

## Mieczysław Karłowicz

He was born on December 11, 1876 in Vishniev, Lithuania, and died on February 8, 1909 in the Tatra Mountains. He was buried in the Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw.

He was the son of linguist and ethnographer Jan Karłowicz and a qualified singer, Irena Sulistrowskich. He is considered one of the greatest Polish composer-symphonists, an outstanding climber and skier. Together with Mariusz Zaruski, he was the initiator of the creation of the Tatra Volunteer Rescue Service.

Mieczysław Karłowicz first came to Zakopane and the Tatras as a thirteen-year-old. Up to 1894, he climbed, among others Bystra, Kominiarski Wierch, Świnica, Rysy, Kościelec, and Gerlach with the guide Jędrzej Wala. In the summer of 1892, as a violinist, he played two concerts in the hall of the former Zakopane Tatra Manor. The years 1902-1909 were for him a period of intense, often lonely learning about the Tatra Mountains. The companion of his trips was among others the famous guide Klimek Bachleda. It was with him that he entered Jastrzębia Turnia, Mały Kołowy Szczyt, Durny Szczyt, and Pośrednią Grań. However, most of his trips were made by Karłowicz without a guide, making the first ascents, eg to the Wielką Kołową Turnię. In 1908, together with Mariusz Zaruski, they marked routes to Czarny Mięguszowiecki Szczyt and Niżnie Rysy. The symbol used by Karłowicz was the highland swastika.

In Zakopane, where he permanently settled in 1907, many of his symphonic works were created or planned. *The Violin Concerto and Eternal Songs* are considered to be inspired by the Tatras. Karłowicz also made history as an excellent photographer of the Tatra Mountains. Both his photographs and related items (e.g. the camera that he used to take his last photographs of the Tatras before his death) are often presented at exhibitions prepared by the Tatra Museum.

Mieczysław Karłowicz died on February 8, 1909, in a snow avalanche that descended from the eastern slopes of Mały Kościelec. He had made the ski trip by himself. In the place where his body was found, a memorial obelisk with the inscription *Non omnis moriar* was erected in 1909, which stands there to this day, and on the anniversary of the composer's death, flowers are placed at the monument.

Prepared by Agnieszka Jurczyńska-Kłosok based on:

H. Anders Karłowicz Mieczysław: *Polish Biographical Dictionary*, ed. E. Rostworowskiego, vol. XII / 1, 52, Wrocław - Warsaw - Kraków 1966, pp. 57-59.

Z. Radwańska-Paryska, W. H. Paryski, *The Great Tatra Encyclopedia*, Poronin 2004, pp. 496-498.

*A Beautiful View Without Reservations. Tatra Photography by Mieczysław Karłowicz*, edited by J. Nowicka, W. Siemaszkiewicz, Krakow 2016, pp. 133-143.

Fragments of compositions can be listened to in the bench:

1. Mieczysław Karłowicz (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner), *Go to the Fields* Op. 3 No. 3 Text: Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer. Performers: Joanna Bogdańska-mezzo-soprano, Tatra Climate Orchestra, dir. Agnieszka Kreiner

2. Mieczysław Karłowicz (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner), *In the Moonlight* (1897) Performers: Tatra Climate Orchestra, director Agnieszka Kreiner

3. Mieczysław Karłowicz (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner), *For Angels* (1902) Text: Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer. Performers: Franciszek Bachleda-Księżdzularz - recitation, Tatra Climate Orchestra, director Agnieszka Kreiner

The text is read by Andrzej Bienias - Actor of the St. I. Witkiewicz Theatre

Bench project: sculptor Marek Szala

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