

**Pawel KAMASA** studied piano with Rudolf Buchbinder, Jorge Bolet and Harry Datyner.

Since his German debut at the *Kissinger Sommer Festival* in 1987 ("...despite just starting his career, a first-rank pianist..." - *Franfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*) he has performed in major European centres including the *Salle Gaveau* in Paris, the *Tonhalle* in Zurich, the *Warsaw Philharmonic* and the *Tchaikovsky Conservatory* in Moscow. As a soloist he appeared with outstanding conductors such as Jan Krenz, Eivind Gullberg Jensen, Tadeusz Wojciechowski, Marek Pijarowski, Tomasz Bugaj, Wilfried Boettcher and Karol Teutsch. He has been invited to participate in numerous international festivals, including *Chateauneuf-du-Pape*, *St.Savin*, *Braunwald*, *Thun*, *Zakopane Szymanowski Festival*, *Chopin Festivals* in *Warsaw*, *Geneva* and *Antonin*. He participated as the only Polish pianist in the performance of the complete works of Chopin at the *Festival of Evian* in France in 1999. He also took part in the first performance of "*Cradle Song*" by Hanna Kulenty at the *Munich Biennale '94*, and played the world premiere performance of the "*Musique polyphonique*" by Czeslaw Gladkowski at the international festival *Jazz à Mulhouse* in 1995.

Pawel Kamasa was the very first pianist ever to perform the complete cycle of *Mazurkas* by Karol Szymanowski in Paris (1994). His recording of this Oeuvre for KOCH/Schwann in Munich was very much praised by *Gramophone* London, and received the "*Critic's Choice Award '98*" ("...a pianist of outstanding poetry, one of the finest piano recordings of recent years..."). 2015 a new 2CD-set dedicated to the complete late work for piano solo op. 116-119 by Johannes Brahms has been released by *DUX Recording Producers* ("...Kamasa strikes at the heart of late Brahms...", *BBC Music Magazine* London, April 2015).

Having been a formative factor in his musical development, chamber music continues to play an important role in Pawel Kamasa's activities. He has appeared with the most distinguished soloists and ensembles in Europe, among them the *Amati-*, *Wilanow-* and *Szymanowski String Quartets*.

In 2009 he was appointed artistic director of the international piano festival "*Chopin – Inspirations. 1810 – 2010*", which has been praised as one of the most original projects of the Chopin-200th-anniversary-year in 2010.

Pawel Kamasa is a passionate pedagogue too. From 1997 to 2000 he led the piano and chamber music class at the *Conservatory of Schaffhausen/Switzerland*, 2012/13 he was visiting professor for piano chamber music at the *Feliks-Nowowiejski-Academy of Music* in Bydgoszcz/Poland. Since 2012 he has been leading a class for piano chamber music at the *Josef-Elsner-High School of Music* in Warsaw/Poland, and he continues his teaching activity by giving master classes and lectures.

Seeking new forms of music presentation, Pawel Kamasa has performed his lecture-recital "*Mazurka - from Chopin to Szymanowski*" in German, Polish and English throughout Europe and overseas (South Africa tour 2007). Since 2008 he has been performing a programme called "*Letters of music*", devoted to Johannes Brahms' late works for piano accompanied by the correspondence of Clara Schumann to the composer in Kamasa's own translation into Polish. In 2012 he presented it with great acclaim in its language of origin to the public in Germany.