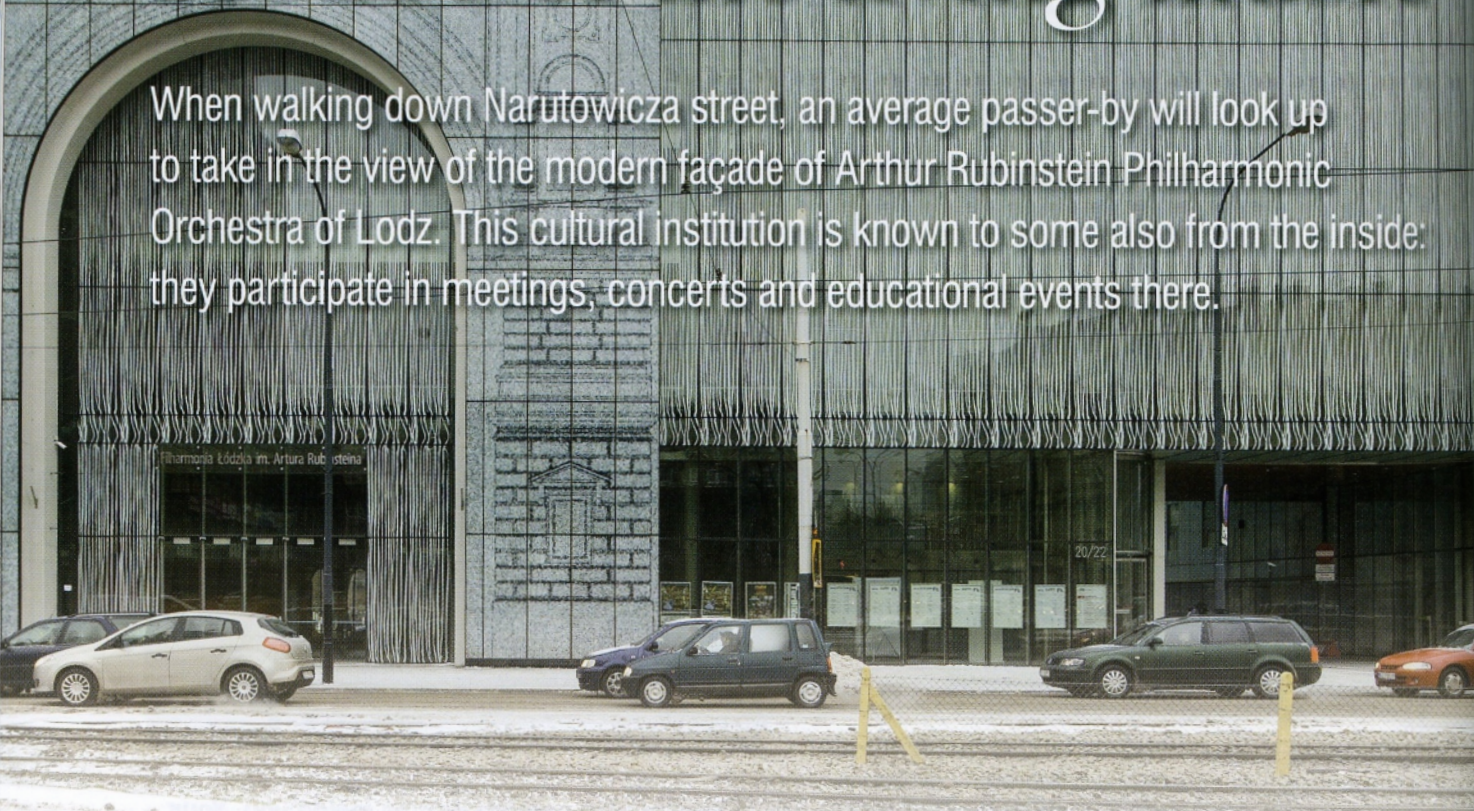


House of the living music

When walking down Narutowicza street, an average passer-by will look up to take in the view of the modern façade of Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra of Lodz. This cultural institution is known to some also from the inside: they participate in meetings, concerts and educational events there.



