



15 August, Thursday, 8.00 pm
St Bernardine of Siena Church, ul. Bernardyńska 2

Opening Concert

Andrzej Białko

organ

*This organ, with a beautiful prospectus from 1702 was
numerously repaired and reconstructed. Last reparation was
finished in 2014 under organ-builder Lech Skoczylas from Cracow.*

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750)

TOCCATA in D minor, BWV 565

CHORALE PRELUDE "O LAMM GOTTES, UNSCHULDIG" BWV 656

TOCCATA and FUGUE in D minor, BWV 538

CHORALE PRELUDE "NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT", BWV 657

TOCCATA, ADAGIO and FUGUE in C major, BWV 564

CHORALE PRELUDE "JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND" BWV 665

TOCCATA and FUGA in F major, BWV 540

Andrzej Białko was born in Kraków in 1959. He studied piano at the Musical Secondary School. In 1973, he began learning to play the organ, first privately and then at the Academy of Music in Kraków under the supervision of Prof. Joachim Grubich. In 1981 he received the first prize in the International Organ Competition in Rome. In 1985, he was awarded first prize in the framework of the National Organ Competition in Bydgoszcz–Gdańsk.

He took part in most Polish organ festivals and he also performed in Austria, Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, as well as in Lebanon and both Americas. He has been active as a teacher – the professor of the Organ Department at the Academy of Music in Kraków and the Władysław Żeleński State School of Music in Kraków. Kraków music lovers remember his unforgettable performances of complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach in the season 1990/91 and in the Jubilee Year 2000. He also presented an anthology of organ music of the 16–20th centuries in a series of 20 concerts under the common title 'Ars organi' in the years 2001–2002.

In his diverse and ever expanding repertoire, embracing all styles, the artist has also had the complete organ works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Nicolaus Bruhns, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, César Franck and Ferenc Liszt. Several of his recordings became a precious contribution to the tape archives of the 2nd channel of the Polish Radio. He also recorded 20 CDs.



THE BERNARDINE CHURCH. Bernardines settled here in the middle of the 15th century. The first church was founded by Cardinal Zbigniew Oleśnicki, while the current structure was built in the second half of the 17th century by Krzysztof Mieroszewski. This modest Baroque church has a twin-towered facade and a roofed dome covering the transept. The late Baroque interior houses altarpieces by Franciszek Leśzcycki (*The Last Supper*, *Crucifixion* and *Christ falls under the Cross*), a late gothic wooden sculpture of St. Anne from the workshop of Wit Stwosz and a Baroque painting *The Death Dance*, which was to remind the faithful about the vanity of earthly life and incite reflection on death and eternal life. The northern chapel has relics of the blessed Szymon of Lipnica (died 1482).

*Michał Rożek
(transl. Tomasz Biedroń)*