



Puchnowski Włodzimierz Lech, prof. dr ph. m. was born on the 28th of February 1932 in Warszawa in the teachers' family. In 1938 he started playing the piano under his mother's direction; since 1939 he had continued it in the Conservatory of Music in Wilno. After the arrival to Białystok in 1945 he entered the general education high school and the sisters Frankiewicz's Music Institute. Between 1946 – 1950 he studied the piano with Z. Mularczyk in Konstancin near Warszawa and then with the well known teacher of Warszawa schools of music, K. Fangor.

At that time he started to play accordion as an autodidact. He graduated from the high school in 1950 and entered the Primary School of Music No 1 in Warszawa where he studied accordion under J. Orzechowski until 1954. Between 1954 and 1956 he continued his education in the Secondary School of Music No 1 in Warszawa on the general music faculty.

Between 1951–1955 he was a student of Warsaw University where he studied English philology. On the 27th of June 1955 he graduated with the MA degree. Between 1956–1959 he went through the musical studies in concert accordion, theory of music and conducting in Franz Liszt Musikhochschule in Weimar (Germany), and post-graduate training in the Institute of Music in Trossingen (Germany).

In 1950 Wł. L. Puchnowski started his teaching activity in the amateur movement. He taught accordion playing and was a conductor of different choirs. Between 1954–1973 he worked¹ as a teacher in primary and secondary schools of music in Warszawa². Since 1961 up to 2005 he has been teaching in the Fr. Chopin Academy of Music in Warszawa³: between 1961–1964 as an instructor on commissioned hours; between 1965–1972 as a lecturer; between 1972–1983 as an associate professor and at last since 1983 as a full professor.

Wł. L. Puchnowski: educated 83 Masters of Art, prepared 56 prize winners of national and international competitions who received 80 I/II/III prizes, conducted an intensive education of the teachers and talented young accordionists on 125 national and international master seminars and 158 conferences in Austria, Denmark, Holland, former Yugoslavia, Norway, Germany, Sweden and Music Academies in Berlin, Hannover, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Linz, Trossingen. devoted to the methods of teaching. He educated also the academic staff conferring in Poland and abroad (Austria, Russia, White Russia, Germany), 58 dr degrees 83 dr hab. degrees and 48 professor titles.

In the periods of his pedagogical careers, Wł. L. Puchnowski filled the chair of many responsible functions as: the head of the accordion department in the

¹ with the exception of the period for his studies in Weimar between 1956–1959.

² Primary Schools of Music No 7 and No 1 and in Secondary School of Music No 1.

³ Fr. Chopin Academy of Music till 1980 was named Fr. Chopin Higher School of Music.

Central Pedagogical Institute for the Education in the Arts (1960–1965); the head of teachers' training department of the Fr. Chopin Academy of Music in Warszawa (1974–81); the Vice President of the Fr. Chopin Academy of Music in Warszawa (1981–84) and the head of the chair of accordion at the same Academy since 1979 up to 2002.

His knowledge, professional experience and activity caused that he was elected to fill the chair of the important functions such as: an expert of the Minister of Culture and Art (since 1964); a member of the Council of Polish Music Industry (1965 –1980); a member of the Bulletin Editorial Council of the Folk Music Institute (1970 –1982); a member of the Senate of the Fr. Chopin Academy of Music and its different committees (1979 – 2002); the Vice President and the President (1985 –1991) and since 1992 – 2002 a member of the National Council for University Level Education in the Arts; a member of the National Committee concerning teachers' education and post graduate training (1986 – 1990); a member of the National Teachers' Qualifying Committee in the Arts (1986–98); member of the National Committee for doctor grades and professor's titles (2003 – 2012)

Wł. L. Puchnowski the prize winner of the two international competitions: in Warszawa, the solo one in 1955 (the third prize) and the chamber one in Annemasse in France in 1972 (the first prize) started his professional concert activity as a member of Young Scout's Orchestra⁴. Since that time till 1989 he had been leading an intensive concert activity with his Accordion Quintet founded by himself in 1961. He gave concerts which were broadcast on the radio and TV in Poland, Germany, France, Scandinavian countries and in Korea⁵. He took part in 25 festivals of contemporary music e.g. in "Warsaw Autumn"; he gave concerts in philharmonic halls, churches, palaces, schools and music clubs, presenting accordion as concert instrument all over Poland, in many European countries and in the Far East. He co-operated with All Polish Concert Agency, Polish Agency of Arts and music associations. His artistic achievements were recorded live on 4 analogue LP's, 2 CD's and 1 cassette. Wł. L. Puchnowski's concert activity closes with the number of about 2000 concerts including 428 solo and 1572 chamber ones.

Wł. L. Puchnowski's activity as a scholar was not the work done by chance. This extremely well educated man, the master of humanistic sciences, the concert artist with a wide theoretical knowledge, decided to dedicate his research work to the following basic areas: the methods of teaching, the improvement of accordion playing, the history of accordion, its construction and sound structure.

During many years of his fruitful scientific and research work he wrote 100 items such as: music manuals, books, music arrangements, dissertations, and scientific informations; 43 articles in national and foreign magazines;

⁴ 28.11.1946.

⁵ For the first time Wł. L. Puchnowski gave a concert in TV in 1953.

