding students to work with the orchestra, initially as the second and third parts during concerts and festivals. Active co-operation with a professional orchestra allows young musicians to check and confront their skills in a real concert situation.

Ongoing concert activities are for me always a great opportunity for collaboration with renowned artists. As part of the concert *Last Night of the Proms* in Kraków I had the opportunity to work with an outstanding clarinetist – Martin Frost. Such experiences are extremely important for my own development. Currently I work on a daily basis with many orchestras (Beethoven Academy Orchestra, Sinfonietta Cracovia and Krakow Chamber Orchestra). As part of my current activity I have performed in prestigious concert halls in Poland and Europe, among which were Musikverein in Vienna, the Victoria Hall in Geneva, the Alte Oper in Dortmund, philharmonic halls in Munich, St. Petersburg, Budapest, Belgrade, Berlin.

In addition to the regular concert activity I make album recordings and record music for films, theater and television. Among the most important achievements in this regard I can mention, among others, Fryderyk Award nomination in 2010 for the album *Musica Sacromontana – Joseph Zeidler-Maximilian Koperski - PRCD 1143-1344*, platinum for oratory *Seven Songs of Mary* (music by B. Gliniak), music for KPM EMI library, soundtracks for such films as: *Tickling Leo* (music by A. Korzeniowski), *Free Willy 4* (music by E. Rothhoff), *Lullaby* (music by M. Lorenc), *La Prima Notte di Luna*, directed by Massimo Guglielmini, *Black Thursday* (music by M. Lorenc), *Kamienie na szaniec* (music by R. Glinski), *Citizen* (music by A. Konarski).

Pedagogical activity is the last circle of my working life. My experience of a versatile musician – instrumentalist has become an ideal platform for teaching taken up in 2004. As a

certified teacher and teacher at the Academy of Music where I lead the class clarinet, initially as an assistant in the class of Professor Andrzej Godek and now as an assistant professor, I try to present my pupils and students with the widest possible spectrum of my artistic experiences, thus avoiding a purely theoretical approach. At the Academy of Music in Kraków I teach the clarinet, exchangeable instruments, chamber music and orchestral studies. I also lead the rehearsals of sectional brass groups of the Academy of Music Orchestra and I give practical lectures on instruments. So far I have had the opportunity to have classes with 10 clarinet players of Bachelor studies, 5 clarinet players of Master studies, 5 students of additional clarinet, 1 student of an exchangeable instrument, 25 clarinet players of orchestral studies, 3 ensembles. I can also be proud of the success of my students – including Mateusz Krasa, who was awarded as a chamber musician, member of the clarinet quartet at national and international competitions and as a soloist at the international competition, or co-taught with Prof. Andrzej Godek – Agnieszka Dąbrowska, Karol Sikora – multiple winners of national and international competitions, scholarship winners of Young Poland, Sapere Auso, Minister of Culture and National Heritage award, and others. In 2012-2014, I participated in educational projects of the Symphony Orchestra of the Academy of Music in Kraków – concerts of Teachers and Students under the guidance of Prof. Stanisław Krawczyński and Alexander Liebreich.

I have led numerous courses and workshops for improving instrument playing, featuring 20<sup>th</sup> International Course of Musical Interpretation in Nowy Sącz, 4<sup>th</sup> Clarinet and Saxophone Master Course in Jastrzębie Zdrój. I am also a member of the jury at the Miniature Woodwind Competition in the Władysław Żeleński Secondary Music School in Krakow, 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Auditions for Woodwind and Brass Instruments of Primary Music Schools students. In addition, in the field of organizational activities at the Music Academy I am a member of the Faculty Council for the years 2013-2016 and the principal secretary in the Committee on Admissions.

My plans for the future focus primarily on the exploration, research and presentation of new clarinet literature pieces to my pupils and students. I plan to continue my development in the chosen direction, by realizing new projects and artistic challenges. My plans for the near future include the realization of CD recordings with chamber music and a number of solo and chamber concerts.