

Aleksander Nowak

He composes instrumental and vocal-instrumental music, occasionally also with electronics. Opera and drama, often written in collaboration with contemporary writers, occupy the most important place in his work. He is the author of compositions such as “Space Opera” (libretto: Georgi Gospodinov), “ahat ilī – Sister of the Gods” (libretto: Olga Tokarczuk), “Drach. Damma per musica”, “Syrena. Melodrama aeterna”, “Pokora. Damma giocoso” (libretti: Szczepan Twardoch), “Tale of the Heart. Favola in musica” (libretto: Radek Rak), “Things. Vaudeville”, “Arctic Fever. Comedia harmonica” (libretti: Marcin Wicha), “I, Şeküre” (own libretto based on the novel "My Name is Red" by Orhan Pamuk), and “The Wedding” (own libretto based on the drama by Stanisław Wyspiański).

He has composed several song cycles, including two written for bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny: Two-line Poems to words by Leśmian (2022) and 3 Songs to words by Baczyński (2021), as well as many instrumental compositions written for distinguished soloists and ensembles such as Agata and Łukasz Długosz, Łukasz Kuropaczewski, Piotr Pławner, Piotr Sałajczyk, Agata Szymczewska, Alarm Will Sound, AUKSO Orchestra, New Music Orchestra, Royal String Quartet, Silesian Quartet, and The London Sinfonietta.

He has received distinctions such as the Kutz Award Nomination 2024, Silver Medal for Merit to Culture "Gloria Artis" 2023, "Coryphaeus of Polish Music" (in the categories Personality of the Year 2021 and Event of the Year 2020), Phonographic Award "Fryderyk" 2022 and 2021, Annual Award of the Polish Composers' Union 2021, Cultural Award of the City of Krakow and Onet "O!lśnienia" 2021, "Politika's Passport" 2018, and "Guarantee of Culture" 2011.

He studied composition at the Academy of Music in Katowice and the University of Louisville, USA.

He has been employed at the Katowice Academy since 2008. He has taught classes such as Instrumentation, History of Opera, Contemporary Score, and Computer Music Notation Editing. He currently leads a composition class. He defended his doctoral thesis in 2010, received his habilitation in 2014, and was awarded the title of professor in 2022.

From 2020 to 2024, he served as the Head of the Department of Composition and Music Theory.

His scores are published by the Polish Music Publishing House. Recordings have been released under the labels PWM/Anaklasis, Cd Accord, and Universal Music Poland.