

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The music in my family home has accompanied me from an early age. I remember my Parents watching and listening to broadcasts of Chopin contests (as they had free time) on radio and on television. As a child I listened almost continuously to tapes from the American rock-jazz group Blood Sweat & Tears. In addition, I was able to enjoy a rich home record collection that included classical and jazz recordings and Polish 1960s music. I liked listening to recordings of such artists as Novi Singers, Woody Herman, Miles Davis, Ray Charles, Marek Bliziński, Czesław Niemen, Marek i Vacek, Sławomir Kulpowicz, Tomasz Stańko, Adam Makowicz, Krystyna Prońko, Krzysztof Sadowski, Zbigniew Namysłowski, Krzysztof Ścierański, Krzak, Dżamble, Polanie, Czerwono-Czarni, Niebiesko-Czarni, Skaldowie, Alex Band, Laboratorium, Walk Away. My first contact with a real instrument took place at the age of three in a kindergarten. The beginning of my music education began with the admission to the pre elementary department at Music School of 1st and 2nd degree in Sanok. After a year of study I was admitted to the first grade of the first degree music school in the piano class without extra audition. At the same time I started my education at regular primary school. Attending two schools in parallel did not make much of a difference. The six years of my first education have passed relatively quickly. In July 1994 I took part for the first time in the 1st International Summer Jazz Academy in Krakow, conducted by eminent educators from the USA and from Poland (eg. Mike Parkinson, Gary Wittner, Isi Rudnick, Adam Niedzielin, Marek Janicki, Jan Pilch and Ryszard Krawczuk). In the course of the week, I absorbed everything about ABC jazz. In the school year 1994/1995 I started my education at the 2nd grade music school in the piano class. During the summer months I

participated in the second edition of the International Summer Jazz Academy with the American cast.

In the following years I regularly participated in jazz workshops in Brzozów, Przemyśl, Ustrzyki Dolne and Cracow under the supervision of such lecturers as Carolbeth True, Jarosław Śmietana, Tomasz Szukalski, Wojciech Groborz, Andrzej Cudzych, Kazimierz Jonkisz, Piotr Rodowicz, Leszek Kułakowski, Rick van Matre, Zbigniew Jakubek, Piotr Olszewski, Bernard Maseli.

During my studies at the Secondary Music School I also participated in many class competitions and workshops. I had the opportunity to work privately with outstanding professors such as Andrzej Jasiński, Waldemar Andrzejewski, Andrzej Pikul, Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń, Ewa Pobłocka, Elżbieta Tarnawska. At the same time, I received a proposal to cooperate with the big band Brass Standard Jazz Orchestra from Brzozow, Poland conducted by Tadeusz Podulka. It was a big challenge for me, combined with the fascination of jazz and big band music. In this band where all musicians were much older and more experienced than me, I got to know the wide repertoire and rules of this type of band. In 2000 I graduated with honors from the State Music School of 1st and 2nd degree in Sanok and passed my high school diploma and maturity exam in the Secondary School in Sanok. I knew that my future life will be devoted to music. The next stage of my education were studies at the Academy of Music in Krakow under the guidance of outstanding pedagogue prof. Andrzej Pikul. The time I spent studying had special significance to me. First of all, I developed my faithfulness, but also broadened the spectrum of interest not only in classical music. It was a period that influenced the formation of my personality, sensitivity, indispensable in practicing this difficult art. Classical piano studies are also an opportunity to get a better understanding of the extensive literature available for this instrument. In 2002 and in subsequent years I was involved

in the performing of contemporary music. Under the guidance of prof. Marek Mietelski I was working in a trio on getting to know the executive techniques on this field of music. In 2003 after the initiative of Wojciech Fedkowicz, who studied in the drum class under prof. Jan Pilch, there was a possibility to cooperate in a jazz band. Its result was a participation in the contest on Bielska Zadymka Jazzowa and the award in the form of live recording entitled JWP.org "Organization" issued by Jazz Froum. It collected a lot of favorable reviews and was broadcasted on many radio stations of the Polish Radio.

