

Matthew (Maciej) Jaskiewicz

(b. 1948)

Conductor



POLISH SPIRIT



Maestro Matthew Jaskiewicz has significantly enriched the cultural life of Toronto since he first arrived from his native Poland in 1985. His numerous initiatives, including the Toronto Sinfonietta, have achieved artistic excellence, critical acclaim, and a loyal following, but he is even more proud of his bridge building between artists, communities, and musical genres in his adopted Canada.

Matthew Jaskiewicz is a graduate of the Warsaw Academy of Music, where he studied the art of conducting with the famous conductor Bohdan Wodiczko. Before coming to Canada, he was already the director of several prestigious ensembles in Poland, then France, among them the Academic Choir of Warsaw University, Ars Antiqua Chamber Choir, and Les Rossignolets de Roubaix boys' choir. Extensive touring throughout Europe earned his choirs international distinction and many awards, among them the prestigious first prize at the International Choral Festival in Middlesbrough, England.

Following his immigration to Canada, Maestro Jaskiewicz founded the Polish Canadian Society of Music and its flagship ensembles, the Toronto Sinfonietta orchestra and Musica Antiqua Vocal Ensemble. Since its establishment as an independent entity, Toronto Sinfonietta has been recognized for its innovative programming, close cooperation with Canadian composers, and featuring some of Toronto's most prominent soloists. Since its inception nearly a quarter of a century ago, Maestro Jaskiewicz has led it through seasons of programming that included exploring the connections between Chinese and Western music, jazz and classical, traditional and modern, musical theatre and film music. He has recently published a collection of traditional Polish carols with Polish and English texts.

In addition to his tenure as Artistic Director of Toronto Sinfonietta, Jaskiewicz currently conducts the Oakham House Choir of Ryerson Polytechnic University, the Northumberland Choir and Orchestra in Cobourg, Ontario, as well as the Baycrest Music Society, and the Angel Choir of Toronto, based in the Chinese community.

A vital part of Jaskiewicz's activity is introducing Polish composers to the multinational music scene of Canada. In recognition of this, the President of Poland awarded him the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 2006. He is also the recipient of the Cultural Award of Merit of the Polish Ministry of Culture.



Ye Shijihuishi
(Matthew Jaśkiewicz)
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Photos from top left clockwise:
• Maestro Matthew Jaskiewicz / Photo – private archive • Ford Centre for Performing Arts, Toronto 1999 / Photo – Marek Goldyn • The first Sinfonietta Concerto Competition, Isabel Bader Theatre, Toronto 2006: Jonathan Mak, winner in young age category / Photo – Yarek Dabrowski, *Punkt.ca* • Isabel Bader Theatre, 2006, concert with Natalie Choquette, soprano / Photo – Yarek Dabrowski, *Punkt.ca*