

Karol Szymanowski

He was born on October 3, 1882 in Tymoszkówka in Ukraine, and died on March 29, 1937 in Lausanne, Switzerland. He was buried in Krakow at Skałka, in the Crypt of the Zasłużonych.

Szymanowski was one of the greatest Polish composers. He is the author of the opera *King Roger*, *Kurpie Songs*, a song by *Veni Creator* written to the words of Stanisław Wyspiański. He was also a pianist, doctor honoris causa of the Jagiellonian University, director of the Conservatory of Music in Warsaw, and also the rector of the Warsaw School of Music. It is believed that it was under his influence in the 1930s that the folkloric trend developed in Polish music. At the instigation of Jerzy Rytard and Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Szymanowski composed the ballet *Harnasie* based precisely on highlander motifs. The music's rich and varied music also includes numerous songs to words, including by Kazimierz Tetmajer, Tadeusz Miciński, and Jan Kasprówicz.

Karol Szymanowski was in Zakopane before the First World War, but he began to live there in 1930, and not long after he was diagnosed with advanced pulmonary tuberculosis. His house was the Atma villa that still exists today. It was in Zakopane that he got acquainted more closely with the music of the Podhale region, listening to highlander notes which he gained from among others, the famous Bartuś Obrochta. Due to his deteriorating health Szymanowski left Zakopane in the autumn of 1935. The destination was Switzerland, where he had to undergo climatic treatment. It was the composer's last journey. Szymanowski died in Lausanne in March 1937. After his death, his body was embalmed, the posthumous mask was removed and a handprint was made. His heart would rest next to Chopin's heart in the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw. However, the bow with the heart was burned together with the chapel of the Sacré Coeur sisters during the Warsaw Uprising.

In 1976, the Karol Szymanowski Museum was established in the Atma villa in Zakopane, which is also the seat of the Karol Szymanowski Musical Society. The Philharmonic in Kraków bears his name, as well as the Academy of Music in Katowice. Zakopane City Council to commemorate the 80th anniversary of his death and the 135th anniversary of his birth announced the year 2017 as the Year of Karol Szymanowski in Zakopane.

Prepared by Agnieszka Jurczyńska-Kłosok based on:

T. Chylińska Szymanowski Karol Maciej : Polish biographical dictionary, edited by A. Romanowski, vol. L, 204, Warsaw - Krakow 2014, pp. 77-89.

Z. Radwańska-Paryska, W. H. Paryski ,The Great Tatra Encyclopedia, Poronin 2004, pp. 1199-1200.

Fragments of compositions can be listened to in the bench:

1. Karol Szymanowski (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner) *Mazurka* op. 50 No. 1 Performance: Tatra Climate Orchestra, director Agnieszka Kreiner

2. Karol Szymanowski (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner), *Love Song* (Epilogue) from the ballet *Harnasie* .Jerzy Mieczysław Rytard Performance: Jan Karpiel-Bułecka, 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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"Development of cultural institutions and access to cultural heritage".

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