

Wacław Geiger

He was born on June 25, 1907 in Krakow, and died on April 30, 1988 in Zakopane. He was buried in the Zakopane old cemetery at ul. Koscieliska. He was a conductor, pianist, composer, accompanist and singer. Many of his compositions have entered the repertoire of the Tatra Climate Orchestra.

Wacław Geiger began to learn the piano and the violin when a few years old child. In later years he also learned to play the cello, viola and organ. He graduated from high school in mathematics and natural sciences in Chrzanów, and then he took up legal studies at the Jagiellonian University, but from which he resigned after a year. In the end, he graduated from the conservatory of the Music Society in Krakow.

In the early years of his musical career, the artist worked among others at the Krakow Opera and at the Polish Radio station, where he was the first music director. He spent World War II in Krakow, and after its end he lived and worked in various Polish cities. At that time he was professionally involved, among others with the Krakow Philharmonic, Musical Theaters in Łódź, the State Operetta and the State Higher School of Music in Warsaw, and the State Operetta in Lublin.

He settled in Zakopane in 1963, but he was known to the local community earlier from a concert in the Morskie Oko hotel room, or carols and pastors presented on the radio.

Wacław Geiger was the deputy director of the Music School in Nowy Targ, the founder and director of the Social Music Centre in Zakopane, and the choir and orchestra at the Zakopane Music School. There he also led a solo singing class. Being retired, he continued to actively work in the field of music education: he taught singing, managed school vocal ensembles, collaborated with Wierchy and Rysy choirs. For many years he sat on the jury of the International Festival of Highland Folklore. He was also a founding member of the Karol Szymanowski Music Society in Zakopane and the chairman of the Zakopane circle of the Association of Polish Music Artists.

Prepared by: Agnieszka Jurczyńska-Kłosok

Fragments of compositions can be listened to in the bench:

- Wacław Geiger *Tęsknica* (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner) Hanka Nowobilska. Performers: Hanka Rybka, Tatra Climate Orchestra, director Agnieszka Kreiner
- Wacław Geiger *Sumiom leaves* (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner), Text Jan Mazur. Performers: Hanka Rybka, Tatra Climate Orchestra, director Agnieszka Kreiner
- Wacław Geiger *A kie jo se zagrom* (arr. Agnieszka Kreiner), Text Jan Mazur Performers: Hanka Rybka, Tatra Climate Orchestra, director Agnieszka Kreiner

The text is read by Andrzej Bienias - Actor of the St. I. Witkiewicz Theatre

Bench project: sculptor Marek Szala

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