

Piotr Banasik

After having studied at the Katowice Music Academy in the class of Prof. Andrzej Jasiński - a teacher of Krystian Zimerman among others, he graduated with highest distinction in 2005. Piotr Banasik has participated in numerous master classes, working with such artists as Vera Gornostaeva, Alexei Orlovetsky, Dang Thai Son, Alexis Weissenberg, Arie Vardi and Krystian Zimerman.

He has won numerous awards and honours in competitions and festivals in Poland and abroad, such as the Medal of the 48<sup>th</sup> International Maria Canals Competition in Barcelona, the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Young Musicians Festival in Gdańsk (2002), the Grand Prix in the PARNASSOS International Piano Competition in Monterrey, Mexico, and the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the National Chopin Piano Artist Scholarship Competition in Warsaw (2003). He was also awarded in the 36<sup>th</sup> Polish Piano Festival in Słupsk. In February 2005 he was awarded with the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the National Chopin Competition for the Candidates to the 15<sup>th</sup> International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, in which he received a number of special prizes on September 2005, e.g. for the best participant who did not qualify to the final. He was the scholarship holder of the Polish Ministry of Culture and Arts.

Since 1998 he has given countless recitals and performed as a soloist of symphonic concerts in Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico (e.g. Bellas Artes Palace in Mexico City), South Africa, Switzerland and Ukraine, as well as in many important concert halls in Poland. He has cooperated, as a soloist, with the Polish Radio Orchestra in Warsaw, the Polish Radio Chamber Orchestra "Amadeus", Sinfonietta Cracovia, Forchheimer Kammerorchester (as a soloist and conductor), Guanajuato Symphonic Orchestra, Orchestre National des Pays de La Loire and with many philharmonic orchestras in Poland.

Piotr Banasik has made recordings for the Polish Radio and Television, e.g. with the Polish Radio Orchestra, the Polish Radio Chamber Orchestra "Amadeus", and the Mexican Radio (Chopin's *Concerto No. 1* with the Guanajuato Symphonic Orchestra). As a conductor and soloist he has recorded Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with the Karol Szymanowski Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2001. Two years later he recorded the same concert for the Polish Radio with the Polish Radio Orchestra.

Piotr Banasik has performed at such prestigious international piano festivals as the 22<sup>nd</sup> *Septembre Musical de l'Orne* in France (2004), the 60<sup>th</sup> International Chopin Festival in Duszniki, Poland (2005), the 24<sup>th</sup> International Festival 'Chopin in the Colours of Autumn' (2005), Alexis Weissenberg Piano Festival in Switzerland (2007) and the 8<sup>th</sup> Music Festival in Al-Ain (UAE), where he played Mozart's *Piano Concerto in E flat major No. 22 K. 482* with the Warsaw Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra.