

Greetings from Gdansk, Poland

by Anna i Arkadiusz Szafraniec

Hello, Anna and Arkadiusz from Poland are speaking! We play the musical glasses and we do it as the GLASS DUO ensemble. We would like to say hello to every GMI member. We hope we have some interesting news for you from our place - Gdansk, where we live. So...

A few months ago we started to talk about our performance at the Mozart Festival in Gdansk. There were many ideas and suggestions as to which way should we do it, but after a long talk with the organizer we found the solution. We were really surprised when we found more information about other musicians invited to the "Mozartiana". It was the first of this kind of festival organized by Mr. Jan Lukaszewski and his Polish Chamber Choir so it was going to be unusual.

We looked at the festival program and read about Schola Cantorum Gedanensis, Ryga Philharmonic Orchestra, Silesian String Quartet and other interesting groups that make classic as well as jazz and electronic music. We could also find information about concerts by Jozef Skrzek, Emil Kowalski Jazz Quintet and Zbigniew Namyslowski. It was fantastic enough but we didn't think we would have a much bigger surprise. It turned out that we would have a unique occasion to meet other glass musicians there. In addition to our GLASS DUO, the festival organizer invited the Schönfeldingers - from Vienna. We were truly excited.

We must say that we hadn't met other glass musicians before. Just one time - a few years ago, we were in Warsaw and heard Mr. and Mrs. Schönfeldinger. There was not enough time to speak that evening - what a pity... We also didn't have a look at their instruments very carefully.

Now we were dreaming about the possibility of touching and playing these extraordinary instruments. Until now we saw the glassharmonica just in the museums, and the verrophone we know just by the photos.

A few days before the festival beginning we contacted Chris and Gerald. We made an appointment.

The evening we met each other was really nice. We first spoke about problems and doubts concerning playing glass instruments, being on the stage... And we made another



The Schönfeldingers, left, and the Szafraniec, right.

appointment in order to try the instruments. The next day we played an armonica and the verrophone. And we were so surprised. We thought we could play well, but we couldn't. The technique was probably similar but, for sure, not the same.

Both the Vienner Glasharmonika Duo and GLASS DUO concerts had aroused a great interest. There were a lot of people sitting and standing in Abbot Palace. The atmosphere was really good. We played the second part of the piano concerto, thinking: why Mozart didn't write it originally for musical glasses???

After all we can say what was the most important for us:

1. - a great satisfaction and a new experience we made there. Two months ago we played a concert just with Chopin pieces. Now we performed only Mozart.

2. - a possibility to meet with other glass musicians. Not only on the occasion of rare instruments festival. It was really nice!