

ELŻBIETA STEFAŃSKA

Curriculum Vitae

ELŻBIETA STEFAŃSKA was born in Kraków as a daughter of a famous pianist, HALINA CZERNY-STEFAŃSKA, and a professor of piano, LUDWIK STEFAŃSKI. In her early childhood, she already showed her extraordinary musicality; she was taught to play piano by her father, Ludwik Stefański, a professor of the Academy of Music. She graduated from the State Higher Music School in Kraków under the supervision of an eminent German harpsichordist, Professor Hans Pischner from Berlin. Upon graduation, she enhanced her skills at various international courses in Siena and Weimar, under the supervision of eminent European harpsichordists such as Zuzanna Ruzickova and Ruggiero Gerlin.

In the year 1964, she was awarded two first prizes at the Early Music Competition in Łódź for performance of baroque pieces for piano and harpsichord.

In 1965 she won the first prize at the International Music Competition in Geneva, being awarded, at the same time, the Henri Ghez special prize for the best harpsichordist at the competition.

In the following years, for outstanding artistic achievements of Baroque Trio, she was awarded the City of Kraków Prize along with flutist, Barbara Świątek, and cellist, Jerzy Klocek. She was awarded the "Laur Melomanów Krakowskich" prize as a sign of recognition and appreciation for popularising beautiful music".

She participated frequently at many national and international festivals as a soloist and chamber musician; these include such venues as Hanover, Halle (Handel Festival), Leipzig (Bach Festival), Shiraz (Iran), Orvieto, Interlaken (Switzerland), Gaming (Austria), Paris.

Elizabeth Stefańska's repertoire includes solo and chamber music pieces of the Renaissance and baroque periods, classical music as well as 20-th century music pieces including music by Polish composers of the past and present times. The artist, in her long musical career, has made a number of recordings for radio and television, as well as album recordings for Polish Records, EMI-Elektrola, Decca, and Fonit Cetra.

In the years 1974-1982, she was a full-time soloist at the Radio and Television.

In addition to playing concerts, Elżbieta Stefańska has actively participated as a juror in both national and foreign music competitions. What deserves special attention is the 1st Wanda Landowska Harpsichord Competition, which she organised (Kraków, 1985) and whose jury she chaired.

In 1970, she was a jury member at the International Harpsichord Competition in Munich. In 1992, Elżbieta was a jury member at the International Bach Competition in Leipzig, and in 1993, at the International Harpsichord Competition in Warsaw. She was also a member of the jury at two Nationwide Guitar Competitions in Kraków

(1986-87). In 1990, she was a juror at the Piano Competition in Taipei (Taiwan).

Elżbieta is a professor at the Academy of Music in Kraków, where she teaches harpsichord. In the years 1981-1990, she served as Head of the Department of Harpsichord and Early Instruments.

In years 1990-2004, she repeatedly visited such countries as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, where she played numerous concerts, significant for her artistic career. These resulted in many recordings, both for television and radio. On the occasion of the Year of Mozart, in the phonographic company Pony Canyon (Tokyo), Elżbieta recorded eighteen sonatas by W.A. Mozart (six CDs) on pianoforte, an instrument from the time of the composer. For the same company, she recorded also numerous pieces by J.S. Bach on harpsichord, also published in the compact version.

In the years 1991 through 2001, she performed in a piano duo with her mother, Halina Czerny-Stefańska, successfully giving concerts at home and abroad. Repertoire of the duo included pieces by composers of both classical and contemporary times. Together with her mother, she recorded a CD album for DUX company with Polish dances from the Renaissance to Chopin times. For the same company, she recorded also, together with her students, harpsichord concertos by J.S. Bach. This album was nominated for "Fryderyk" Award.

The artist's fascination with baroque and Renaissance dance resulted in cooperation with the "Ardente Sole" ballet, specializing in cultivating historical dance. Together with the ballet, the harpsichordist gives concerts which are 17th through 19th-century European dance performances. The artist cooperates also with such renowned artists as violinists, Kaja Danczowska and Agata Sapięha, with flutist, Kazimierz Moszyński, and with cellist, Dorota Imięłowska.

In recent years, she received the following awards:

- 1) The Award of the Governor of Kraków in the field of Art and Culture for the year 1998
- 2) Ray E. & Ruth A. Robinson Award for excellent results in the field of teaching (2000)
- 3) Reward of the Capital, Royal City of Kraków in the field Art and Culture for the year 2003.

DISCOGRAPHY - selected works:

- 1) Polish Records: pieces by J. S. Bach, sonatas by Scarlatti
- 2) PONY CANYON: J. S. Bach, 6 French Suites W. A. Mozart, 18 Sonatas for the Piano
- 3) EMI: J. S. Bach, Concerts K. Penderecki: Partita
- 4) DUX: J. S. Bach, Concerts
- 5) COSMO: French music, 17th and 18th century
- 6) Castello Fandango/Harpsichord Recital
- 7) 8 DVDs with Polish, French, and German 18th-century music recorded for IMC of Japan
- 8) NAXOS K.Penderecki, among others, Partita for harpsichord, 2013

Grammy Award