

Jakub Burzyński - singer (countertenor), conductor, music theoretician

Jakub Burzyński was born on February 11th, 1976, in Zabrze. He started his music education as a pianist. After he had finished the piano class at the State Secondary School of Music in Zabrze, he got two higher school diplomas with honours: he graduated from the Theory of Music Department of the Music Academy in Katowice and from the Department of Solo Singing of the Music Academy in Bydgoszcz. He also studied symphony – opera conducting, his tutor being Jan Wincenty Hawel. Mr. Burzyński is a founder and co-founder of many vocal and vocal-instrumental ensembles.

In 1998 he established an ensemble called La Tempesta. Since then he has regularly been giving concerts with the ensemble and recording the XVIth - XIXth repertoire. La Tempesta is an ensemble of the HIP kind (Historical Informed Performance). In 2003, at the 13th Ancient Music Festival in Warsaw, Jakub Burzyński and La Tempesta were awarded with the Eugenia and Julian Kulski Distinction.

Mr. Burzyński's solo singing repertoire comprises ancient, classical and modern music, both sacral forms and opera and chamber compositions. He sang with many ensembles and orchestras, under the baton of such conductors as Roman Válek, Marek Toporowski, Łukasz Borowicz, Paweł Kos-Nowicki, Jacek Urbaniak and Agata Sapięha.

On the stage of Warsaw Chamber Opera, the countertenor sang in operas by such composers as G.F. Haendel (*Rinaldo* – the part of Goffredo), W. A. Mozart (*Apollo et Hyacinthus* – the part of Hyacinthus; *Mithridate, re di Ponte* – the part of Farnakes), Z. Krauze (*Balthazar* – the part of Athlete). In 2008, the Czech premiere took place of A. Vivaldi's *Dorilla in Tempe* and Mr. Burzyński sang the part of Apollo/Nomio. In 2009, at the National Theatre in Warsaw, the artist took part in the performance of "*The False Servant*" by Pierre de Marivaux, directed by Jacques Lassalle. In 2010, in Liberec (The Czech Republic) and in Frankenthal (Germany) he sang the part of Ptolemy in *Giulio Cesare*, an opera by G.F. Haendel. Mr. Burzyński's other opera parts were sang in the operas by the following composers: Charpentier (*Acteon*), Purcell (*King Arthur*), Mysliveček (*Montezuma*), and Zych (*Poiesis*).

The artist gave concerts – also as the conductor – in the National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw, The Silesian Philharmonic Hall in Katowice, Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio in Warsaw, in the Royal Castles in Warsaw and Cracow.

Jakub Burzyński, both as a solo vocalist and the conductor, made twenty records for such recording concerns as BIS (Antonio Vivaldi – *Vespers of Sorrow* – 2004); Musicon (*Ancient Claromontana Music*, vol. 17 – 2007; vol. 33 and 34 – 2008); DUX (*Ancient Claromontana Music*, vol. 27 – 2007; vol. 28 and 29 – 2008); "Musica Humana" Association

(*Lacrimosa* and *Johann Sebastian Bach. Purification Mass* – 2008) Arts Music (*Johann Sebastian Bach. Purification Mass* – 2009). He also made records for DIVOX and NAXOS. Twelve of the albums recorded by the artist were devoted to Polish music. The "Vespers of Sorrow" CD was chosen to be **the record of the year** by the British website Music Web International. That resulted in inviting the artist to perform Vivaldi's compositions in Poland (Warsaw, Cieszyn, Cracow) and abroad (Vienna, Znojmo, Třebíč).

In the year 2009 the artist was the tutor of the solo singing class during the ancient music course in Kelč (The Czech Republic) and has been doing it for many years since.

Since 2010, Mr. Burzyński has been President of the Ancient Music Circle, operating within Polish Music Artists' Association (SPAM = PMAA).

The artist is also the artistic director of the *Baroque* Music Festival in Radość, the artistic director of the International Summer School of Ancient Music Schloss Scharfeneck and a permanent lecturer of the Silent Music Festival in Toruń.

(The translation is based on the article by Małgorzata Kosińska of the Polish Centre of Music Information and Polish Composers' Union, dated January 2006, actualized in November 2010).