

GRADSTEIN Alfred (1904–1954), composer. He was born on 30th October 1904 in Częstochowa, the son of → Markus and Augusta née Wiernik, the brother of → Juliusz Gardan.

He studied in the Philosophy Faculty of the University of Warsaw and, at the same time, at the Warsaw Conservatory. In 1926-27, he continued his musical studies in Vienna. In 1928, he lived in Paris, where he published a numerous works, mainly for the piano. He involved himself in communal activities. From 1937, he conducted musical events within workers' circles.

In 1940-45, he lived in southern France. In 1947, he returned to Poland, where he created compositions with an element of socialist realism (the cantata *Słowo o Stalinie* ["A Word About Stalin"] was awarded second prize in the 1951 Polish Music Festival and, in 1952, the State Prize, third level). He created songs for the masses, among them being the hit *Na prawo most, na lewo most* ("A Bridge to the Right, a Bridge to the Left", words by H. Kołaczkowski), for which he received, in 1950, the State Prize, third level. His output included songs for the stage and also popular musical pieces. In 1948-50, he served as secretary-general of the Polish Composers' Union.

He died on 29th September 1954 in Warsaw and was buried in the Powązki Cemetery.

A Walaciński, *Alfred Gradstein*, w: *Encyklopedia muzyczna PWM. Część biograficzna*, ed. E. Dziębowskiej, [vol. 3], Kraków 1987, p. 436, – "Życie Częstochowy" 1954, No. 234, p. 2, No. 235, p. 2 (obituary and memories).

Juliusz Sętowski