59 reviews and opinions on artistic and scientific works of other authors; 69 expert's reports and elaborations for the need of music industry; 22 prefaces to the books of other authors; 30 syllabi for music schools of the different grades; 36 reports delivered on 36 seminars, scientific sessions and symposiums, and supervising 63 master theses. His most important publications are: *An Outline of Accordion History in Poland*, AMFC, Warszawa, 1986; *Polnischer Aufbruch in Ungewiesse*, *Neue Musikzeitung*, Munig, 1991; *National and International Accordion Competitions Between 1955–1995* (co-author A. Kuwaczka), AMFC, Warszawa, 1955; *Analysis of Professional and Educational Qualifications of Accordion Teachers in Poland* (co-author K. Baran), AMFC, Warszawa, 1996; *The Catalogue of Polish Original Accordion Music*, (co-author Z. Koźlik), AMFC, Warszawa, 1989; *Standardization of the Accordion*, AMFC, Warszawa, 1996; *The School of Bellowing and Accordion Articulation*, PWM, Kraków, I edition 1964, II edition 1980; German version „*Die Schule der Balgführung und Tongestaltung auf dem Akkordeon*”, Wien, 1968; *The Ways of Tone Shaping on the Accordion*, MP No 83, COPSA, Warszawa, 1965; German version „*Tongestaltung und Balgführung auf dem Akkordeon*, *Volksmusikerverlag*”, Trossingen, 1966; *Fingerings for the Button Accordion*, Fonola, Warszawa, 1993, Dortmund, MW Musikverlag 1996. *Mein Weg zur Standardisierung der Akkordeonproduktion*, Niemcy, Trossingen, *Das Akkordeon* nr 20/1996 ISSN 0179 583 X. *Fifty years of professional education in concert accordion in Polish music schools and universities* Warszawa, UMFC, KA, 2009; *Jan Sebastian Bach and accordion. The new trends in music education*, Lublin, UMCS, ISBN 83-227-2453-5; *Bearbeitung die schöpferische Musikgattung*, Warszawa, UMFC, KA. 2011.

Wł. L. Puchnowski's scientific activity defined the base and directions for accordion development and created theoretical assumptions for forming the concert accordion playing and elaborating contemporary methods of teaching as well as for basic changes for the future improvement in accordion manufacturing on an international scale. He had also an essential influence on profound structural changes in musical education in Poland in the area of faculties, syllabi, schedules, programmes of studies, students' affairs etc.

Wł. L. Puchnowski was also an outstanding leader of the music movement in the country as well as abroad. His erudition and fluency in a few languages, easiness in forming utterances, competence to lead the groups of people and conduct negotiations caused that he was appointed to fill the chair of many responsible functions such as: the Vice President and Propaganda Officer of Confederation International des Accordeonistes IMC (1963–1989), a member of The Executive Committee of International Accordionists' Society, the President of the Governing Board of the Polish Accordionists' Association since 1961 to the present day. Numerous organizations offered him their membership e.g. The International Council of Fine Arts Deans (USA) or The Kuratorium of International Competition in Markneukirchen-Klingenthal (Germany).

Wł. L. Puchnowski has been invited as: an adjudicator of 87 international competitions all over Europe and New Zealand, 27 National Accordion Competitions and as a delegate of 55 congresses of international organizations where he represented the interests of Polish national culture⁶.

For his service Wł. L. Puchnowski received numerous diplomas of acknowledgement, medals, awards, and honourable scientific degrees. Among many honours, let us mention the most important ones: The Gold Cross of Merit – 1973 and Knight Cross of Order of Polonia Restituta of Polish Government – 1983, 2003; Medal The National Council of Education of the Polish Ministry of Education – 1985; Golden Medal “Gloria Artis” 2010 for his outstanding achievements in culture; 7 awards of the Minister of Culture – 1970, 1974, 1980, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1996 for peculiar achievements in his artistic and educational activity; 9 awards of the President of the Fr. Chopin Academy of Music for remarkable achievements in 1972, 1975, 1978, 1985, 1990, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2003; award the Meritorious Artist of Polish Culture – 1972; the Medal of the Fr. Chopin Academy of Music – 1981, 2011; awards such as: Meritorious for the Białystok region – 1982; for the Tarnobrzeg province – 1985; for the city of Mława – 1991; for the city of Sanok – 2002; the Merit Award of the Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes IMC – 1971, 1986, 1989; the Gold Reed and Medal of the Senate of Castelfidardo for his merits for the development and improvement of accordion in the world – 1988; Honorary Citizenship of the State of Texas, USA – 1988; Hugo Herrmann Medal, Germany – 1991; the Silver Plate of the Russian Academy of Music for his merits of improving the art of accordion, Moscow – 1995; honorary Cultural Doctorate in the Philosophy of Music of the World University Roundtable, Benson, Arizona, USA – 1988;

Wł. L. Puchnowski's activity is an evidence of uncommon individuality of a man who, having been convinced of the aims and the need of work for others, was able to devote his all active life to propagate the music culture in the wide sense of this word.⁷

His biography was published in:

The International Directory of Leadership, USA, Bur Oak Circle, ABI, 1980
Five Thousand Personalities in the World, USA, Bur Oak Circle, ABI, 1982
International Who's Who of Intellectuals, GB, Cambridge, IBC, 1987
International Leaders In Achievement, GB, Cambridge, IBC, 1988, 1989
International Who's Who In Music, GB, Cambridge, IBC, 1985, 1987, 1992
Mirek Alfred, Harmonika, Rosja, Moskwa, Interpaks, 1994
Złotą Księgę Nauki Polskiej, Gliwice, PIB, 2000, 2004, 2006
Encyklopedia Muzyczna Karków, PWM, 2004
Leksykon Polskich Muzyków Pedagogów, Kraków, Impuls, 2008

⁶ Wł. L. Puchnowski was a chairman of the juries 47 times including 26 times abroad.

⁷ Anna Stępień, Wł. L. Puchnowski, Twórca Polskiej Szkoły Akordeonowej. (Wł. L. Puchnowski, The Creator of the Polish Accordion Movement, an Extensive Biography, AMFC, Warszawa, 1997).