

Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music  
Instrumental Department

Aleksandra Świąt

**The role of period piano in shaping of the playing techniques and stylistic awareness of a modern pianist. Period piano performance versus 20th century pianist tradition**

Promotor: prof. Waldemar Wojtal

Doctoral thesis presented here is dedicated to the role of period piano and the past performance practice in shaping of the playing techniques, interpretation and stylistic awareness of a modern pianist.

First chapter of the thesis introduces the history and main concepts of the historically informed performance, the subject of authenticity in the performance craftsmanship and the influence of piano competitions on the development of the new interpretative standards. The second chapter focuses on the history of piano making and relationships between composers and instrument makers in the context of changing performance aesthetics during the 18th and 19th century. The third chapter deals with the characteristics of sound and issues concerning the period piano performance as well as ponders about the influence of the expertise in period performance practice on the modern piano playing technique and the manner of interpretation.

The work of art in the form of a digital storage medium comprises recordings of pieces belonging to the canon of piano literature and were performed on period and modern pianos. Presented recordings serve as the material for comparative analysis and are to be considered the justification for the statements set forth in the written part of the thesis.

The authoress performed following works:

1. J.S. Bach – *Prelude and Fugue in g minor, BWV 861*.
2. W.A. Mozart – *Variations on Ah vous dirai-je, Maman, K 265/300e*.
3. F. Chopin – *Barcarole F-sharp major, op. 60*.
4. F. Chopin – *Mazurkas: G-sharp minor, C major, D major and B minor, op. 33*.
5. F. Chopin – *Nocturnes: C-sharp minor and D-flat major, op. 27*.

A questionnaire directed towards pianists who have expertise in period and modern piano performance has been added in the appendix.