

Krzysztof Meyer

- Biography -

Krzysztof Meyer was born on 11th August, 1943 in Cracow. From the age of five he learned the piano, and from 1954 on theory and composition with Stanisław Wiechowicz. After graduating from the Fryderyk Chopin State Secondary School of Music in Cracow he began to study at the College of Music in Cracow where he obtained two diplomas with distinction: in 1965 in composition, under Krzysztof Penderecki (after Stanisław Wiechowicz's death) and in 1966 in theory. In 1964, 1966, and 1968 he went to France to study with Nadia Boulanger. In 1965-67 he appeared as a pianist with the contemporary music group "MW2 Ensemble", giving concerts both at home and abroad, in most European countries. He also played his solo compositions for piano.

From 1966 to 1987 Krzysztof Meyer taught theoretical subjects at the State College of Music (now Academy of Music) in Cracow. In the years 1972-75 he was vice director and later (1975-87) head of the Department of Music Theory. From 1987 he has taught composition at the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne. He also lectured on contemporary music abroad (Soviet Union, East and West Germany, Austria, Brazil). In the years 1985-1989 he was the President of the Union of Polish Composers.

Krzysztof Meyer is a prize-winner of numerous awards – such as the First Prize at the Competition for young composers in France (1966), Second Prize at the Young Polish Composers' Competition for Symphony No. 1 (1966), the Aaron Copland Scholarship (1966), Honourable Mention for Symphony No. 2 (1967) and the First Prize for Symphony No. 3 (1968) at the Fitelberg Composers' Competition, Prix de Composition Musicale of the Prince Pierre de Monaco Foundation for his opera *Cyberiada* (1970), twice Special Mention at Tribune Internationale des Compositeurs UNESCO in Paris for String Quartet No. 2 and String Quartet No. 3 (1970, 1976 respectively), the Second Prize at the Artur Malawski Composers' Competition in Cracow for Concerto da camera per oboe, percussione ed archi (1972), twice the Award of the Minister of Culture and Art (1973, 1975), the First Prize at the Karol Szymanowski Competition in Warsaw for Symphony No. 4 (1974), twice the Medal granted by the Government of Brazil for String Quartet No. 4 and Concerto retro (1975, 1977 respectively), the Gottfried-von-Herder-Preis (Vienna, 1984), the annual Award of the Union of Polish Composers (1992), the Alfred Jurzykowski Award (New York, 1994) and the Johann-Stamitz-Preis (Mannheim, 1996). He is a member of the Freie Akademie der Künste in Mannheim.

Krzysztof Meyer's compositions have been performed in Europe and in America. They have been played at international festivals of contemporary music, such as Warsaw Autumn, Musicki Biennale Zagreb, Holland Festival, Musikprotokoll Graz, Aldeburgh Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Lucerne Festival and others. Some of his works were commissioned by or composed for the most eminent soloists (the Flute Concerto for Aurèle Nicolet, the Concerto da camera per oboe for Lothar Faber, the Pezzo capriccioso for Heinz Holliger, the Trumpet Concerto for Timofei Dokshitser, the Violoncello Sonata for David Geringas, *Canti Amadei* for Ivan Monighetti). His Symphony No. 1 was one of the three obligatory contemporary compositions at the International Course for Conductors in Monaco directed by Igor Markevich in 1971, as well as *Hommage à Johannes Brahms* which was performed at the International Course for Conductors in Dublin in 1999 directed by Gerhard Markson.

Krzysztof Meyer is the author of the first Polish monograph on the life and work of Dmitri Shostakovich (Cracow, 1973 and 1986; German edition – Leipzig, 1980. New version: Paris, 1994; Bergisch-Gladbach, 1995; Amsterdam, 1996; Madrid, 1997; St. Petersburg, 1998; Mainz, 1998; Warsaw, 1999). He has also written a number of articles, mainly on contemporary music, printed in "Melos", "Muzyka", "Ruch Muzyczny", "Das Orchester", "Sovetskaya Muzyka" and other periodicals.