

One of Poland's leading chamber vocal groups, **The Katowice City Singers' Ensemble "Camerata Silesia"** was established in 1990 by the widely acclaimed and charismatic conductor Anna Szostak, who has led the ensemble ever since. Camerata Silesia is famous above all for its excellent renditions of contemporary music; however, they also find themselves in the sphere of early music.

During its 30-year long career, Camerata Silesia has gained international fame, promoting Poland and the City of Katowice at performances in Europe's most prestigious concert halls taking part in numerous international festivals, performing not only a cappella chamber works, but also oratorio and cantata repertoire in an extended line-up.

Maintaining close relationships with leading representatives of contemporary music, Camerata Silesia has premiered more than 280 new works, many of which were composed especially for the ensemble. Not only the concert performances of the Camerata have found international critical acclaim, but also its CD recordings, of which there are currently several dozen. Two albums recorded by Camerata Silesia have been awarded "Fryderyk" - the Award of the Polish Academy of Phonographic, and many CDs have been nominated for this award.

Camerata Silesia's artistic mastery has been highly praised by Krzysztof Penderecki, whose St Luke Passion, Polish Requiem and Seven Gates of Jerusalem were frequently performed by the ensemble under the baton of the conductor himself in such cities as Münster, Cracow and Hamburg. The Camerata has also performed Maestro Penderecki's Canticum Canticorum during the Warsaw Autumn Festival. In 2012, Camerata Silesia was invited to take part in performances and DVD recordings of the stage version of Penderecki's Passion directed by Grzegorz Jarzyna.

The Camerata's recent highlights include also concerts with the London Baroque Orchestra, the premiere of Marcel Pérès' Missa ex tempore, performance of Penderecki's St Luke Passion with London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Jurowski as well as operas in concert version performed with Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin (Christoph Willibald Gluck – Orpheus and Eurydice) and Hofkapelle München (Henry Purcell - Dido and Aeneas).

Since 2014, Camerata Silesia has realised its own series at the new seat of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, performing regularly a variety of works ranging from classical music to jazz and popular music.

**Anna Szostak** - polish conductor and pedagogue. A graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music of the University of Silesia, she holds a professor degree in conducting. She established and led several vocal ensembles, with which she won prizes at Polish and international festivals. However, she received her highest acclaim as the leader and conductor of The Katowice City Singers' Ensemble "Camerata Silesia", established in 1990. Under her guidance, the ensemble, composed of singers-soloists, performs both a cappella and vocal-instrumental works, not only on the concert stage but also in the recording studio, garnering many prestigious awards and earning critical acclaim in Poland and abroad.