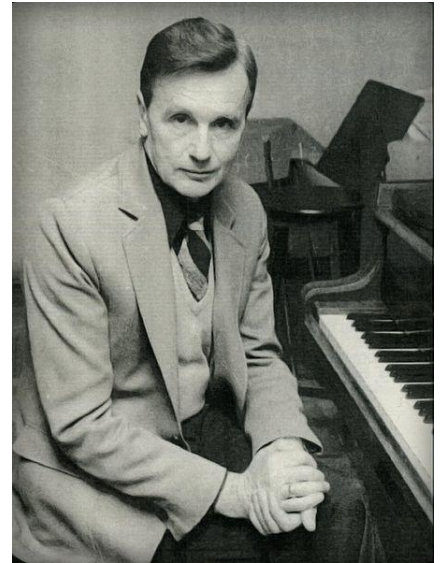


ROMUALD TWARDOWSKI

David C F Wright PhD

Romuald Twardowski was born on 17 June 1930 in Vilnius and is a Polish composer. In Vilnius he spent his childhood and youth.

During the dark years of the German occupation in World War II, he studied the violin and, after the war, he studied piano and organ. In the years 1946-1950, he was organist in Vilnius churches. In 1952-1957, he studied composition in the State Conservatory of the Lithuanian Republic of the Soviet Union situated in Vienna.. Later he moved to Warsaw and continued studies at Warsaw Academy of Music. This was in the years 1957-60 in Bolesław Woytowicz's class. In 1960, he had a year in Paris with Nadia Boulanger and destroyed many of his early works and studied more advanced styles of music realising the potential of dissonance. Some composers find a style and stick to it and never progress. During the years 1963 and 1966 he studied Gregorian chant and medieval polyphony in Nadia Boulanger's class in Paris. In 1967 he moved back to Warsaw, From 1971, Romuald Twardowski was the Professor of Fryderyk Chopin University of Music.



He travelled throughout Europe, Africa and Asia promoting Polish music.

The 1960s and 1970s were for the composer probably the most fruitful period.

Apart from operas:

- "Cyrano de Bergerac" (1962)
- "Tragedy or the Story of John and Herod"(1965)
- "Lord Jim" (1973)
- "Maria Stuart" (1978)
- "History of St Catherine" (1981)

...he composed ballets:

- "Naked Prince" (1960)
- "Wizard's Sculptures"(1963)

In the late 1970s and 1980s, he composed the operas Maria Stuart and History of St. Catherine which were also performed abroad. He gave many interviews on his operas which were well received. Twardowski composed about 200 choral works, compositions for chamber groups. His works are still widely performed in Poland and abroad, mainly in Eastern Europe and in the USA where, for example, his Trio for violin, cello and piano has been very successful. During this time he established cultural links with Lithuanian, Armenia and Georgia

He is a laureate of many prizes and other distinctions such as

- 1st prize of Polish Young Composers competition,
- Two Grand Prix in Monaco,
- 1st Prize of Prague Spring International Music Festival,
- 2nd place of UNESCO International Composers' Tribune in Paris,
- Prize of AGECE (1994),
- 2006 he received Paderewski Award (USA).

Romuald Twardowski was a jury member of many choir competitions.

Many of his works are comparatively short but still very worthwhile. He does not have the sparkling gem-like quality of Webern's many masterpieces but his pieces are interesting and highly commended. The Sonata for two violins of 1993 is deservedly in the repertoire of excellent young performers as is the Piano Trio no 2 of 2005. There is also the Youth Trio of 1993. While they may have been written with young people in mind they give the clear impression that they were written for mature adults. Occasionally, his integrity may leave him as in the Spanish Fantasy for cello and piano and the Tango for the same instruments. His Variations on Gershwin are of no consequence.

A Polish music critic said of this work, "You cannot yoke a horse with a pig !"

The brevity style is shown in his Piano Concerto with six sections lasting about 24 minutes but the work is well written and original. The small Concerto for piano and instruments has three movements lasting just under ten minutes but it is a great delight and even more appealing than Francaix's Concertino,

Twardowski's choral music is of excellent quality and his organ music has a real spirituality.