The façade of the Lodz Philharmonic

The façade was designed by Romuald Loegler, an architect from Cracow. The building is made of concrete, granite, glass and metal and is styled to resemble the look of Ignacy Vogl's Concert House from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, which was situated in the very same place. It was one of the first venues where the hundred year old Symphony Orchestra performed.

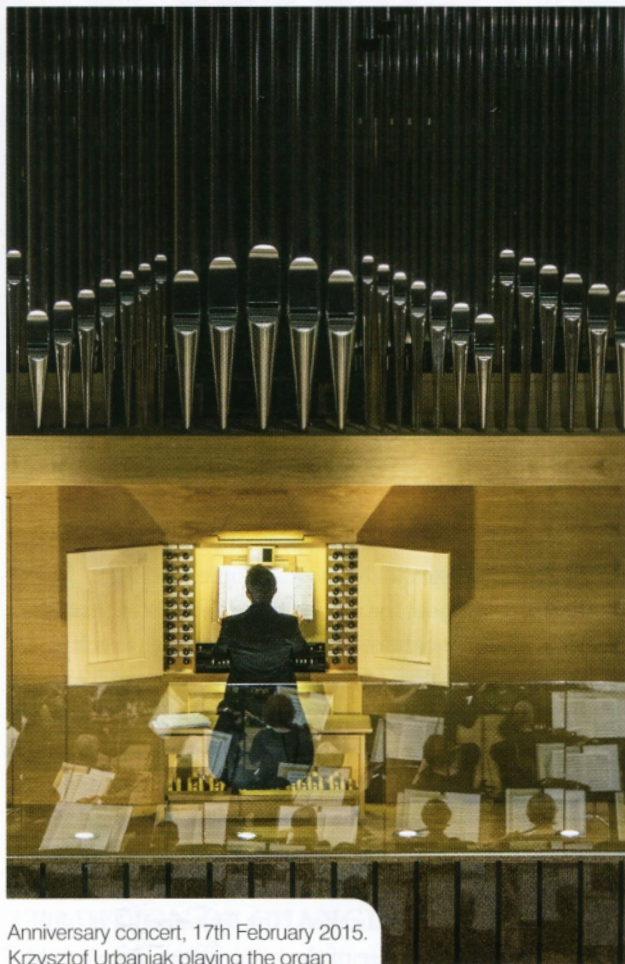
The pillars of the Philharmonic's repertoire are symphony concerts and oratorios performed by the Symphony Orchestra and Lodz Philharmonic's Choir, guest soloists and conductors. They acquaint the audience with music genres of different historical periods and world's music masterpieces. – In Lodz Philharmonic, the music lives and inspires. Our role is not only to reinterpret musical works but also to provoke. That's why 20/22 Narutowicza Street is an address where new types of music can feel at home whether they were commissioned especially for a given purpose or performed first time ever – says the director of the Philharmonic Tomasz Bęben. – The philharmonic can be a breeding ground for people's imagination. We want to create new quality, delineate new aesthetic boundaries, stimulate creativity, communicate

with our audience and treat them as people who share with us the emotional language of music rather than as customers queuing for tickets at the box office. We want the Philharmonic to become a meaningful place in our audience's lives and system of values – adds the director.

The Philharmonic also offers chamber concerts, piano recitals and recently also organ concerts. Lodz Philharmonic Orchestra is the first place in the world where the baroque organ played side by side with the symphonic organ.

