



ROBERTO CURA

PIANO

Roberto Cura has been playing the piano since the age of 11. As an ex-student of The British School, he passed both GCSE and IB Music. This will now be his 5th year teaching at the school, during which time he has helped a numerous amount of students to prepare and pass their ABRSM piano exam. Although classically trained with a particular love of Chopin, Roberto is an strong admirer of jazz. As a result he can teach in a variety of styles. Roberto is keen to pass on his love of piano playing to others.

Outside of teaching, he has taken a different approach to music and is professionally pursuing the life of a music documentary photographer. Currently, he is working on a documentary that seeks to explore the streets of Warsaw and find the music within it.

website: www.curaphoto.squarespace.com



MAGDALENA IRMIŃSKA

FLUTE

I am a flautist that plays all kinds of flutes - from baroque to piccolo. I studied at the Fryderyk Chopin Music University and Hochschule fuer Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Mannheim. I have performed both solo and with different ensembles in many places around the country (Polish National Opera, Warsaw Philharmonic, Royal Łazienki, University of Warsaw) and abroad (Czech National Radio in Ostrava, Jayu Theatre in Seul). I am a fellow of the Austria Barock Akademie, Polish Institute in Vienna, Adam Mickiewicz Institute scholarships.

I especially enjoy playing in ensembles as it allows me to make beautiful music with other people. Also watching my students make constant progress is another particular highlight of mine. Apart from playing the flute I also study "Dietetics" at Warsaw Medical University, as a healthy lifestyle and good food are my other passions in life.



MARCIN KUKIEŁA

GUITAR

Marcin has been teaching children and adult students for 17 years. A few years ago he had his own Guitar School in Warsaw. Today he has many students that are guitarists and are working as successful, professional musicians. He teaches on electric and acoustic guitar: Rock, Blues, Classic, Jazz and Flamenco. He is able to prepare students towards the ABRSM exam system. In lessons he likes to take care of note reading skills, chord diagrams and of course reading TABs. In his classes he devotes a few minutes to ear training as in his opinion it is very important for any professional musician. Marcin as a teacher is very patient and friendly, he treats each student as an individual.

Marcin is also a musician with a deep education, he graduated from The Faculty of Jazz and Classic in Warsaw in 1998 and learned for one year in a Flamenco School. He has participated in private lessons with famous guitarists such as Brandon Furman (USA). Besides this he was studying Law at Warsaw University.

As a guitarist he has worked as a sideman with many Polish pop stars. He has concerted in Canada, Germany, Russia and Croatia.



PAWEL MAZURCZAK

BASS GUITAR / DOUBLE BASS

Pawel has been playing bass since he was 14 years old. He graduated secondary music school in Kielce and post-secondary study of jazz in Warsaw at the double bass department under the direction of famous Polish jazzman Zbigniew Wegehaupt. Simultaneously he obtained pedagogical university diploma as a music teacher.

He plays acoustic bass, electric upright bass and bass guitar, performing different musical styles - from classical, jazz, salsa, reggae to world and pop music.

During his „bass career“ he played and recorded with many artists such as:

Tadeusz Nalepa, Kora Jackowska (Kora Ola Ola!), Trebunie Tutki, Włodzimierz Kiniorski, Liroy, Sidney Polak, KASA, Blue Cafe, Tytus Wojnowicz, Marek Biliński, Elżbieta Mielczarek, Jean Luc Ponty, Henryk Gembalski, Piasek, Antonina Krzysztoń, Rafał Olbrychski, Jan Pietrzak, Kabaret Moralnego Niepokoju and many others.

You can hear his basses on over 20 CD's.

Nowadays he cooperates with Kapela ze Wsi Warszawa (Warsaw Village Band), Strojnowy and Mamadou & Sama Yoon.

For many years he has been conducting educational activities as a bass teacher and music bands instructor. Since 2009 he has been teaching at the music school at the Educational Center for the Blind in Laski.

At The British he has been teaching for almost two years now. He can teach many styles of bass guitar playing from first to pro level.



JUSTYNA MELISZEK

CELLO

Justyna has many years of experience in both cello performance and teaching. She graduated from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in the class of Tomasz Strahl. She has participated in numerous masterclasses, where she excelled her skills not only in playing but also in teaching. Collaborating with many prominent professors, orchestras and conductors she expanded her knowledge and understanding of classical music. Justyna now collaborates with the most established musical theatres in Poland, such as the Roma Musical Theatre, Rampa Theatre, Studio Buffo, and has performed with some of the most popular Polish artists such as Monika Brodka, Kari, Grzech Piotrowski, and many more. As a recognised cellist Justyna has taken part in multiple recording sessions and even had an opportunity to try her chances as an actress. On top of that she is a co-funder and a member of female folk ensemble Same Suki.

She firmly believes that every musical activity can lead to personal development and never passes on new artistic experiences.



ANTONINA NIDWORSKA

OBOE

Antonina Nidzworska graduate of the Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw and Royal Conservatory in Hague (Netherlands). Antonia performs frequently, locally and abroad, as a soloist and member of a chamber ensemble and in orchestras known in Europe and around the world. She collaborates with a lot of famous conductors - in 2014 she was chosen to represent the Frederic Chopin orchestra and she played tournée in South Korea under the direction of Warsaw Philharmonic conductor- Antoni Wit. She is a double scholarship holder given by the Austrian Cultural Forum. Currently she cooperates with Radzimir "Jimek" Dębski Orchestra, Folk Song and Dance Ensemble "Mazowsze" Symphony Orchestra and Radom Chamber Orchestra. Since 2013 she is a music/oboe teacher at the Stanisław Moniuszko music school and The British School in Warsaw.



