

# Stanisław Moniszko Music Academy in Gdańsk

Instrumental Faculty

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*The influence of Sigurd Raschèr's virtuosity on saxophone works from 20<sup>th</sup> century*

Supervisor: Professor, Doctor Dariusz Samól, Ph.D.

The choice of this doctoral thesis' topic '*The influence of Sigurd Raschèr's virtuosity on saxophone works from 20<sup>th</sup> century*' stems from the author's interest in Sigurd Raschèr – an American saxophonist of German descent who perfectly mastered the skill of playing this instrument, extending its scale by 4 octaves. The direct inspiration to write the following thesis was the fact that the author attended numerous concerts, workshops and lectures held by the most outstanding American saxophonists who delighted the author with the quality of their presentations and charmed her with the sound of their instruments. The subject matter of the thesis was finding interesting compositions dedicated to Raschèr or his students, who are distinguished musicians today.

This doctoral thesis consists of three chapters. The first chapter presents Sigurd Raschèr and his artistic activity. This part also includes the description and analysis of nine most representative (in the author's opinion) works for this thesis. Four of these works were recorded on a CD. One primary focus of this chapter is to familiarise readers with aesthetic ideas of Sigurd Raschèr, who was trying to be faithful to a prototype saxophone created by its constructor Adolph Sax. The author also describes how Raschèr contributed to the development of saxophone literature and his creative and artistic relationship with composers. This chapter is illustrated with numerous notated musical examples.

The second chapter is dedicated to the successors of Raschèr's idea. The author presented distinguished saxophonists and enclosed the list of compositions dedicated to them. She highlighted a variety of saxophone combinations such as trio, quartet and saxophone orchestra.

The third chapter includes the list of concert programs and compositions, which constitute the source of information for pedagogues, students, and pupils, allowing them to extend their repertoire and perfect their technique and performance capabilities. This part also includes a full list of 208 works dedicated to Raschèr, as well as the collection of his articles, books and other papers.

There is a CD attached to this thesis, recorded with pianist, dr Urszula Szyryńska, in the following order:

Stephen Dankner – *Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano*

Allegro molto moderato

Elegy

Presto agitato

Waldemar Welander – *Arietta*

Karel Husa – *Elegie et Rondeau*

Lars-Erik Larsson – *Konsert op. 14*

Allegro molto moderato

Adagio

Allegro scherzando