

**Wiesław Ochman**, tenor (POL)

*Wiesław Ochman* studied singing with Gustaw Serafin (1955–1959) and Maria Szłapakova (1960–1963). As early as 1960 he was accepted to the Silesian Opera in Bytom, transferring in 1963 to the Krakow Opera and becoming the soloist of the Grand Theatre in Warsaw, where he acquired much fame as Jontek in Moniuszko's *Halka*. His first international engagement came when he played Turridu in the *Cavalleria Rusticana* in Berlin in 1967. The initial success began to appear for example at the Glyndebourne Opera Festival (debuting as Lensky in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*) and at Salzburger Festspiele. In 1972 he performed in the Paris Opéra, in Chicago and in San Francisco. In 1975 came his debut on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera as Arrigo in Giuseppe Verdi's *Les vêpres siciliennes*. He performed at the greatest operatic scenes, in La Scala (1982), Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, and in opera houses in Buenos Aires, Madrid, Rome, Sevilla and Vienna. He cooperated with the most prominent orchestras, including Wiener Philharmoniker and Berlin Philharmonic under the direction of Herbert von Karajan and Karl Böhm. Oratorios occupy a special place in Ochman's art. He took part in many recordings of world-renowned companies such as Deutsche Gramophon, Polydor, EMI, Decca, but also Supraphon or the Polish company, Muza. Naxos describes him as the first world-known Polish tenor since Jan Kiepura. In 2001 he was decorated with the Order of Polonia Restituta, Second Class. Wiesław Ochman often performed in Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic and he also is a successful promoter of Czech music in the world. In 1987 he was invited by Václav Neumann to perform in the unique performance of Dvořák's *Saint Ludmila* with the Czech Philharmonic. He has performed several times at the Prague Spring Festival. He recorded Dvořák's *Armida*. He was on stage with Gabriela Beňačková during the *Jenůfa* performance in Carnegie Hall in 1988. His performance in *Jenůfa* was recorded in 1982 in the Wiener Philharmoniker recording by Decca (under Charles Mackerras with Elisabeth Söderström, Eva Rand and Peter Dvorský).