

## Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot Wojciech Rajski | artistic director

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**Biography | February 2024**

### **Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot**

The Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot was established by Wojciech Rajski in 1982 and consists of dynamic musicians, all of whom are soloists in their own right. Its typical sound - fire, precision and lightness or, to say it with others words, vitality, discipline and elegance - is praised by the critics world-wide. Through its excellent work the orchestra has obtained an important position in German musical life.

The Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot has performed with such famous musicians as Mstislav Rostropovich, Christoph Eschenbach, Justus Frantz, Krystian Zimerman, Natalia Gutman, Sabine Meyer, Wolfgang Meyer, Giora Feidman, David Geringas, Claudio Arrau, Tzimon Barto, Olli Mustonen, Igor Oistrach, Shlomo Mintz, Reinhold Friedrich, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Piotr Beczala, Aleksandra Kurzak, Roberto Alagna and Rolando Villazon at nearly every important concert hall like the Berlin and the Cologne Philharmonic, the Konzerthaus Dortmund, the Gasteig and the Herkulessaal in Munich, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Musikverein Wien, the Salle Pleyel in Paris, Teatro Reale in Madrid and the Kennedy Center Washington.

During the last years, the orchestra has toured Germany, France, England, Italy, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, many Eastern European countries, the former Soviet Union, the USA as well as China. The Polish Chamber Orchestra Sopot was also invited to major international festivals such as in Gstaad, Montpellier, Prague, Warsaw, Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rheingau, Passau, Ludwigsburg, Stuttgart, Flanders, Tivoli, Copenhagen and many others.

In addition to the Orchestra's full timetable of commitments, they have produced many records with EMI, Thorofon, Intercord, Claves, Amati, Tacet, Le Chant du Monde, Midas, Wifon, and have had a number of radio and television appearances in Poland and Germany's 3 Sat. The first eight symphonies by Ludwig van Beethoven (Tacet SACD Real Surround Sound) have already been released in the scope of a complete recording. Their latest releases comprise of recordings with Daniil Trifonov, Alexander Krichel (Sony), of the Beethoven violin concerto with Daniel Gaede (tacet) and most recently, in December 2022, the CD "Penderecki in Memoriam" in honour of the composer, who died in 2020, with works by Krzysztof Penderecki, Artur Malawski and Joanna Wnuk-Nazarowa.

### **Wojciech Rajski | artistic director**

Wojciech Rajski was born in 1948 in Warsaw. Educated at the Warsaw Academy of Music where he graduated with honours, he then went on to accomplish his studies in Vienna and Cologne, where he participated in conductor's master classes. Rajski's exceptional talents were soon recognised and brought to the attention of the Artistic Director of the Grand Theatre in Warsaw, who engaged the young conductor until the completion

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of Rajski's studies in 1971. Between 1971 and 1981, Rajski held the position of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Poznan and that of a leading conductor at the Bonn Opera and the Orchestra of the Beethovenhalle in Germany.

In 1982, Rajski established the Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot with young, talented musicians, whose rich repertoire includes a wide range and variety of musical styles from baroque and classical to modern and contemporary music.

Rajski has conducted at many important festivals all over the world such as in Gstaad, Montpellier, Prague, Schleswig-Holstein, Rheingau, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Warsaw, Weilburg, Ludwigsburg, Flanders, Grand Canaria, Tivoli and Copenhagen. In addition to his own conducting commitments, Rajski often performed as a guest conductor in Mexico, Greece, Hungary, France, Sweden, England, Germany and Russia. Rajski has had the pleasure of conducting first-class soloists like Rostropovich, Zimerman, Szeryng, Dumay, Geringas, Frantz, Kogan, Eschenbach, Arrau, Piotr Beczała, Aleksandra Kurzak, Roberto Alagna and Rolando Villazon.

In addition, Rajski, together with the Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, has made many recordings with EMI, Claves, Le Chant du Monde, Midas, Thorofon, Wifon, and television and radio appearances for Germany's 3 Sat and the Polish Radio.

### Short version

The Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot was founded in 1982 in Sopot by Wojciech Rajski. Since then, the ensemble has established a firm place for itself in German musical life. The typical sound has been praised by critics time and again: Vitality, precision and elegance are the cornerstones of their playing.

The Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot has performed with renowned soloists on almost all of Germany's major stages. In recent years, the Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Sopot has undertaken numerous tours and also performs regularly at the major festivals in Europe.

The Polish Chamber Philharmonic Sopot has made numerous highly acclaimed CD recordings, which have been released by EMI, Thorofon, Intercord, Claves, Amati and Tacet.

The orchestra is conducted by Wojciech Rajski, who was born in Warsaw in 1948 and studied at the Warsaw Academy of Music and at the Cologne Academy of Music. During his career, he has worked at the Warsaw Grand Theatre, the Poznan Philharmonic, as first conductor of the orchestra of the Beethoven Hall in Bonn among others

Until 2014 he held the professorship for conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt am Main.