Another success was the first prize on the Jazz Juniors Festival in Krakow in 2004.

I graduated from Academy Of Music with honors in 2005. Doing two diploma recitals, which included, among others: "Miroirs" by Maurice Ravel, "Pictures from the Exhibition" by Modest Mussorgski, Sonata Op. 111 L. van Beethoven as well as my own improvisation on Maurice Ravel's "Le Gibet".

After a talk with prof. Michael Parkinson, a lecturer at Webster University in Saint Louis, USA, I decided to continue my studies in jazz department at one of the American Universities. After submitting the relevant documents, I was invited to an audition at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. The entrance exam was rated the highest grade, which resulted in receiving a full scholarship so called The Presidential Scholarship, which for the first time in conservatory's history was awarded to a jazz program student. In August 2006, I began studying Masters of Music in Jazz Performance at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston under the supervision of an amazing pianist prof. Danilo Perez. A two-year study period in which I had contact with many jazz celebrities including: George Garzone, Jerry Bergonzi, Dave Holland, Billy Hart, Bob Moses and Cecil McBee formed my musical and artistic consciousness. Staying in the U.S. also contributed to the fact that I could attend almost every weekly concerts of the biggest stars of both jazz and classical music. I made a lot of musical and social contacts,

some of them are still up to date. They resulted, among others, in a recording of an album "Portraits" with flutist (shakuhachi) Geni Skendo, which featured improvisations on Japanese folk music. An important event at the time was the meeting of Bronislaw Suchanek, an outstanding double bass player, a legend of Polish jazz. Our weekly meetings, long talks about jazz and jam sessions resulted in a record "Sketch in Blue", which featured our own compositions. This album has received many favorable reviews. In 2008 I received a Master of Music in Jazz Performance and graduated with honors and was also nominated for membership in Pi Kappa Lambda Association. After returning to Poland, I started my doctoral studies at the Academy of Music in Cracow and I was employed as an assistant professor at the Department of Contemporary Music, Jazz and Drums. At that time, I also started cooperation with Krakow School of Jazz.

When having a relation with students I always try to sympathize with them - it is only possible if they are treated responsibly, giving them all knowledge that is up to date. By working honestly one can hope for good results and satisfaction with the achievements of the students. In didactic work overriding principle is professional ethics, which helps in gaining what we call authority. It is an indispensable feature that largely determines results and good relationships with students. I am currently trying to reconcile my artistic activity with didactic work. The concert activities and the resulting experience have a positive influence both on my personal development as well as they benefit my students who have direct contact with an active musician. My cooperation with the most outstanding figures of Polish and world jazz on the most important stages of Poland, Europe (Portugal, Spain, Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine Belarus, Lithuania, Turkey, Norway, Sweden) and the world (USA, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Japan, Korea, India, Africa, Australia) is a unique opportunity to

develop artistically, intellectually and to improve the didactic skills. One of the most valuable stage and artistic experiences was a four-year collaboration with Tomasz Stańko. During this period I was able to take part in many Polish and foreign festivals. International Festival "Chopin and his Europe" in 2010, during which a specially prepared program entitled "Homage to Chopin" was presented; Solidarity of Arts Festival in Gdańsk in 2011. (A joint performance by Marcus Miller and Tomasz Stańko, Joey Baron, Craig Taborn); Izmir Jazz Festival in Turkey in 2012; A special project within the BMW Jazz Club entitled "December Avenue" at the Teatr Wielki National Opera in Warsaw in December 2014. Meanwhile I took up teaching position at the Jazz Institute of the Academy of Music in Katowice as a lecturer. After completing my doctorate I was promoted to adjunct professor position and I intensified my didactic activity, which I consider to be a very important element of my work at the Academy of Music in Krakow and in Katowice. A Year 2013 turned out to be a breakthrough period in my artistic career. I recorded my debut album Ravel, which is a jazz interpretation and recomposition of Miroirs, one of the great piano works by Maurice Ravel. The album was nominated in all categories for the Fryderyk 2014 award. It also received a lot of positive reviews and was awarded Fryderyk in the categories Debut of the Year and Album of the Year - Jazz Music. In the same year I was also a laureate of the TVP Kultura - Culture Guarantee in the Jazz Rock & others category. In April 2014 I completed a project inspired by Lenten songs and devotion to Gorzkie Żale. The music employs original various vocal melodies accompanied on the piano which is transformed forward into solo improvisation part. The concert that took place in the Basilica of the Franciscans in Cracow featured: Agata Jędrysiak-Wania - voice and Jacek Wójtowicz OMFCConv - voice. The concert was also repeated at the Holy Cross Basilica in Gostyń in February 2016. During the Lenten Oratory. By completing the documentation for the habilitation, I decided to present an album titled "The Other Side of If" recorded

