

ANNA KIJANOWSKA (POLAND)

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The Polish-American pianist Anna Kijanowska has established herself as a multi faceted musician, smoothly transitioning among her roles as a performing and recording artist, pedagogue, researcher, coach, and advocate of contemporary classical music around the world. She has performed, taught and collaborated in North and South America, Asia, Europe, New Zealand, Africa and Australia. Kijanowska's recording of The Complete Mazurkas by Szymanowski (Dux) was praised by Adrian Corleoni of Fanfare Magazine "as superior to any other interpretations that came before or after her" and received favorable reviews on both sides of the Atlantic from the *New York Times* and BBC Magazine. She holds a Doctorate and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Manhattan School of Music in New York, where she studied with Byron Janis. Ms. Kijanowska is Assistant Professor at the Music Institute of the Silesian University in Cieszyn and is a former faculty member of the College of William and Mary, Richmond University in Virginia, University of Nevada in Las Vegas, the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and the Levine School of Music in Washington D.C.

[Intro - Talk](#)

Lecture-Recital: LUSH-Three Sonatas (Roméo Records 7326):

Franz Liszt-Piano Sonata in B minor S.178

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Grażyna Bacewicz -Piano Sonata No. 2 (1953)

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Łukasz Woś-Piano Sonata (2016)

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The title L U S H on the presented recording refers to the richness of sounds, colors and texture in all three presented sonatas. They share virtuosity, formal construction, the symphonic approach to piano and a profoundly deep dramatic nature. The Piano Sonata in B minor S.178, dedicated to Robert Schumann, was completed by Franz Liszt in 1853 and was published the following year. Among piano sonatas, it is without a doubt one of the most challenging, extensive and revolutionary in its formal design. Piano Sonata No. 2 was composed by Grażyna Bacewicz in 1953 at the height of Stalinist repressions in Poland, is in a neo-classical style, making use of the influence of jazz (2nd mvt.), Polish folk music (oberek) and a neo-baroque form, the toccata (3rd mvt). The Łukasz Woś Sonata, inspired by Liszt's B minor Sonata, was commissioned by Anna Kijanowska in 2016. It is formally similar to Liszt's Sonata in B minor, as well as influenced by the expressionism of late Alexander Scriabin and Sergei Rachmaninov. The recording has won two international awards in 2020: The Akademia Award (February) and The Global Music Award (April) in California, United States.