

ANTONI WIT
Conductor

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“Wit, wisdom and triumph; a spectacular Straussian ascent...Indeed, conductor Antoni Wit must take a lion’s share of the credit for the success of this mountain-climb.”

Gramophone/Strauss Alpine Symphony

Born in Krakow in 1944, Antoni Wit is one of the most highly regarded Polish conductors, a champion of Polish music and since January 2002 he has been Director General and Artistic Director of the National Philharmonic in Warsaw

After studying conducting with Henryk Czyz, composition with Krzysztof Penderecki and later with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, Antoni Wit became Top Prize Winner at the Herbert von Karajan International Conducting Competition 1971 in Berlin which proved a pivotal moment in his career. Two years later he assisted Herbert von Karajan at the Easter Festival in Salzburg and during this time he was a regular conductor at the Poznan Philharmonic from 1970 until 1972. Antoni Wit was given the post of Artistic Director for the first time in 1974 with The Pomeranian Philharmonic. Three years later, he assumed the post of Artistic Director and First Conductor of the Orchestra and Choir of the Polish Radio and Television in Krakow. For four years Antoni Wit worked with Orquestra Filharmonica de Gran Canaria in Las Palmas, first as Music Director and then as Visiting Conductor and from 1983 until 2000 held the position of Director of the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra before taking up his current position at the Warsaw Philharmonic.

Antoni Wit’s international career has brought engagements with major orchestras throughout Europe, the Americas and the Far East. Amongst the long and diverse list are orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Dresden, London’s Philharmonia and Philharmonic Orchestras and BBC Symphony Orchestra, WDR Cologne and NDR Hamburg, Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, NHK and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal. Recent and future engagements include Budapest Festival, Dresden Philharmonic, Malaysian Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony Orchestras, Orchestra della Scala, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and the Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia as well as conducting the 2009 opening concerts for the Prague Spring Festival.

Six times Grammy Award nominated, Antoni Wit has made over one hundred and fifty recordings for EMI, Sony and Naxos including an acclaimed release for Naxos of the piano concertos of Prokofiev, awarded the Diapason d’Or and Grand Prix du Disque de la Nouvelle Academie. He was bestowed the award of EMI Record of the Year in 1985 for his recording of Szymanowski’s *Stabat Mater* and in January 2002 his recording of the *Turangalila Symphony* by Olivier Messiaen was awarded the Cannes Classical Award. More recently, the first two records from his series of complete works by Szymanowski were picked as the Gramophone Editor’s Choice and the next two records were awarded the BBC Music Magazine Editor’s Choice.