in the jazz trio named N.A.K. Composed by Jacek Kochan - drums, Dominik Wania - piano, Michał Kapczuk - double bass. The music recorded on the album shows the leading role of the piano and also significantly emphasizes the value of my classical education due to the wide inspiration of the 20th century piano literature (Bartok, Stravinsky, Lutoslawski, Ravel, Debussy, Schonberg, Copland). It is worth mention about my coopeation with prominent jazz vocalist Marek Balata. Our concerts both in the Concert Studio them. Agnieszka Osiecka and in Radio Rzeszow (Kolędy) as well as in other venues will remain in my memory for a long time. It was really special and challenging for me to meet the demands of accompanying such an unique artist.

The end of 2015 and 2016 was a time of intense and extraordinary collaboration with an outstanding Polish Film Music composer Zbigniew Preisner. I had this privilege and honour to record "New Roads and Old Christmas Carols" (platinum status), "La Reina de Espana" film soundtrack and "2016 Dokąd", which was recorded live at the concert hall of the National Music Forum in Wrocław. I had the opportunity to play some unforgettable concerts, among others. In Brussels as part of the festival devoted to the works of Krzysztof Kieslowski and in Wrocław as part of the 29th European Film Awards Festival. My collaboration with the outstanding alto saxophonist of the young generation, Maciej Obara, has been developing for less than ten years. Our first meeting took place in the team of Tomasz Stańko in 2008. Since then, we have recorded several albums with the Norwegian musicians and have performed tours in many European countries, in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, India and Africa. It is worth noting that we were the first Poles to have the opportunity to perform at the famous Lincoln Jazz Center in New York. The most important event in our team's work was the recording session of the new album for the most prestigious ECM label, under the watchful eye of the famous producer Manfred Eicher. The album was recorded at the renowned Rainbow Studio in Oslo. Album is entitled

„Unloved“ and will be released this fall. I want to point out that after Tomasz Stańko and Marcin Wasilewski we are the third Polish representative group to be honored with a record label which has names such as Keith Jarrett, Jan Garbarek, Charles Lloyd, Pat Metheny, Chick Corea, Paul Bley, Vijay Iyer, Bobo Stenson in their catalogue. Another interesting experience for me is the collaboration with Cracow based musicians, who form the band New Bone directed by great trumpeter, composer and arranger Tomasz Kudyk. Apart from many concerts in Poland and abroad, I have recorded two albums, "Follow Me" and "OdJazzdowo", which included some of my arrangements. In March 2017, accompanied by the Szczecin Philharmonic Orchestra, I made the very first performance of Jazz Piano Concerto composed by Nikola Kołodziejczyk, outstanding young composer, winner of two Fryderyk awards.

My goal for the nearest future is to continue my artistic career and develop cooperation with the previously mentioned musicians. The release tour of the album „Unloved“ by Maciej Obara's quartet, recorded for ECM is still ahead of me and we are planning a tour in Poland and abroad this fall. I also have plans for another solo project. In the field of didactics I was invited to run workshops of jazz piano within the framework of the 19th Summer Academy of Music in Cracow. This will be another opportunity for me to meet young, talented jazz pianists, perhaps future students of our Cracow Academy of Music.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tomasz Stańko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tomasz" and last name "Stańko" clearly distinguishable.