EXCEPTIONAL PIPE ORGANS

Between 2013 and 2014, Lodz Philharmonic Orchestra witnessed an unusual event – the construction of two unique instruments – baroque and symphonic organs. There hasn't been a larger project than this in Poland and Europe for many years. The concert hall of the Philharmonic is the only place in the world housing two independent pipe organs. Moreover, it is the only non-religious concert venue in Europe to boast a baroque instrument adjusted to the needs of early music ensembles. This project was financed by the EU from the Regional Development Fund under the Regional Operational



Anniversary concert, 17th February 2015.
Krzysztof Urbaniak playing the organ

Programme for Lodz Province for the years 2007–2013, the Marshall's Office and by the Philharmonic itself.

The organ was made according to an innovative project by Prof. Ludger Lohmann, a prominent organist and lecturer at Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart. These two instruments belong to two distinct historical music styles and enable the organists to faithfully and expressively recreate the music of a given period. The two organs have different registers (tone colours), mechanisms, wind systems and tunes.

The Baroque organ was crafted in Kristian Wegscheider's workshop in Dresden and symphonic organs were made by Rieger – organ producing company from Schwarzach, Austria. Although tuned to different scales, these extraordinary instruments played together in 2015 a piece called 'Musica Festiva' during the centenary of the Symphony Orchestra of Lodz Philharmonic. The Philharmonic asked a well-known composer Krzysztof Meyer to write it especially for that purpose.

– Both instruments are not just an aesthetic attraction in the concert hall of Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra. They also crown the end of the concert hall's construction process. However, first and foremost, they

will enliven the repertoire of the Philharmonic, bring in new quality to the music performed there and attract new audiences to this institution – says Krzysztof Urbaniak in a magazine published for the Philharmonic's centenary.

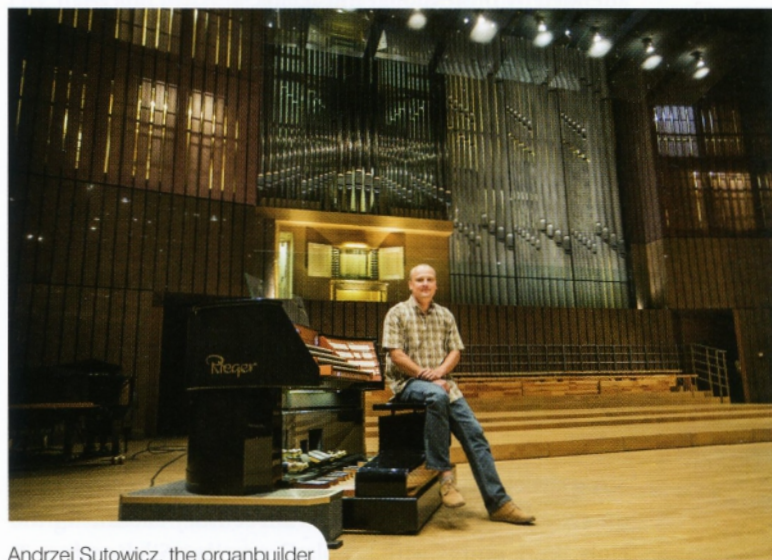
ORGANBUILDER WANTED

The assembly of the baroque organ and fronts to the symphonic organ was accepted by a committee including, among others, Andrzej Sutowicz – an organbuilder apprenticed in master Jacek Szczerbaniak's workshop. Prior to that, he had graduated from a music school in Zduńska Wola and a vocational school for piano builders in Kalisz.

– You learn how to build organs from a master. First, I had to be apprenticed and only later could I try to become a master myself. Currently, I have three apprentices and, I believe, one of them could already take my place – says Sutowicz.

Sutowicz explains that, on average, organs should be tuned once a year and thoroughly dusted once in ten years. Before each concert, the organ builder checks on the reed pipes of the organs in the Philharmonic. He also pays frequent visits, once a month on average, to the Music Academy and the Metropolitan Cathedral in Lodz because the instruments located there are in his care.

