



LESZEK MOŹDŹER

An outstanding pianist, composer and arranger, Moźdźer is widely considered to be the greatest revelation in Polish jazz of the last decade. Born in 1971, he has been playing the piano since the age of five. He completed every stage of the formal education until graduating from the Gdańsk Academy of Music (named after Stanisław Moniuszko) in 1996. He became interested in jazz relatively late - in the last grade of school - when he was 18. He was introduced into jazz in the band of Emil Kowalski, a clarinet player, but his real launchpad into the jazz world was at the first rehearsal with a band called Miłość (Love) back in 1991. One year later, he received an individual award at the International Jazz Competition Jazz Juniors '92 held in Kraków. Since then the young pianist has collected numerous music awards, including:

- Krzysztof Komeda prize awarded in 1992 by the Foundation of Polish Culture
- 1st prize at the International Jazz Improvisation Competition in Katowice in 1994
- Mateusz Świącicki Prize awarded by Channel 3 of Polish National Radio
- Grand Prix Melomani – the Artist of the Year 1997 awarded by the Łódź Music Lovers' Society
- Fryderyk 1998 – the Jazz Musician of the Year 1998
- Prize of the Mayor of the City of Gdańsk for outstanding artistic achievement
- In the poll organised among Jazz Forum readers Moźdźer was voted Most Promising Musician of the year 1993 and 1994, Best Jazz Pianist for seven consecutive years – from 1993 to 1999 – as well as the Musician of the Year 1995 and 1996.
- Grand Prize of the Polish Culture Foundation 2006 – for outstanding performances promoting Polish Culture, prize shared with Jerzy Jarocki

Moźdźer was the leader of Poland's most popular jazz band - Miłość. He was also a member of the Zbigniew Namysłowski Quartet. Moźdźer has frequently recorded film music with Zbigniew Preisner. Leszek also regularly works with Jan Kaczmarek, Polish composer working in LA, while recording film music scores (for 20th Century Fox and Mira Max). He has been invited to perform jointly with the celebrities of Polish jazz, such as Tomasz Stańko, Janusz Muniak, Michał Urbaniak and Piotr Wojtasik; and has also worked with acclaimed international musicians, including Arthur Blythe, Buster Williams, Billy Harper, Joe Lovano, Pat Metheny and Archie Shepp.

To date, Moźdźer has recorded over 60 albums, including eight released under his own name:

- "Chopin - impressions " in 1994
- "Talk to Jesus " in 1996 (considered to be the Album of the Year 1996 according to a survey by Jazz Forum)
- "Facing the Wind " in 1996 in a duo with an American double bassist, David Friesen
- "Live in Sofia " in 1997 with Adam Pierończyk (voted the Album of the Year 1998 by the readers of Jazz Forum)
- "Chopin Demain-Impressions " in 1999
- "Live in Ukraine 2003"
- "Moźdźer, Danielsson, Fresco – The Time", 2005 (Double Platinum Award in two months after album's premiere)
- " Moźdźer, Danielsson, Fresco – Between Us And The Light", 2006 (Double Platinum Award in two weeks after albums premiere)

Improvisations on the themes by Fryderyk Chopin have further strengthened his position and ranked him among the most outstanding individualities and virtuosos of the European jazz. His theatrical projects are also remarkable:

- "Hair - love, rock musical" - Musical Theatre in Gdynia
- "Tango with Lady M." - Polish Theatre of Dance in Poznań
- "4.48 Psychosis" Sarah Kane, directed by Grzegorz Jarzyna, Duesseldorfer Schauspielhaus
- "Rewizor" M. Gogol, directed Andrzej Domalik, Teatr Dramatyczny, Warsaw, 09/2002
- "Mandarynki i Pomarańcze" Julian Tuwim, directed Wojciech Kościelniak, Teatr Muzyczny, Wrocław, 03/2003

Moźdźer also created the music for the first in the world trans-opera based on William Shakespeare : "A Midsummer Night's Dream". The premiere was held in Musical Theatre in Gdynia in October 2001.

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