

Zbigniew Seifert Foundation's Annual Activity Report

for 2013



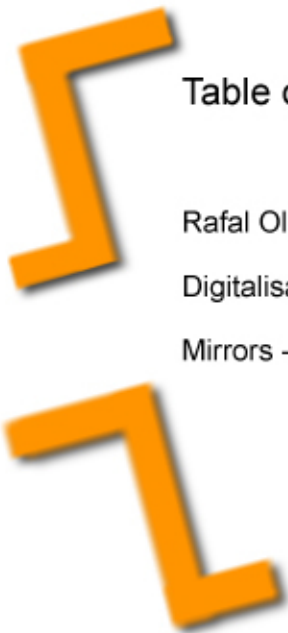


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RAFAL OLBINSKI ~ JAZZ ON THE COVER US EXHIBITION

Rafał Olbiński, is a renowned painter and illustrator. In the fall of 1981 he traveled from Poland to New York City for an exhibition of his posters at The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences. During his visit to New York, martial law was declared in Poland in December of 1981, and with this, Olbiński made the decision to stay in New York. In March of 1982, "Psychology Today" published his first American cover. Soon after this publication, covers for other magazines followed, among them "Time", "Newsweek", "Business Week", "Playboy". For many years his painterly illustrations appeared regularly in the "The New York



zdjęcie :Paulina Pułka

Times", where he worked with the legendary art directors Jerelle Kraus and Steven Heller. In the 1990s he created a series of critically acclaimed posters for the New York City Opera, which led to his designing posters and stage sets for many theatre productions in the U.S. and Poland. Although best known for his illustrations and posters, he also continues working as a painter, creating beautiful works in his signature style of poetic surrealism. Olbiński has received over 150 awards, including gold and silver medals from the Society of Illustrators in New York and Los Angeles. In 1994, he was awarded the International Oscar for the World's Most Memorable Poster, the "Prix Savignac" in Paris. In 1995 the jury led by Mayor Rudolf Giuliani chose his poster as a winner of the "New York - Capital of the World" competition. Before his international career in New York began, Rafał Olbiński spent 10 years in Warsaw working as an art director for the Polish jazz magazine "Jazz Forum", designing its covers and layouts.



During this time he created cover illustrations using various techniques, which gave the unique look to the magazine. Working with “Jazz Forum” helped prepare Olbiński for the world of graphic design and illustration in New York and served as a solid foundation upon which he mastered his amazing technique.

During the opening of the “Jazz Forum” covers exhibition in Warsaw in July 2012 Rafał Olbiński said, “I have wonderful memories about working for “Jazz Forum”, because I have experienced an absolute artistic freedom there. No other director or editor-in-chief of any magazine in the world gave me such an independence as I was given by Jan Byrczek [founder of the “Jazz Forum” and its first editor-in-chief], and then, by Paweł Brodowski [editor-in-chief since 1979], who never butted in what I was actually doing. I could experiment, that is why you can see different styles here, different quality of covers. Without this practice, I suppose I would never do what I am doing right now. “Jazz Forum” gave me a boost. (...) I am shocked that some of these things defend themselves after all of these years (...)”. Finally, he added jokingly, “I feel extremely appreciated and I treat this compliment here as kind of credit to finally do something valuable.”Paweł Brodowski, the editor-in-chief of “Jazz Forum”, recollected Rafał Olbiński’s 10-years work in the editorial team: “Rafał used to come to the office from time to time, always laid-back, he had such a huge briefcase, so obviously there were no computers then, he was always interested in stuff laying around, like some magazines.





He always took them, looked through and when he liked something, he didn't care about anything, he took huge scissors and cut it out immediately. I protested sometimes, yet he used to say I shouldn't worry. He had a reserve of pictures in that briefcase – if they were useful, they were used. Throughout 10 years, when he has been working with us, he made all covers, or almost all, and made paste-ups. He took these long galleys home and arranged them in his own studio. He worked not only in the editorial office, he also cooperated with Pagart and created posters. He believed in himself, he sent his projects to various competitions and almost always was awarded, which nonetheless surprised him. When Jan Byrczek went to the U.S., I used to go there (invited by Byrczek), and help him.

Then Rafał left and stayed there permanently. It was the year 1981 and the very beginning of his international career. We like to think that his job at “Jazz Forum”, served as his first workshop and later allowed Rafał to make such a career. We are still so proud that Rafał used to work with us; among all people I got to know in that time or later, Rafał made a real career.”

