

Ryszard Żołędziewski studied saxophone with Prof. Christian Roellinger at Konservatorium für Musik und Theater Bern – Hochschule der Künste Bern in Switzerland. He developed his saxophone playing skills with such outstanding saxophonists as John-Edward Kelly, Iwan Roth and Marcus Weiss. He also participated in the Jazz Master Class conducted by Jerry Bergonzi and studied contemporary music, its artistry and composer's technique, with Henri Pousseur and Urs Peter Schneider. He obtained a degree of doctor of musical art at the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław and then earned habilitation there. He also completed a Postgraduate Course in Management of Institutions of Education and Culture.

As a soloist he frequently cooperated with numerous European orchestras, performing not only at prestigious philharmonic and concert halls in Poland (Wrocław, Jelenia Góra, Opole), but also abroad, e.g. in Amsterdam, Antwerp, Bern, Utrecht, Kiev and Riga, where he played under the direction of such conductors as Volodimir Kiradjiev, Marosław Jacek Błaszczyk, Péter Eötvös, Robert Kurdybacha, Valeriy Matyukhin, Clemens Schuldt, Stanisław Skrowaczewski or Kaspar Zahnder.

He performed the most important classical saxophone works, as well as modern, innovative compositions, including 21-century pieces, many of which he premiered. He played recitals and chamber music concerts in Austria, France, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Latvia, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine. He is also an active orchestra musician who cooperates for example with Wrocław Opera. During the many years of his artistic activity he had a chance to cooperate with many outstanding composers, such as Andrea Csollány, Evalds Daugulis, Henry Kelder, Carlos Micháns, Volodymyr Runchak, Igor Shcherbakov and Brian Willson, and pieces by composers from Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland and the USA were dedicated to him. In 1990s he performed in France and Switzerland as a soprano saxophonist and the leader of Konsi-Bern-Sax-Quartet, and in 2002 he gave a series of concerts with OML Saxophone Ensemble during the 7th Europäisches Jugendmusikfestival in Switzerland. In 2004 he participated in the CD recording during the 4th Kantonales Musik-Ensembletreffen in Aarau, which was broadcast on the radio. In 2013 he represented Poland during the 23rd International Contemporary Music Festival in Kiev, where he performed Volodymyr Runchak's *Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra* with the Kiev Philharmonic under the direction of Valeriy Matyukhin. In 2014 he had the honour to perform under the Hungarian Maestro Péter Eötvös during the ISCM World Music Days. In 2015 he gave the European premiere of Erwin Dressel's *Duo Konzert*, first with the Wrocław Sound Factory Orchestra conducted by Robert Kurdybacha, and then with the Lower Silesian Philharmonic under the direction of Mirosław Jacek Błaszczyk. He participated in many recordings for the radio and television in Poland, Switzerland, Latvia and Ukraine, he also recorded numerous CDs, e.g. for DUX Recording Producers and Wratislavia Productions.

Apart from artistic activity, Ryszard Żołędziewski conducts also research and teaching activity. He is employed as an assistant professor at the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław, where he leads the classical saxophone class and teaches chamber music. He gave numerous lectures on saxophone playing technique during international symposia and master classes at music universities in Austria, Netherlands, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine and Slovakia. He is also the author of many saxophone handbooks, compositions and publications in Polish and in English.