Major compositions:

- "Oberek"[version I] for violin and piano (1955)
- "Oberek"[version II] for string orchestra (1955)
- "Suite in the Old Style" for orchestra (1957)
- "Seven Folk Songs" for voice and piano (1957)
- "Small Sonata" for piano (1958)
- "Small Symphony" for piano, strings and percussion (1959)
- "Song of the White House" cantata for mixed choir, 2 pianos and percussion (1959)
- "Songs of Spring" [version I] for female or boys choir (1959)
- "Songs of Spring"[version II] for male choir (1959)
- "Maple-tree Songs" for mixed choir (1960)
- "Nocturnes" for mixed choir (1960)
- "Lullabies" for mixed choir (1960)
- "The Naked Prince", ballet-pantomime (1960)
- "Warmia Suite" for mixed choir (1960)
- "A Warmia Lullaby" for voice and piano (1960)
- "Carmina de mortuis" for mixed choir (1961)
- "Antifone" for three groups of orchestra (1961)
- "Bucolics" for mixed choir (1962)
- "Cantus antiqui" for soprano, harpsichord, piano and percussion (1962)
- "Cyrano de Bergerac", romantic opera (1962)
- "Nomopedia Cinque movimenti" for orchestra (1962)
- "Psalmus 149" for mixed choir (1962)
- "Small Suite" for violin and piano (1962)
- "April Songs" for mixed choir (1963)
- "Sorcerer's Sculptures (Sculptures by Master Piotr)", ballet-pantomime (1963)
- "Miniatures" for mixed choir (1964)
- "Ode 64" for orchestra (1964)
- "Parabolas", pantomime (1964)
- "Two Blackman Songs" for mixed choir (1965)
- "Tragedy or the Story of John and Herod", morality opera (1965)
- "Sonetti di Petrarca" for tenor solo and two choruses a cappella (1965)
- "Tre studi secondo Giotto" for chamber orchestra (1966)
- "Impressioni fiorentini" for four choirs instrumental (1967)

"Capricci" for piano (1967)
"Little Orthodox Liturgy" for vocal ensemble and 3 instrumental groups (1968)
"Ode to Youth" for reciting voice, mixed choir and orchestra (1969)
"The Fall of Father Suryń", radio musical drama (1969)
"Lord Jim", musical drama (1970–73)
"Three Farewell Sonnets"[version I] for bass-baritone and chamber orchestra (1971)
"Three Farewell Sonnets"[version II] for bass-baritone and piano (1971)
"Two Playful Songs"[version I] for mixed choir (1972)
"Two Playful Songs"[version II] for female or boys choir (1972)
"Prelude, toccata and choral" for symphony orchestra (1973)
"Triptych of the St Mary's Church" for string orchestra (1973)
"Preludio e toccata" for mixed choir (1974)
"A Study in A" for orchestra (1974)
"Improvvisazione e toccata" for two pianos (1974)
"Two Landscapes" for symphony orchestra (1975)
"Sea Impressions" for mixed choir (1975)
"Polish Landscape"[version I] for bass-baritone and symphony orchestra (1975)
"Polish Landscape"[version II] for bass-baritone and piano (1975)
"Laudate Dominum", a dialogue for 2 mixed choirs (1976)
"Sequentiae de ss. Patronis Polonis" for baritone, choir and instrumental ensemble (1977)
"My Sword is My Hand", three poems for solo tenor and mixed choir (1977)
"Maria Stuart", musical drama (1978)
"Capriccio in blue" for violin and orchestra (or piano) (1979)
"Lamentationes" for mixed choir (1979)
"Face of the Sea", 5 songs for bass-baritone and piano (1979)
"Preludio, recitativo ed aria con variazioni" for harpsichord (piano) (1979)
"Sonata breve" for harpsichord (piano) (1979)
"Village Concert" for mixed choir (1980)
"Musica concertante" for piano (1980)
"Small Concert" for piano and instrumental ensemble (1980)
"On Four Strings" for violin and piano (1980)
"Three Songs from Kurpie" for mixed choir (1980)
"The Story of St Catherine", musical morality (1981)
"Fantasia" for organs (1982)
"Polish Fantasia" for 2 violins (1982)
"Salve Regina" for female choir and organs (1982)
"Three Pieces" for organs (1982)
"Ave Maris Stella"[version I] for mixed choir and organs (or piano) (1982)
"Erotics" for voice and piano (1983)
"Joannes Rex", a cantata for baritone, mixed choir and orchestra (1983)
"Concerto for piano and orchestra"(1984)
"Fun Fair" for piano (1984)
"Spanish Fantasia"[version I] for violin and orchestra (or piano) (1985)
"Spanish Fantasia"[version II] for cello and piano (1985)
"Little Triptych" for wind quintet (1986)
"Three Frescoes" for symphony orchestra (1986)
"Allegro rustico" for oboe and piano (1986)
"Symphonic Variations on the Theme of George Gershwin" for solo percussion and orchestra (1986)
"The Kitten and the Dragon", 7 songs for voice and piano (1986)
"Trio for violin, cello and piano"(1987)
"Old Polish Concert" for string orchestra (1987)
"Three Songs to the words of Stanisław Ryszard Dobrowolski" for baritone and piano (1987)

