



MAESTRO WIESŁAW OCHMAN - TENOR

Mr. Wiesław Ochman, an opera singer, was born on February 6th, 1937, in Warsaw. Within the years 1954 – 60 he studied at the Department of Ceramics of The Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Kraków and he got a degree of M.Sc. During the period of his studies, Mr. Ochman started learning singing under the guidance of Gustaw Serafin in Kraków (1955 – 59) and Maria Szłapak in Bytom (1960 – 63). It was there where he made his debut in 1960 on the stage of The Silesian Opera. He performed the part of Muezzin in **Casanova** by Ludomir Różycki, and then he sang the part of Edgar in **Lucia of Lamermoor** by Gaetano Donizetti. During the next artistic season Mr. Ochman sang, among others, the parts of: Stefan in **Straszny Dwór** (The Haunted Manor) by Stanisław Moniuszko, Nadir in **Pêcheurs de Perles** by Georges Bizet, Lionel in **Martha** by Friedrich Flotow and Max in **Freiberufler** by Karl Maria von Weber. Then, in the season of 1963/64 he sang in Kraków Opera, where he enriched his repertoire by the parts of Cavaradossi in **Tosca** by Giacomo Puccini and the Young King in **Hagith** by Karol Szymanowski. In 1964, Wiesław Ochman was employed as a singer in The Great Theatre in Warsaw where he performed the part of Jontek in **Halka** by Stanisław Moniuszko, the title part in **Faust** by Charles Gounod, and that of Cavaradossi in **Tosca**. Within the years 1966 – 68 Mr. Ochman was employed by the Deutsche Staatsoper in Berlin. His international career started in 1967. Since then, until the end of his professional career, he regularly appeared on the greatest opera stages and bandstands of the world, such as La Scala in Milan, Metropolitan Opera in New York, the opera theatres in Barcelona, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Hamburg, Madrid, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Salzburg, San Francisco, Sevilla, and Vienna. The singer took part in the most prestigious music festivals where he was accompanied by orchestras under the most eminent conductors. Wiesław Ochman made numerous radio recordings, he also made over fifty records for renowned companies, with important parts in such compositions as **Salome** by Richard Strauss, **Requiem** and **Idomeneo** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart under the baton of Karl Böhm (DG), **Stabat Mater** by Antonin Dvořák, **9th Symphony** by Ludwig van Beethoven conducted by Rafael Kubelik (DG), **Missa Solemnis in c-minor** by Mozart, the conductor being Claudio Abbado, **Jenufa** by Leoš Janáček under the baton of Charles Mackerras (Decca), **War and Peace** by Serghey Prokofiev conducted by Mscislav Rostropowitch (Erato).

Charity work was an important element in Wiesław Ochman's life and work. In 1998, on the occasion of the 200th birth anniversary of Adam Mickiewicz, the artist collected some pictures by Polish painters and put them up for auction in The General Consulate of the Republic of Poland in New York. All the profit was transferred to The Museum – House of the Bard in Vilnius, for the purpose of the necessary renovations. And it was also in New York where Wiesław Ochman had his recital preceding the next auction of the pictures he had collected in Poland – this time for the benefit of the “Our Częstochowa” Association. The money obtained was devoted for supporting culture and for scholarships.

After the year 1999 the artist took to directing as well. In the Silesian Opera, he put up **Don Giovanni** by Mozart (1999), **Traviata** by Giuseppe Verdi (2000), **Tsarevitch** by Ferenc Lehár (2001), **Eugene Onegin** by Peter Tchaikovsky (2002), **Boris Godunov** by Modest Musorgsky (2004), **Carmen** by Georges Bizet (2006); in the Opera in the Castle in Szczecin – **The Land of Smiles** by Lehar (2007), in the Great Theatre in Łódź - **Eugene Onegin** (2008).

Wiesław Ochman is a laureate of numerous decorations and awards, among others, The 2nd Degree State Award (1973), The Award of the City of Kraków (1976), Medal of the 400th Anniversary of Warsaw as the Capital City awarded by President of Warsaw (1997), Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (1997), Commander's Cross with the Star of the Order of Polonia Restituta (2001), Gold Medal of “Meritorious for Culture - Gloria Artis” (2005), Award of Honour of the Polish Culture Endowment (2009).

Stanisław Staszic Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Kraków awarded the artist with the title of **Doctor Honoris Causa** in 2008

Author: Małgorzata Kosińska, Polish Centre of Music Information,
The Association of Polish Composers, October 2002, updated November 2009.
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