

**Tomasz Radziwonowicz** – one of the most interesting figures in the Polish classical music scene: a violinist-soloist, arranger, composer, conductor, founder of the I Solisti di Varsavia string quartet and the Sinfonia Viva orchestra. As leader of both these ensembles he has won recognition and acclaim both in Poland and abroad for his major contributions, including the first-ever arrangements for piano and string quintet of Fryderyk Chopin's complete orchestral works with piano.

After graduation from the F. Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw (class of Prof. Irena Dubiska, degree in 1978), Tomasz Radziwonowicz worked at Warsaw Philharmonic. In 1981-82 he was a soloist and 2<sup>nd</sup> leader in the Philharmonic in Las Palmas, where he founded the Camerata Musica Viva string quintet. In Las Palmas, he also performed as a concert soloist, e.g. Johannes Brahms's *Double Concerto in A Minor* Op. 102 for violin and cello (with Urszula Wejman) as well as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante in E Flat Major* KV 364. During the Henryk Wieniawski Music Days in 1987, he premiered (with his brother Karol Radziwonowicz) Józef Wieniawski's *Grand Sonata* for violin and piano.

In 1990, Tomasz Radziwonowicz founded the I Solisti di Varsavia string quintet, with which he gave numerous concerts at home and abroad, as well as recording for the Polish Radio and TVP (state television broadcaster). With the quintet he also recorded seven albums, including Fryderyk Chopin's complete works for piano and orchestra in arrangements for piano and string quintet (a Fryderyk Award nomination in 1998 for Chamber Music). In 1998 he founded the Sinfonia Viva orchestra, which now boasts an impressive discography of more than 40 albums, including many nominations for the Fryderyk Award: for the Orchestral Album of the Year – *Music and the Screen II* (2001) and *Tango* (2005); Jazz Album of the Year – *Uniesienie* (2005); Early and Baroque Music – *Musica Sacromontana VII: Józef Zeidler, Piotr Nierstrawski* (2013) and *Musica Sacromontana IX: Pasquale Anfossi* (2014). The latter album also brought the orchestra the Golden Orpheus award in France.

Sinfonia Viva's numerous prestigious accolades have led to numerous concerts in Poland and abroad. Tomasz Radziwonowicz is one of the most active promoters of Polish culture and Polish works both within and outside Poland. His broad concept of the musical art is reflected in his involvement in many different styles and aspects of the music life. He has arranged all kinds of music, from classical to popular, as well as carols and jazz standards. His most recent original compositions include: *Concerto for Cello and Strings*, *Violin Concerto*, *Three Songs to Words by Karol Wojtyła*, *Missa notturna*, as well as *Antiphon* for soprano, mixed choir and ten string instruments.