

ALEMANY (actually **ALTMAN**) Bernard (1904–1993), violinist, conductor and composer. He was born on 4th October 1904 in Częstochowa, the son of the merchant Lajzer Altman and Hana née Dawidowicz. He graduated from high school and, in the beginning of the 1920s, he began studying at the Julius Stern Conservatory in Berlin. For two years, he studied popular music, specialising in the tango. From the mid-1920s, he performed on the German Berliner Rundfunk and Westdeutscher Rundfunk radio stations and recorded albums for the Telefunken label. He led dance bands in Berlin, among them a seven-piece tango orchestra - "Orquesta Tipica Argentina". He performed in the Berlin Hotel Adlon and at the Palais am Zoo.

He performed in *Tabaris* in Düsseldorf, in *Emabssadeurs* in Paris, in *Casino* in Seville and the *Embassy Club Copenhagen* in Brussels. In 1931 and in 1935, he recorded several albums for the Syrena Record label in Warsaw. In December 1933, he applied for membership of the *Reichsmusikkammer* (Reich Chamber of Music) and was initially accepted into this professional organisation. In July 1935, he joined Otto Hendriks' orchestra in Berlin's *Tanzpalast Delhi*.

Following a document inspection carried out by an associate of the Chamber, he lost his job and membership of the organisation. (He was accused of concealing his Jewish origin, pretending to be an Argentinian, of lacking professional skills and of fraud in the payment of dues.) Alemany refused to undergo a periodic aptitude test and declared his desire to leave Germany. However, he appealed against the ban on him working. On 25th September 1935, his appeal was rejected and he was, finally, expelled from the Chamber. He then emigrated to the United States, where he worked as an orchestra leader. He died on 22nd August 1993 in New York.

S. Fetthauer, *Bernard Alemany*, in: *Lexikon verfolgter Musiker und Musikerinnen der NS-Zeit*, Hamburg 2007 (internet version); Błaszczyk, *Żydzi w kulturze muzycznej*, p. 14. - APCz, group No. 58, birth certificate No. 505/1904.

Wiesław Paszkowski