

Albert Grudziński

He is a musicologist, a music theoretician, a member of the Honorary Committee on the worldwide celebrations in memory of Artur Rubinstein - Hommage a` Artur Rubinstein.

Born in Warsaw into a family boasting several generations of musicians, he started having piano lessons at a very early age. Later he also took cello lessons.

Mr Grudziński pursued his Master's Degree in music theory, composition and conducting at the State Higher School of Music in Wrocław, and in musicology at Warsaw University. Upon his graduation he devoted himself to writing music for the theatre, including the Japanese fable "The Eternal Crane", which was staged in Warsaw and dramatised for television. He co-authored, with his brother Antoni, a book "The Chopin Cult in Poland".

For 27 years Albert Grudziński worked in the Fryderyk Chopin Society. During his tenure as director, the Society conducted a wide range of activities that included concerts, popularising events and research projects, although it never received government subsidies. In his capacity as director of the International Chopin Piano Competition, Mr Grudziński succeeded in increasing the popularity of the event in Poland and its international renown. This was possible thanks to the perfect organisation, the high level of piano performance of the participants and the high professional standard of the jurors. The Warsaw Competition, which is a member of the Geneva-based International Federation of Music Competitions, has had the support of consecutive Polish Presidents, under whose patronage it is held, Premiers and Ministers of Culture, who have sponsored main statutory prizes.

Under Albert Grudziński the formula of the Chopin Competition was several times altered to be better suited for assessing the world's greatest talents as well as for promoting the very idea of the Competition, which was a model for other music contests. He built up useful contacts that benefitted the Competition.

Mr Grudziński has served on the juries of renowned music contests, has given lectures on Chopin in many countries and has acted as advisor to the Van Cliburn Competition in Fort Worth, Texas.

Until 2011 Albert Grudziński was a deputy director in the Fryderyk Chopin Institute.