All covers made by Rafał Olbiński for “Jazz Forum” can be found at www.polishjazzarch.com, where they are available as digitized archival issues of the magazine from 1965 to 1989 in Polish, from 1967 to 1992 in English and from 1976 to 1981 in German.

“Jazz Forum” is a magazine unique on a global scale due to the fact that for over 40 years it has been systematically reporting on the most important events of world jazz. It was established in 1965 by an incredibly creative individual, Jan Byrczek, who was the editor-in-chief for 10 years. “Jazz Forum” was unique, because it was the only magazine of this kind printed also in English (1967-1992) and German (1976-1981), during the time of the communist regime in Poland. Thanks to over 100 correspondents from all over the world, “Jazz Forum” provided news on world jazz. In “Jazz Forum” one could find interviews with music stars such as Miles Davis, Tomasz Stańko, Zbigniew Seifert, Joe Zawinul, Gil Evans, Chick Corea, Pat Metheny, Jan Garbarek, but also with Krzysztof Penderecki, Czesław Niemen, Sting, about musicians like John Coltrane, Charles Mingus, Urszula Dudziak, Krzysztof Komeda, Zbigniew Namysłowski;

Zbigniew Namysłowski; coverage from international festivals: Newport – New York Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, Berliner Jazz Tage, North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Jazz Jamboree, Jazz nad Odrą and others; musical lectures by Joachim Berendt, Roman Kowal, Andrzej Schmidt, Stefan Zondek; reviews of albums and books; Euro-Jazz Personalities: bios of renown musicians from various countries; graphics by Rafał Olbiński, Jan Sawka, Edward Lutczyn and unique advertisements from the period of PRL (Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa, eng. People's Republic of Poland, translator's note).

Zbigniew Seifert Foundation www.zbigniewseifert.org in 2011 accomplished the project of digitalizing archival issues of "Jazz Forum". Materials are available for free download at www.polishjazzarch.com. The Zbigniew Seifert Foundation is the organizer of an exhibition of selected covers of the "Jazz Forum" magazine in the U.S. The originator of this project is Izabela Gabrielson, a graduate of the Art Department, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the Art History Department, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. She received her Ph.D. from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. Her doctoral research was dedicated to Rafał Olbiński's work and contributed to documenting Polish contemporary émigré art. Izabela Gabrielson lives in the U.S., where she is on the faculty of Northwest College of Art and Design, and is a Fine Art Associate at the Foster/White Gallery in Seattle.





PLACES OF THE EXHIBITION IN THE U.S.:

Exhibition title:

Rafał Olbiński – Jazz on the Cover

Place of the exhibition:

University of Washington,
Allen Library North Lobby

Exhibition's opening January 17, 2013,
6.30 PM.

Place of exhibition:

Allen/Suzzallo Library, North Lobby, UW
Campus 1900 NE Grant Lane Seattle,
WA 98195

Rafał Olbiński - lecture, January 17,
2013, 5.30 PM - Walker Ames, Kane Hall,
UW Campus, 4069 Spokane Ln. NE
Seattle, WA 98195.

Exhibition and lecture are sponsored by
University of Washington Polish Studies
Endowment Committee

<http://www.polishstudiesuw.org/>

Place of exhibition:

Ballard Jazz Festival,

<http://ballardjazzfestival.com/>

Dates: April 17th – April 20th, 2013

Place of exhibition:

Pinehurst Jazz Festival in Memory of
Joshua Wolff

Pinehurst, North Carolina

Dates: July 14th - July 15th, 2013





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DIGITALISATION OF JAZZ ARCHIVES: www.polishjazzarch.com

In 2013, the Zbigniew Seifert Foundation continued to add materials related to Polish jazz to its digital resources. This year, the database www.polishjazzarch.com has been extended so as to include:

- Jazz Forum issues from the years 1990 - 2000
- programmes of concerts from the cycle "Era Jazzu" ("The Age of Jazz")

Our database is Poland's only large-scale online jazz archive!!!

Apart from the above listed materials, our database also contains:

- Jazz Forum issues in Polish – from the very beginnings of the magazine in 1965 to the year 2000, as well as English versions from 1967-92 and German versions from 1976-81;
- Jazz-on-the-Oder Festival programmes and posters;
- Jazz Jamboree Festival programmes;
- programmes and posters of the International Jazz Piano Festival in Kalisz;
- three issues of Musicorama;
- numerous other valuable materials

Project co-financed with funds from NInA's Programme "Archiwistyka Społeczna" ("Support for Non-State Archives").



