

Mieczyslaw Weinberg

- Biography -

Mieczyslaw Weinberg was born on 08 December 1919 in Warsaw. In Poland, he initially studied piano with Józef Turczynski before moving to the Soviet Union in 1939. He continued his studies at the Minsk Conservatory with Vassily Solotaryov until 1941.

Comparable to Shostakovich, with whom the composer enjoyed a close lifelong friendship, Weinberg's catalogue of works is comprised of a large number of orchestral compositions, (including 22 symphonies), chamber music and especially ballets and operas. Amongst others, he wrote a ballet on the Tolstoy subject of "The Little Golden Bowl," the comic opera "The Love of d'Artaignan" based on the popular novel "The Three Musketeers" of Alexandre Dumas as well as the operas "The Portrait" based on Gogol and "The Idiot" based on Dostoyevsky. In the choice of these subjects, some of which refer to nineteenth-century Russian literature, Weinberg corresponds strikingly often to Dmitri Shostakovich ("The Nose" based on Gogol, "Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk" based on Leskov as well as a ballet based on "The Idiot" of Dostoyevsky) and Rodion Shchedrin ("The Dead Souls" based on Gogol, "Anna Karenina" based on Tolstoy and "The Seagull" based on Chekov).

Weinberg also contributed 60 compositions in the area of film music alone. Possibly with Stravinsky in view, stylistically, he turned to an expressive neoclassicism, developing an individually personal style upon this background.

Mieczyslaw Weinberg died on 27th February 1996