

WAGHALTER Henryk (1869-1961), cellist, composer. He was born on 1st February 1869 in Warsaw, the son of Abraham, the brother of Ignacy, a pianist, conductor, composer, Józef a violinist and Władysław, a violinist.

In 1887-1892, he studied cello under the direction of Władysław Aloiz and Antoni Cinka, and composition with Zygmunt Noskowski in the Warsaw Institute of Music. He continued his cello studies with Hugo Becker in Frankfurt and with Julius Klengel in Leipzig, composition with Friedrich Gernsheim in Berlin and with Antonin Dvořák in Prague.

Upon returning to Warsaw, he perfected his cello-playing with A. Herman. For several dozen years, he was concertmaster of the Grand Theatre Orchestra. He worked as a teacher in the local State Conservatory of Music. From 1897(?), he also taught music at the Warsaw Institute for the Deaf and the Blind. He often performed as a soloist. He was considered one of the best cellists, not only in Poland, but also internationally.

During the German occupation, he was locked inside the Warsaw ghetto. He survived thanks to help from his Polish friends. Following the fall of the Warsaw Uprising, in October 1944, he found himself in Częstochowa. As one of twenty-eight instrumentalists from Warsaw, from the first half of 1945, he performed, in a symphony group, in Częstochowa. From that year, he also taught at the local Lower and Secondary Music School of the Music Teachers College, where he led a cello class. He also gave private lessons.

In 1946, he celebrated the jubilee of his artistic career. He appeared with an orchestra until 1958. He left behind numerous compositions – stage, orchestral, chamber, solo works and songs. He worked on two schools for cello (Kiev prior to 1908 and Warsaw 1915), as well as an instrumental textbook for symphony and military orchestra (Kiev and Warsaw 1908).

He died on 27th August 1961 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Kule Cemetery. In 1949, he won the Częstochowa Prize in the field of culture. He also received other awards, among them from abroad.

It is known that he had a son, who left for Italy.

Pawlikowski, *Kalendarium częstochowskie*, p. 249. – Błaszczyk, *Żydzi w kulturze muzycznej*, pp. 265–266. – Malko, *70 lat orkiestry symfonicznej*, p. 53; Malko, *100 lat szkolnictwa muzycznego*, pp. 86, 89, 158. – “*Życie Częstochowy*” 1961, No. 206, p. 6 (mentioned). – Information from Janusz Kapalski of Częstochowa.

Juliusz Sętowski