"Small Concert" for vocal orchestra (1988)
"Lithuanian Variations" for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon (1988)
"Michael Angelo Sonnets" for baritone and piano (1988)
"Bell Symphonies" for piano (1988–91)
"Italian Album" for orchestra (1989)
"Old Polish Dance" for 3 guitars (1989)
"Espressioni" for violin and piano (1990)
"Alleluia" for mixed choir (1990)
"Chwalitie Imia Gospodina (Praise the Name of the Lord)"[version I] for mixed choir (1990)
"Three Sonnets to Don Quixote" for bass-baritone and piano (1990)
"By the Neris" for baritone and piano (1990)
"Niggunim", Hassidic melodies for violin and symphony orchestra (or piano) (1991)
"Tu es Petrus" for baritone, mixed choir and symphony orchestra (1991)
"Hosanna I" for mixed choir (1992)
"Pleiades" for violin and piano (1993)
"Teenage Trio" for violin, cello and piano (1993)
"St Mary's Songs" for soprano and small symphony orchestra (1993)
"Sonatina for Two Violins"(1993)
"Canticum Canticorum" for soprano, flute, clarinet and strings (1994)
"Concerto for cello and orchestra"(1995)
"Wsjakoje dychanije (All Breath)" for mixed choir (1996)
"Invocation and capriccio" for 2 cellos (1996)
"Regina coeli" for mixed choir (1996)
"In the Green Grove", 5 miniatures for piano 4 hands (1996)
"Hosanna II" for mixed choir (1997)
"Concerto breve" for string orchestra (1998)
"To You Władyka" for mixed choir (1998)
"O gloriosa Domina" for mixed choir (1999)
"Homage a J. S. Bach", cycle of pieces for piano (2000)
"Two Christmas Carols" for boys choir (2000)
"In Thy Kingdom" for mixed choir (2000)
"Praise My Soul" for mixed choir (2000)
"Intermezzo" for piano (2000)
"Introduction and Allegro" for violin and piano (2001)
"Missa "Regina caeli"" for mixed choir (2001)
"Capriccio" for violin and piano (2001)
"O salutaris" for mixed choir (2001)
"Jubilate Deo" for mixed choir (2001)
"Ave Maris Stella"[version II] for male choir (2002)
"Pastorals and Humoresque" for oboe and piano (2002)
"Praise the Name of the Lord"[version II] for male choir (2002)
"Musica festiva" for organs (2002)
"In a Chinese Garden" for percussion ensemble (2002)
"Toccatà and choral" for organs (2002)
"Jesus, I Trust in Thee. The Mystery of God's Mercy" for soprano, baritone, 2 reciting voices, SATB and orchestra (2002)
"Im ZOO" for violin and piano (2002)
"The Elegant Hedgehog and the Hoopoe" for voice and piano (2002)
"Three Sketches" for violin, viola and cello (2003)
"Serenade" for string orchestra (2003-2004)
"Three intermezzos" for organs (2004)
"Summer with Dad" for voice and piano (2004)
"Tango" for cello and piano (2004)

"Meditation" for cello and piano (2004)
"Campane IV" from the "Bell Symphonies" cycle for piano (2004)
"The White Eagle" for voice and piano (2004)
"Pater noster" for mixed choir (2005)
"The Paschal Triptych" for organs (2005)
"Trio for violin, cello and piano no. 2"(2005)
"Our Father" for mixed choir (2005)
"Concerto for violin and string orchestra"(2006)
"Myscerium crucis" for a cappella mixed choir (2006)
"Popule meus" for mixed choir (2006)

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