NARODOWY
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jazz forum
The European Jazz Magazine

MIRRORS TRIBUTE TO ZBIGNIEW SEIFERT. BAŁDYCH & ORZECHOWSKI PLAY SEIFERT



The great promise of the world's jazz violin music and the most widely recognised Polish jazzman of the young generation – this is bound to be a truly fascinating concert! The violinist Adam Bałdych and the pianist Piotr Orzechowski 'Pianohooligan' payed their homage to Zbigniew Seifert, the legend of the jazz violin, with a concert entitled "Mirrors. Tribute to Zbigniew Seifert" held on 17th November at 6 pm in the European Krzysztof Penderecki Music Centre in Lusławice. The programme of the concert includes, among others, arrangements of Seifert's own compositions.

Zbigniew Seifert lived a little less than 33 years. Still, it is owing to his performances and compositions, his musical passion, that so much good is said worldwide about the Polish jazz. He was a great but very modest artist. He left behind recordings, scores and many fond memories. His music set its stamp on the successive generations of young jazzmen. Lest his splendid achievements should ever be forgotten, in 2010 we set up the Zbigniew Seifert Foundation, which organises concert series and festivals dedicated to his memory. In July 2014, the Foundation will inaugurate the 1st International Zbigniew Seifert Jazz Violin Competition in Cracow. The concert of the Bałdych & Orzechowski duo is part of the programme of events promoting the Competition.



ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Adam Bałdych, born in 1986, is a violinist, composer and music producer, a graduate of the Academy of Music in Katowice. Hailed as a ‘child prodigy’, already from the age of 16 he gave performances with eminent Polish and American musicians in Poland, Germany, Serbia, Indonesia, Hungary, Spain, France, Great Britain, and the United States.

Bałdych’s European CD debut was *Imaginary Room*, released in 2012 under the well known label ACT MUSIC with such leading European jazzmen as Lars Danielsson, Jacob Karlzon, Verner Pohjola, Morten Lund, and Marius Neset.

This album paved his way to Europe’s major concert halls and jazz venues.

Adam Bałdych collaborates both with eminent jazz figures (such as Jim Beard, Iiro Rantala, John Benitez, Leszek Możdżer, Urszula Dudziak, Grażyna Auguścik & Paulinho Garcia, NDR Big Band, Luluk Purvanto, Rene Van Helsdingen, Joachim Kühn and Michel Portal), pop artists (Mika Urbaniak, L.U.C.), and classical musicians (the Royal String Quartet, Małgorzata Walewska).

He is the winner of ECHO Jazz 2013 – the most important German music industry award – as well as the “Ale Sztuka” poll of the “Gazeta Wyborcza” daily, Radio Zachód and TVP (the Polish state television broadcaster) and of the Grand Prix Jazz Melomani as Artist of the Year 2012, called the Jazz Oscar. In 2013 he was also nominated for the “Fryderyk” Award of the Polish Phonographic Academy (in the category Act of the Year – Jazz Music).

www.adambaldych.com



Piotr Orzechowski 'Pianohooligan', a pianist and composer born in 1990, is one of the best recognised jazz musicians of the young generation. The most important of his many awards was the 1st prize in the Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition (2011), which he won as the first Pole in the history of that legendary festival. He is the leader of the High Definition jazz quartet, with which he also won several international competitions, e.g the Belgian Jazz Hoeilaart (2011), and recorded the critically acclaimed album Hopasa (EmArcy Records / UMP, 2013). His solo record Experiment: Penderecki (Decca Classics / UMP, 2012), containing arrangements and pieces inspired by the works of Krzysztof Penderecki, was equally enthusiastically received. His most recent CD, Bach Rewrite, features J.S. Bach's Harpsichord Concertos recorded with the pianist Marcin Masecki and Capella Cracoviensis. He has been nominated for several prestigious awards: "An Outstanding Figure in Polish Music" (2012), "Guarantees of Culture" prize of TVP Kultura (2013), the "Fryderyk" Award of the Polish Phonographic Academy (2013). He was also elected Artist of the Year in the "Take-Offs of Culture" poll of the "Gazeta Wyborcza" daily and won the Grand Prix Jazz Melomani in the category of the Greatest Promise of Jazz Music (2012).

Piotr Orzechowski has collaborated with such eminent musicians as Adrian Utlej of Portishead, Randy Brecker, the Skalpel duo, Dorota Miśkiewicz, Jacek Kochan, Marcin Masecki, Paweł Mykietyn, Janusz Muniak and Vladislav 'Adzik' Sendekci. At present he is studying in the Berklee College of Music in Valencia, Spain.

www.pianohooligan.com



ORGANIZATOR:

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PARTNERZY:



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Centrum Kultury - Kultura -
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Małopolskiego



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