



Jerzy Żak

lutenist

At first he studied classical guitar in Łódź, Poland, then in Alicante, Spain. Since 1981 he specializes in early music and historical plucked instruments – lute, theorbo, Baroque and Romantic guitar. He studied at the Early Music Centre in London with Ch. Wilson, T. Crawford and others; also had tuitions from D. Poulton, A. Bailes and N. North. In 1983 he won the First Prize at the Early Music competition in Manchester and in the same year he received a diploma in Lute Performing from the Royal College of Music in London (ARCM).

Jerzy Żak has been playing with leading early music ensembles in Poland, played also with Hungarian group *Musica Profana*, Swiss *Le Nations* and Danish *Concerto Copenhagen*; accompanied distinguished soloists such as B. Hofmann, P. Kusiewicz, R. Wistreich, A. Manze, O. Pasiecznik, A. King and others. In 1993 he founded his own chamber ensemble – *Kleine Cammer-Musique*, dedicated to the repertoire of the Saxon-Polish court in Dresden and Warsaw in the Ist half of the XVIIIth c.

He appeared at all major concert halls in Poland, in most European countries and in Canada. For several years he worked also for the Warsaw Chamber Opera as a lutenist and music director of Baroque productions (Monteverdi, Merula, Pekieli, Blow). For the Opera's «Pro Musica Camerata Editions» J. Żak has edited T. Merula's *Satiro e Corisca* (1624), the first semi-dramatic work written and performed on the Polish court.

He's recorded 3 CDs for the label Acte Préalable: «S.L. Weiss *Lute Music from Grüssau/Krzeszów Manuscripts*», «A. Scarlatti *San Casimiro, Re di Polonia, oratorio*» (score edition and direction, world premiere; the CD was nominated for «Fryderyk 2001», the Polish phonographic award) and the 3rd, «A. Cesti *Aspettate! adesso canto. Secular Chamber Cantatas*» (with soprano Jacek Laszczkowski).

He teaches lute playing at the Academy of Music in Cracow, but also taught at the «Wilanów Summer Academy of Early Music» and the «Guitar Summer Courses» in Szczawno-Zdrój. In 2001 Żak has organized «The Ist International S.L. Weiss Festival in Wrocław (Breslau)».



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