Andrzej Sutowicz points out that the symphonic organ in Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra of Lodz produces a powerful sound and it boasts a unique tracker action. – It is great fun to be at a concert here. This instrument was born to play with the orchestra. The Baroque organ, on the other hand, is unique because it is equipped with three bellows with russet hinges. Nowadays, when we make organ replicas, we tend to avoid such bellows since the device is troublesome for the organist – explains Sutowicz and compliments the organ for its transparent sound and perfect audibility.



Andrzej Sutowicz, the organbuilder



Touring Festival of the Lodz Philharmonic called 'The Colours of Poland' – a treat for those who are not afraid to stray off the beaten track of musical appreciation

MUSIC FANS OF THE FUTURE

The Lodz Philharmonic is also involved in educating the youngest audience by teaching them how to listen to and understand music. Baby Boom Bum cultivates the love and understanding of music among children up to 3 years old. The classes are modelled on an innovative method by an American musician and researcher Edwin E. Gordon. In a friendly atmosphere, accompanied by parents and instructed by educators even the youngest child will feel encouraged to try his/her hand at musical tasks. It is also a perfect chance for the youngest audience to socialize with their peers. During the games, the children will exercise their speaking skills, develop a good ear for music, exercise their respiratory system, proprioception (the sense of the position of parts of body), memory, concentration and agility.

The children aged 4–8 can participate in workshops called 'Music Explorers'. The classes are led by educators from the Society of Carl Orff in Poland. Carl Orff was a composer and educator himself. His idea was to fuse in the teaching process such elements as speaking, singing, dancing and playing simple instruments. Children demonstrate what they have learnt at a special concert attended by professional musicians.

This season will see the start of a new educational cycle targeted at families in which the orchestra will also play a part.

BROAD CHOICE

Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra has a real treat for amateurs who love singing. A Choir for the (Non)reluctant is an ensemble led by a professional conductor. The meetings are held once a week and the singers learn new musical pieces, voice production and also have great fun. Sometimes they even perform side by side with professionals. In 2014, the choir performed for the first time in Lodz Philharmonic together with Adam Strug's vocal ensemble Monodia Polska. In March 2016, the (Non)reluctant will sing a 13th century chorale for the Holy Week liturgy with Schola Gregoriana Silesiensis.



Musicians after the anniversary concert on 20th February 2015

The Lodz Philharmonic also rebroadcasts operas shown in the New York Metropolitan Opera. Thus, music lovers are privileged to listen to the most acclaimed operatic performances without the need to cover long distances and at a price incomparably lower. Such opportunity is available to viewers in more than 60 countries across the world. The 2015/2016 season is the tenth anniversary season of 'Met: live in HD' transmissions. The HD picture quality makes a perfect illusion of being right in the centre of events. The latest technological developments lift the barriers of time and space.

During holidays we reach out to the music audience with the Touring Festival of Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra called 'The Colours of Poland'. The festival attracts those of the music lovers who would like to combine a music event with visiting historical sights in the Lodz Region. Each of the concerts takes place at a different venue: a church, palace, old manor parks or a forest clearing. The music performed at these sights is more informal and diverse than what is normally on the agenda in autumn, winter and spring. The repertoire is dominated by folklore themes and early art, unconventional interpretation of classical and pop music, rare instruments, folk artists singing alongside professionals, bold improvisations – this is what the festival has in store for those who are not afraid to stray off the beaten track of musical appreciation.

– When summer comes, we put aside our tuxedos and become nomads – we take to the road to reach various places in the region, cherish music and rest – Tomasz Bęben says. This year, our audience had a broad spectrum to choose from: Wasowski and Przybora's songs, Sephardic music mingled with jazz, saxophone quartet, passionate flamenco, folk lullabies, the music of Bach illustrated by dance improvisations, a concert for trumpet and organ accompanied by computer visualisations, morality play by St. Hildegard of Bingen and Akathist hymn to the Holy Mother of God.

Joanna Więckowska, the Department of Development and Marketing in Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra