



Violinist Katarzyna Duda

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Biography

KATARZYNA DUDA is one of the most outstanding personalities in the Polish music world. Reviewers unanimously characterize her as a star of a new format. They emphasize unity of her musical artistry and great scenic temper as well as virtuosity and great sensitivity of music. All this makes each performance of Katarzyna Duda enthusiastically welcomed by the audience, and she acquires more and more fans.

A prizewinner of the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in Sion, Switzerland, (where she also won the "Mozart Prize" for the best interpretation of a violin concerto by Mozart) and the Tadeusz Wronski International Violin Solo Competition in Warsaw, she has given recitals and concerts in Poland, most European countries and South and North America.

She has appeared in such prestigious auditoria like Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York, where she inaugurated the Festival "Chopin & Friends", National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw, Rossini Hall in Padova and twice in Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Her debut recital in Amsterdam was performed with Ewa Poblocka, an outstanding Polish pianist. All her recitals were enthusiastically received by the audience and critics.

She has appeared as soloist with leading orchestras such as the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Wratistavia Chamber Orchestra, European Union Chamber Orchestra, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Veracruz, Hradec Kralove Philharmonic Orchestra, Capella Sankt Petersburg, National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in Warsaw, the Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico, Skopje Philharmonic under excellent conductors such as Dalia Atlas, Agnieszka Duczmal, Lavard Skou Larsen, Enrique Batiz, Mykola Dyadyura, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Jorge Mester.

She has appeared as a chamber player with K. A. Kulka, Waldemar Malicki, jazz violinists: Michael Urbaniak and Krzesimir Debski.

Her performances have been broadcast by Radio Suisse Romande, Polish Radio and TV, as well as radio and TV stations in Holland, Mexico, France, Germany and Russia.

She has an extensive and diverse repertoire ranging from the Baroque period to present-day composers.

Katarzyna studied with Maestro Tibor Varga at the Ecole Supérieure de Musique in Sion, Switzerland, and with Jan Stanienda at the Academy of Music in Warsaw (diploma with distinction). She has won numerous awards at competitions for young violinists in Poland and abroad including a grant from the Interlochen Academy of Arts in the USA. Her performance at the 17th National Week of Musical Talents in Tarnów was acclaimed by the jury, and she was included in a national program for the promotion of young artists.

Her debut CD entitled "Le Streghe" featuring virtuoso pieces for violin and piano (with the pianist Waldemar Malicki) won enthusiastic reviews in the media and received a nomination for the FRYDERYK'2000 award of the Polish recording industry as the only disc with solo violin. The success prompted the young artist to record another CD "Le Streghe 2" - with virtuoso violin hits, this time with orchestral accompaniment of the well known chamber orchestra "Wratlslavia" under Jan Stanienda. The disc also received a nomination for the FRYDERYK'2001 award. Lately, Katarzyna Duda recorded violin music by the late Polish composer Tadeusz Paciorkiewicz.

In 2002 Katarzyna was nominated to a prestigious award "Polityka's Passport" being each year granted by a Polish leading journal "Polityka" to outstanding creators in all kinds of arts.

She plays an Italian violin from the 19th century.

Critical Acclaim

Nuova Cosenza

Her huge virtuosity and enormous lyricism prove that it is possible to combine a natural technical dexterity with a very rare capability to express precisely all musical phrases. Katarzyna Duda's style is very personal. Eclectics goes along with her anxiety and extraordinary sensibility. She can magnificently perform traditional and classical music as well as very modern works.

Newsweek Polska

Duda is one of the greatest stars among Polish violinists.

Meloman

We shouldn't worry about Polish violin playing. Katarzyna Duda's recording debut is excellent proof of this (...) A great musical personality.

Piotr Kuc

Newsweek Polska

MAGICIAN WITH A FIDDLE!

Ruch Muzyczny

A true star of the night was Katarzyna Duda. The talented artist, a pupil of Jan Stanienda and Tibor Varga, delighted the audience equally with her musical capability and violin art, as well as her grace, ease on stage, and even a certain dose of coquetry, and – last but not least – with her beauty. Overcoming, without any restraint, breakneck technical difficulties, the artist never allowed herself for nonchalance or bravado, on the contrary – maintaining solemn seriousness in Sonata in G minor “Devil’s trill” by Tartini, easiness and light-heartedness in “La Ronde des Lutins” op. 25 by Antonio Bazzini (...) she proved her artistic responsibility and culture.

Kazimierz Kościukiewicz

Radio ZET

Dazzling technique, staggering speeds, all this coupled with lightness and ease – such a performance of the piece [Paganini’s Le Streghe, ed.] seems impossible and yet this is how Katarzyna Duda plays (what more, with a smile on her face, which I saw with my own eyes).

Marek Miłakowski

Ruch Muzyczny

The interpretations of Ravel's Tzigane and Sarasate's Gypsy melodies and Fantasy on themes from Bizet's Carmen gave a good indication of her talent, fantastic technique, phenomenal imagination and musicality, and great musical knowledge coupled with hot temperament and the incredible subtlety of her playing. I dread to think how her career is going to develop because gods are said to be jealous of perfection.

Stanisław Ołędzki

Życie Muzyczne

Pictures of Katarzyna Duda, exposed on the cover and inside the "Le Streghe" CD package, would show rather her feminine gentleness, whereas her performance of virtuoso and devilish pieces by Paganini, Sarasate, Kreisler, Ravel and Wieniawski requires enormous technical dexterity and a devilish temper. The young talented lady has got all of that from God or... somebody else.

Bronisław Tumiłowicz

Hi-Fi i Muzyka

Katarzyna Duda delights people with her unlimited power, absolute command of the instrument, sensibility (...) The title is correct - a magician ...

Andrzej Milewski

Gentleman

A beautiful and talented lady was born a hundred years too late. Today, there are no longer such parlours, in which such wonderful violinist could be appropriately honored.

Sergiusz Pinkwart

Hi-Fi i Muzyka

Duda's performance is a virtuosity of the best style (...) All comparisons to legendary violinists would be most proper.

Maciej Stryjecki

Playboy

We review classics very rarely. This time the reason is obvious. Katarzyna Duda is a violinist bringing master pieces, by Wieniawski to Paganini, to wide public. Technically flawless and very expressive performance. Despite the title „A witch”, it is enough to look at the cover – witches can be very beautiful.

Wojciech Chełchowski

Meloman

Electrifying impression. The tempo, perfect intonation, sharp staccato – even nowadays it creates fears if this is only a human power.

Piotr Kuc

Życie

What is most important, this artist not only knows how to play the violin but also knows what she plays for. To throw people to their knees!

Maciej Weryński

Życie Warszawy

Here we have a brave violinist, confident of her skills and with a developed sense of good taste. However, before listening to her, you are advised to put on an oxygen mask. For Katarzyna Duda's playing is simply breathtaking. In the most showy compositions by such violin virtuosos as Paganini, Kreisler, or Wieniawski, Duda demonstrates breakneck tempos, maintaining at the same time unrestrained ease and clinical technical purity. Her interpretations are also full of finesse.

Ewa Solińska

Ruch Muzyczny

Katarzyna Duda's command of the violin may be described as absolute. She is capable of negotiating breakneck technical difficulties such as fast arpeggios, runs of double stops, staccato, double harmonics. She tackles all of them not only with great ease but also with sheer joy, which she communicates to the audience.

Józef Kański

Gazeta Muzyczna

“Katarzyna Duda is endowed with rare talent and great musical skills. She stands the good chance of becoming a real star of Polish violin playing (...) Her mastery is of the highest order and already today her playing arouses waves of admiration. Pieces abounding in technical traps cause her no difficulty whatsoever, and her interpretations are full of inspiration, vigor and individuality. It seems to me that within a short space of time she will become an audience favorite, and rightly so because we have not had such an interesting artistic personality for a long time.”

Jerzy Skupin

Repertoire

Violin solo

- J. S. Bach - Sonata No. 1 in G minor
- Sonata No. 2 in A minor
- Partita No. 2 in D minor
- Partita No. 3 in E major
- B. Bartok - Sonata for violin solo
- N. Paganini - Caprices, op. 1
- H. Wieniawski - Caprices from op. 18 and op. 10
- E. Ysaye - Sonata No. 3 "Ballade"

Sonatas with piano

- L. van Beethoven - "Spring" sonata No. 5 in F major, op. 24
- Sonata in A major, op. 30 No. 1
- Sonata in G major, op. 30 No. 8
- "Kreutzer" sonata in A major, op. 47
- J. Brahms - Sonata No. 3 in D minor
- Scherzo in C minor from Sonata F.A.E.
- C. Debussy - Sonata in G minor
- C. Franck - Sonata in A major
- W. A. Mozart - Sonata in E minor, KV 304
- Sonata in G major, KV 301
- Sonata in B major, KV 378
- Sonata in B major, KV 454
- T. Pacioriewicz - Sonata (1954)
- Sonatina for 2 violins (1962)
- F. Schubert - Sonata in D major, D 384
- Sonata in A major "Duo", D 574 (op.162)
- R. Schumann - Sonatas for violin and piano
- A. Schnittke - Sonata No. 1 for violin and piano or violin and chamber orchestra
- G. Tartini - Sonata "Didona abbandonata" in G minor
- Sonata "The Devil's trill" in G minor

Works for violin and guitar by Paganini, Giuliani, Bartok and Piazzolla.

Works with piano or orchestra and concertos

- J. S. Bach - Violin concerto in A minor, BWV 1041
- Violin concerto in E major, BWV 1042
- Concerto for two violins in D major, BWV 1043
- Concerto for violin and oboe, in C minor, BWV 1060
- B. Bartok - Rumanian dances
- Rhapsody No. 1
- A. Bazzini - "La Ronde des Lutins"

L. van Beethoven - Romance in F major, op. 50
 - Violin concerto in D major, op. 61
 - Triple Concerto C major op. 56
 G. Bottesini - Grand Duo Concertant for Violin and Double-bass
 J. Brahms - Violin concerto in D major, op. 77
 - Double Concerto A minor op. 102
 E. Chausson - Poème
 - Concerto for violin, piano and string quartet op. 21
 G. Gershwin - "Porgy and Bess", transcription by J. Heifetz
 J. Haydn - Violin concerto in G major, No. 2
 F. Kreisler - Different miniatures
 E. Lalo - Symphonie Espagnole
 F. Mendelssohn - Violin concerto in E minor, op. 64
 - Violin concerto D minor
 - Concerto for violin, piano and strings
 W.A. Mozart - Violin concerto in B major, KV 207
 - Violin concerto in D major, KV 211
 - Violin concerto in G major, KV 216
 - Violin concerto in D major, KV 218
 - Violin concerto in A major, KV 219
 - Sinfonie concertante in Es major, KV 364
 - Adagio in E major, KV 261
 - Rondo in C major, KV 373
 W. A. Mozart - F. Kreisler - Rondo in G major
 T. Pacioriewicz - Fantasy for violin and piano
 - Andante for violin and viola
 - Andante for violin and organ
 - Violin concerto
 N. Paganini - Violin concerto in D major No. 1, op. 6
 - Violin concerto in B minor No. 2, op. 7
 - Variations on the G string from the opera "Moses" by Rossini
 - Variations "Le Streghe" (Witches Dance), op. 8
 A. Piazzolla - "The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires"
 - "Adios Nonino"
 - "Histoire du Tango"
 S. Prokofiev - Violin concerto in D major, op. 19, No. 1
 M. Ravel - Tzigane
 C. Saint-Saëns - Etude in the form of waltz
 C. Saint-Saëns - Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso
 P. Sarasate - Fantasy on the themes from the opera „Carmen“ by Bizet
 - Zigeunerweisen, op. 20
 - Introduction and Tarantella, op. 43
 - Capricho vasco, op. 2
 - Fantasy on the theme from the opera "The Magic Flute" by Mozart
 K. Szymanowski - Violin concertos
 - Nocturne and Tarantella

- "Mythes"
- "Harnasie" (the mountaineers' dance), arr. by P. Kochanski
- "Song of Roksana" from King Roger
- "Songs from Kurpie"
- P. Tchaikovsky - Violin concerto in D major, op. 35
- Valse-Scherzo, op. 34
- A. Vivaldi - Four Seasons
- Concerto for 4 violins B minor
- H. Wieniawski - Violin concerto in D minor, op. 22
- Fantasy on the theme from the opera "Faust" by Gounod
- Polonaise in D major
- different miniatures

and other miniatures by different composers.

Discography

Le Streghe

Nominated Fryderyk 2000 Award

Katarzyna Duda - violin
 Waldemar Malicki - piano
 Total time: 69'37"
 DUX 0158

Published: 1999

Le Streghe 2

Nominated Fryderyk 2001 Award
 Katarzyna Duda - violin
 Wrocław Chamber Orchestra "Wrocławia"
 Jan Stanienda - violin & conductor
 Total time: 67'29"
 DUX 0339

Published: 2001

Tadeusz Paciorkiewicz - Chamber Works for Violin and Viola

KATARZYNA DUDA - violin
ARTUR PACIORKIEWICZ - viola

Krzysztof Bzówka - violin II (4-6)
Edward Wolanin - piano
Jerzy Dziubiński - organ
Total time: 70'25"
AP088

Published: 2004