

Katarzyna Marczak

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Katarzyna Marczak was born in Krakow, Poland, and in 1997 she graduated from the Instrumental Department of the Music University in Krakow (M.Mus. in Clarinet Performance, studying with Janusz Antonik, the principal of the Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra). In 1998 she received her second M.Mus. from the Department of Composition, Conducting and Music Theory at the aforementioned institution. During the 1993/1994 academic year she received a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture and Art. Between 1994 and 1998, in recognition of her academic achievements, she received a Study Scholarship from the Academy of Music in Krakow. In 1997 she completed an Inter-faculty Pedagogical Program, also hosted by the Academy of Music in Krakow.

Starting in the first year of her M.Mus. program, she was a member of the Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra. With that group she took part twice in the International Bach Academy led by Prof. Helmuth Rilling. Since that time she has performed on a regular basis with the Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra, Capella Cracoviensis, and Tarnów Chamber Orchestra.

In 2009 Ms. Marczak obtained her DMA degree at the University of British Columbia, studying with Cris Inguanti, the assistant principal and Bass Clarinetist of Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. For her final project and written document she prepared and performed HARLEKIN for clarinet solo by Karlheinz Stockhausen, a 45-minute long stage composition for a dancing clarinetist. While at UBC, she co-founded the Trio sTREga, consisting of clarinet, cello and piano, in conjunction with her fellow DMA students at UBC, Erika Crinó, piano, and Roberta Bottelli, cello. The trio has made its debut in 2006 in Vancouver, and in January 2007 was presented in in Edmonton, as a part of “New Music Alberta” series. In addition, Ms. Marczak has appeared as a recitalist in Toronto with Erika Crinó in August of 2007.

In 2008/2009 she was a resident at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada, participating in Fall and Winter Creative Residencies. She worked there intensively on the chamber repertoire, performing and recording numerous pieces with the faculty members, as well as with the other residents.

Ms. Marczak is a founding member and artistic director of the Ara Ensemble, a chamber group specializing in contemporary music, based in Krakow, Poland. This highly visible chamber group, focusing on contemporary music, was founded in October 1993 at the Department of Interpretation of Contemporary Music, as part of the Academy of Music in Cracow. The core group consists of flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano, while guest artists are invited to play with the group as dictated by orchestrational needs. The Ara Ensemble has performed in Poland, Denmark, Switzerland, Holland and Germany, and in many prestigious festivals and musical seminars, *Andrzej Panufnik Festival*, *Roman Hubenstock-Ramati Days*, *Pianoforum '93* in Basel, *Fortalicje* in Zamość and on several occasions as part of the *Write and Play* festival in Krakow. This fascinating world event brought various national artists in combination with Polish musicians, and concentrated on contemporary music.

In 1994 the Ara Ensemble won a special award at the Competition for Young Performers of Twentieth Century Music in Warsaw, while in 1995 the group took part in the International Gaudeamus Interpreters Competition in Rotterdam. In September 1999 the Ara Ensemble won a Special Prize in the Fifth International Competition of Youth Culture in Düsseldorf, and in 2003 it recorded a CD devoted entirely to Canadian music (Ara Ensemble, *RainDances*, CLEF Records 05007-2).

As a soloist, Katarzyna Marczak has appeared at several festivals and music seminars, such as *Write and Play*, or *Audio Art Festival*. In addition, in 1992 she performed as a pianist in the finals of the Competition of Contemporary Music in Warsaw. In 2003 she recorded a number of contemporary pieces for clarinet released in 2005 on CDs, which accompanied scores published by the Polish Music Edition (PWM). In July 2007 she was one of 45 internationally renowned clarinet soloists invited to perform at the International Clarinet Association Conference, and she presented a recital of solo and chamber contemporary pieces. In November 2008 she went on a concert tour in Poland, performing HARLEKIN by K.Stockhausen within the International AudioArt Festival.

In addition to her performing life, Katarzyna Marczak has also acted as a journalist, writing articles about contemporary music issues and interviews with the leading young Polish composers and performers.