RITCHIE PALCZEWSKI

GUITAR

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

The ability to play the acoustic, electric and classical guitar, composing, arrangement, gaining self-confidence, dealing with stage fright, teamwork in the studio and on the stage – these are all the valuable things you can learn from Ritchie. His knowledge comes from his 20 years of music experience in the studio and on stage.

He has been working as a teacher since 2005. He specializes in teaching guitar to children and teenagers. In 2004 he got a Master’s degree in Philosophy at the Jagellonian University and completed additional pedagogical studies, which provided him the skills to work with children and teenagers.



FILIP RAKOWSKI

DRUMS

Born in 1976 in Warsaw.

Filip Rakowski is a drummer, educator, composer, arranger and lyricist.

Filip graduated from music schools with diplomas certifying his thorough education in the piano and the classical drums classes. So far Filip has recorded and published two solo albums under the stage nickname 'Funky Filon'. His debut album titled "Autorytet" (released by Sony/Bertelsmann Music Group in year 2000) containing the hit single "Przesilenie" was nominated for Fryderyk 2000 Music Prize. The Music Video to this song was on a 'heavy rotation' in MTV.

His playing can be heard on over 50 albums of various Polish artists. During his artistic adventure Filon has cooperated as a session musician with major Polish artists such as Maryla Rodowicz, Kasia Kowalska, Natalia Kukulska, Wojtek Pilichowski, Urszula Dudziak, Reni Jusis, Kaja Paschalska, Sidney Polak, K.A.S.A., Super Girl & Romantic Boys, Kamil Bednarek.

Filip has given his performance at several prestigious national festivals and, as a popular session musician, is now frequently invited to collaborate in a variety of artistic projects.

Filip teaches a variety of drumming styles and topics include:

- *Technique *Rudiments
- *Reading (from beginning to advanced levels) *Chart Reading and Interpretation
- *Jazz (Early Jazz, Big Band, Bebop, and Contemporary) *R&B/Funk (Traditional/Contemporary)
- *Rock (Traditional, Progressive Styles) *Fusion* Reggae/Soca
- *Fundamentals of Afro-Cuban Drumming *Fundamentals of Brazilian Drumming
- *Fills/Soloing (Rock, Funk/R&B, Jazz Styles)
- *Fundamentals of Classical/Orchestral Drumming (Marimba, Xylophone, Vibraphone & Timpani)



ILINA SAWICKA

VOICE & HARP

Born in Warsaw, Ilina graduated from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, with MA honours in "Choir Conducting" (2011) and "Harp" (2013), as well as a Diploma in "Marketing of Culture" from Warsaw University. In addition to this Ilina studied singing in the Music School (Miodowa) in Warsaw and one year at Seville Music Conservatory (Spain). Presently Ilina is working towards a PHD at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music.

Ilina is an active harpist, playing solo concerts as well as with symphonic orchestras (Filharmonia in Białystok and Olsztyn). She is also permanently linked with two duos: with Jerzy Sawicki (viola and harp), and with Can Kehri (cello and harp) and renaissance ensemble Alta.

As a choir conductor she works with variety of ensembles such as Choir Amici Canentes, Choir Warsaw and Choir Parafii WNMP in Stanisławow Pierwszy and promotes choir-harp based music (organised coral workshops Ad Hoc in Fryderyk Chopin University of Music).

Ilina's big passion is whilst teaching singing and harp (Music School in Sulejów), promoting music for younger audiences (polish music magazine "Presto"). Her hobbies include acting (Amateur Theatre „Łazienki”) and traditional folk dancing (Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Warsaw School of Economics).



RACHEL WOOD

VIOLIN & PIANO

Rachel has been playing the violin and piano for around 20 years and has taught for nearly 10. She has a huge passion for music and takes great satisfaction in sharing this love with others and doing her best to inspire them along their musical pathways. Rachel has taught in both inner city and rural schools, music summer courses and Westminster University in London tutoring violinists working towards their Bachelor of Commercial Music degree.

In her early years she was classically trained and fortunate enough to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester where she received a Bachelor of Music Performance with honours degree. Throughout this time Rachel performed with many incredibly talented musicians, conductors, teachers and had the opportunity to play in chamber ensembles, symphony orchestras, opera orchestras, masterclasses and many more.

In more recent years and alternatively to this, Rachel now works more in the popular music industry writing, recording and performing in the trio SISTER WOOD. In 2011 Rachel and her band wrote and recorded two songs with famous violinist Nigel Kennedy on his album *The Four Elements*. Since then they have released their debut album and performed many shows both in Poland and the UK and in 2015 were nominated under the best new comer category at the prestigious Polish Fryderyk awards.

At The British School Rachel has taught children of all ages right from year 1 all the way up to IB. She specialises in teaching the ABRSM syllabus in both violin and piano and can offer support with all aspects of the exam including accompaniment, aural training, sight-reading training and general exam preparation. Due to a wealth of knowledge and experience in both instrumental teaching and the ABRSM system Rachel now manages the Instrumental Programme at The British School supporting tutors and working with the Head of Music organising all of the Instrumental Programme events. Since an overwhelming growth of violinists under Rachel's study she has also started to run a string ensemble after school. It is a fantastic opportunity for youngsters to play in an ensemble environment and most importantly have fun and meet new people who share similar interests and a love for music!