

## **Aleksandra Hałat -- Pianist**

**Aleksandra Hałat** – a pianist, chamber musician, lecturer, creator of culture, founder of The Karol Rathaus Foundation. The artist graduated with honours from The Henryk Wieniawski Music Secondary School in Łódź under the supervision of Anna Juszcak. She completed her piano studies at The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice in prof. Czesław Stańczyk's class. Later, she mastered her artistic skills at The University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz (Austria), under the supervision of Otto Niederdorfer (piano class), Chia Chou (chamber music class) and prof. Stacey Bartsch (vocal accompaniment). In 2010, she completed her post-diploma studies in piano chamber music at The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, in Maria Szwajger-Kułakowska's class.

During numerous home and foreign piano workshops and master classes, she has had the opportunity to work under the guidance of such artists as Wojciech Światała, Ewa Pobłocka, Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń, Waldemar Wojtal, Wiera Nossina, Julius Drake, Walter Moore, Norman Shetler, Robert Kabara, Barbara Górczyńska, Tomasz Herbut, Chrisoph Wyneken.

Aleksandra Hałat is a two-time laureate of the National Piano Chamber Music Competition in Toruń together with Dobrochna Jachowicz. In 2005, as a student of The Graz University, she was granted the VIP (Vienna International Pianists) scholarship. In 2007, she received the AIMS (American Institute for Musical Studies) scholarship. In 2010, together with Agata Hołdyk, she received a distinction at the "Concours Grieg" International Piano Competition in Oslo, Norway, in the category of piano duets. In 2011, together with Agata Hołdyk, she received the 2nd prize at the "Bradshaw & Buono" International Piano Competition in New York. She has presented solo and chamber repertoire in Poland and abroad, including: Austria, Turkey, Croatia, Italy, the Czech Republic, Scotland and Slovakia. USA, Italy. As a pianist, chamber musician, she has performed at such events as Polish Heritage Days in Scotland, The Festival Circles of Art, The Festival of the Word "Navy Blue Mountains", "Ars et education" in Slovakia, Rathaus Festival in New York, Polin Music Festival 2023 in Warsaw, Karol Szymanowski Festival in Zakopane.

In 2009-2017, she worked in The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, as a pianist-accompanist at the Chair of String Instruments, specializing in the violin repertoire. In 2018, she was granted a doctor's degree in The K. Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice.

At the same time, she developed her management passions by completing a three-year university course at the Faculty of Radio and Television in Katowice in the field of the organization of film and television production. She collaborated with the company "On Production", The Festival "Circles of Art", she organized concerts in :the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, the Foundation SOS Children's Villages.

Aleksandra Hałat is the author of the monograph "Transcription in chamber music as a space for piano interpretation" published by the University of Silesia. The artist publishes her texts on Polish and foreign websites.

Due to her passion for chamber music, she has founded the chamber music ensembles: Hałat Duo with Marcin Hałat and a piano duo Ahha Piano Duo, which she co-creates with Agata Hołdyk. In 2019, on the artist's initiative, The Karol Rathaus Ensemble was founded, in which she teams up with Piotr Lato, Marcin Mączyński and Marcin Hałat. The pianist has released such albums as: Music Union, The Ways (recorder with Kaludia Baca, Marcin Mączyński, PhD Marcin Hałat and Piotr Wybraniec), "Our World of Four Hands" in a duet with Agata Hołdyk (released by The University of Silesia). In 2021, her album with the premiere recording of piano trios was released: Karol Rathaus - Piano Trios /world premiere recording/ DUX 2021, which received the patronage of Program II of The Polish Radio, TVP Kultura, Exil Arte Zentrum, presto.pl and got very good press reception in Poland and abroad. At the invitation of the Rector of the University of Silesia, Ryszard Koziołek, Aleksandra Hałat appeared during The Stage of Scientific Premieres of the University of Silesia, presenting the artistic and scientific project Karol Rathaus Project, the idea of which is to popularize Karol Rathaus's work through concerts, lectures, organization of festivals and record releases. In 2021, she also received a grant within the Research Initiative implemented by the University of Silesia, which allowed her to record a second album with the works of Karol Rathaus "Karol Rathaus - Chamber works", to which she invited the artists of The Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice and the mezzo-soprano Roksana Wardenga.

Together with her husband Marcin Hałat, a violinist and improviser, in 2021 she founded The Karol Rathaus Foundation, of which a goal is to popularize the achievements of a Polish composer Karol Rathaus. The foundation was established out of love for classical and chamber music and the desire to expand its audience. The Foundation supports and promotes artists whose work has been forgotten or is undiscovered. The main goals of the foundation are creating intercultural projects, disseminating valuable achievements in the field of composition, promoting the works of multicultural artists and promoting innovative ways of reaching audiences with classical and chamber music. Currently, she is an assistant professor at the Institute of Music at the Faculty of Arts and Educational Science at the University of Silesia and she actively participates in academic life. She is active in the didactic field. She belongs to the ECMTA (European Chamber Music Teachers Association) and runs a masterclass in Poland and abroad.

In 2022, the foundation cooperated with the Polish Association in Aberdeen, Scotland, to organize "Polish exiled composers", dedicated to Polish emigrant composers. With the help of this initiative, Karol Rathaus's works were performed on the islands for the first time in several decades, since the composer left and further emigrated to the United States. Foundation organized concerts promoting Karol Rathaus's heritage also in The Museum of the City of Łódź, Galicja Jewish Museum.

In November 2022, the Karol Rathaus Ensemble performed at the Center for Jewish History in New York to commemorate Kristallnacht and at Frek Hall at Queens College

The Karol Rathaus Ensemble was also invited to appear in the American documentary film "Discovering Karol Rathaus", produced by prof. Michael Haas and prof. Lev Deych.

Recently, Aleksandra Hałat received a scholarship 2023 from the Minister of Culture and Art, which allowed her to create a series of concerts popularizing composers such as; Tadeusz Kassern, Feliks Łabuński, Jerzy Fitelberg, Aleksander Tansman and a scholarship from the National Institute of Music and Dance/2023 to research the work of Jerzy Fitelberg.