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Adam MAKOWICZ (pronounced Mah-KO-vitch),

an internationally acclaimed jazz piano virtuoso, has dazzled audiences throughout the world with his touch, articulation, and rich harmonic textures. Adam was born of Polish parents in Czechoslovakia in 1940. He was raised in Poland from the age of six. „I studied classical music at the Chopin Conservatory of Music in Krakow, but dropped out because of my involvement in jazz,“ he recalled. „In the mid-fifties I discovered Willis Conover’s program Music USA Jazz Hour, broadcast every night by the Voice of America. It changed my life forever. I chose a new life of freedom and improvisation considered by authorities to be ‚decadent‘ over the career of a classical pianist my parents and teachers envisioned for me.“

As a result, Adam was forced to leave his home and school, and spent two years of homeless, hand-to-mouth living until he discovered a small jazz club hidden in a cellar where he could play and sleep in exchange for doing chores.

After many years of hardship, Adam launched his professional career in 1964. A series of acclaimed performances and recordings enhanced his reputation in both Europe and the United States. In the 1970s jazz finally found acceptance in Poland, and Adam was awarded a gold medal for his contribution to the arts.

By the time the legendary record producer John Hammond invited Adam to New York in 1977 for a 10-week engagement and to record a solo album for CBS Columbia called „Adam“, the pianist had already performed worldwide, made 26 albums, and been voted Number One Jazz Pianist by Jazz Forum six years in a row.

„John Hammond played a very significant role in my life, launching my career in the United States,“

Adam remembers. „He gave me important public exposure by arranging a six-week engagement at the Cookery in Greenwich Village and an appearance at Carnegie

Krzysztof JABŁOŃSKI

was born in 1965 in Wrocław, Poland. He started piano lessons at age six with Professor Janina Butor. Under her guidance he won many prizes at piano competitions in Poland and performed his first concert with an orchestra at the age of 12. As the youngest competitor at age 15, he placed fifth at the Milan Piano Competition. „Premio Dino Ciani.“ Chairman of the Jury Nikita Magaloff then invited Mr. Jabłoński to attend his Master Classes in Geneva, Switzerland. Between 1983 and 1986 he studied under the guidance of Professor Andrzej Jasiński at the Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland. He graduated with honors in 1987, and in 1996 he earned his Ph.D.

Mr. Jabłoński won third prize at The F. Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1985. Between 1988 and 1992 he has won numerous top prizes at piano competitions in: Palm Beach (Florida, USA), Monza (Italy), Dublin (Ireland), Gold Medal at The A. Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Tel Aviv (Israel), the „Jorge Bolet“ Prize at the Walter Naumburg Foundation International Piano Competition in New York, and Second Prize at The Esther Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada.

At age 20, Mr. Jabłoński began performing on stages in Europe, North and South America, Mexico, Israel, South Korea, and Japan. He has performed in many prestigious concert halls, including appearances on the Master Concert Series at Berliner Philharmonie. Mr. Jabłoński has also performed with prominent chamber music ensembles. He also founded „Chopin Duo“ (Tomasz Strahl - Cello, Krzysztof Jabłoński - Piano) in 1999. Since 2004 he is a Member of „The Warsaw Piano Quintet“ (Kwintet Warszawski) which was first founded by Władysław Szpilman in 1962.

From 1999 to 2006 Mr. Jabłoński was closely collaborating with Grand Theatre - National Opera in Warsaw, Poland, performing regularly the music for a ballet



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Hall with Earl Hines, George Shearing, and Teddy Wilson during a Newport Jazz Festival tribute to Errol Garner, who had died six months earlier.

„Imagine playing for the first time with these giants of jazz in the most famous concert hall in the world — I was scared to death! But I could not disappoint John, and I received a standing ovation from more than 2.000 people.“

Adam settled in New York in 1978. In December, 1981, the Polish regime imposed martial law in order to crush the Solidarity Movement. In response, President Reagan initiated a special event called „Let Poland Be Poland,“ in which many artists and public figures, including Adam, took part. As a result, he was banned from Poland until it gained its freedom in 1989.

Adam became an American citizen in 1986. During the past two decades Adam has performed solo, with groups, and with orchestras, including the National Symphony Orchestra: performed in major concert halls, festivals, and clubs in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Peru; and shared stages with many jazz greats.

In April, 1998 Adam celebrated his twentieth anniversary of living in New York and the release of two new CDs, bringing the total of albums recorded during the New York years to twenty.

Writing in the Toronto Star in 1995, Geoff Chapman summarized Adam’s considerable musical appeal: „A rare artist who grips and holds attention, Makowicz handles the classics of the American songbook with aplomb equal to the way he deals with the devastatingly complex structures of his own compositions. A gifted improviser with splendid technical prowess, the pianist can also offer warmth and affection in melodic lines, the balance of fine taste, pungent swing and a jubilant approach inevitably generating audience cheer.“

entitled „Fortepianissimo“, which was developed around the music of Chopin. Between 2002 and 2006 he was also frequently performing the original piano version of the C. Debussy’s Pelleas et Melisande lyrique drama (opera).

In September, 2005 - Jabłoński performed at the National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw with Orchestra of the 18th Century (Baroque Orchestra) conducted by Frans Brüggen on historical piano (Erard, built in 1849), during special series of concerts presenting Chopin’s pieces performed in an original sound with the use of the instruments of that time for the first time in Poland. Concerts with the Berner Sinfonie-Orchester, the Jenaer Philharmonie, the Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart des SWR, and performance of the Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Festival Orchestra of the Grand Teton Music Festival and Scriabin’s „Promethee“ with the National Philharmonic Orchestra in Warsaw. Poland under the baton of Andrey Boreyko are among most important events in Jabłoński’s calendar of 2006/2007 concert season.

Mr. Jabłoński has made many live recordings for radio and television in many countries. He has recorded many compact discs in Germany, Japan, and Poland. Jabłoński recorded three CDs (Etudes, Preludes and Impromptus and Works for Piano and Orchestra) in conjunction with The National Edition of F. Chopin’s Works project, directed by Prof. J. Ekier.

Since 1994, Mr. Jabłoński taught piano, initially at the Music Academy in Wrocław, Poland, and later, at the Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland. He is a Professor of the F. Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, Poland since 2004. In addition to academic responsibilities, he presents Master Classes and adjudicates at international piano competitions. Jabłoński was Jury Member of The XV International F. Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 2005. International F. Chopin Piano Competition in ASIA, and The Seventh National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States.