

KAROL LIPIŃSKI was born on 30 October 1790 in Radzyń Podlaski and died on 16 December 1861 in Urłów near Lviv. A violinist, composer and conductor, he began learning the violin with his father at the age of five. In 1799, together with his family, he moved to Lviv, where he played as the leader of the count Adam Starzeński's palace orchestra led by Lipiński's father. He also became interested in cello and learned to play this instrument as quickly as the violin. In 1809, he became leader, and in 1811, chapel master of the operatic theatre orchestra. In 1814, he left to Vienna, where he met Louis Spohr, German violinist and composer. Persuaded by Spohr, Lipiński decided on his career as a virtuoso violinist. He resigned from his previous work in the Lviv theatre and devoted himself exclusively to perfecting his violin technique and preparing his repertoire. In 1817, he performed in Lviv and then embarked on a tour to Italy across Hungary and Croatia. He gave concerts in Venice, Milan, Padua, Verona and Piacenza, where he performed twice with Niccolò Paganini in April 1818. During his tour that lasted a few years, he gave concerts in Lviv, Kiev, Kremenets, Kamianets-Podilskyi, Vilnius, Kraków, Wrocław, Poznań, Leipzig, Berlin, Moscow and Saint Petersburg, greeted with warm applause in every place. Lipiński's performances in the so-called Kiev contracts, where he played in concerts with e.g. Maria Szymanowska and August Gerke, enjoyed wide popularity. During the coronation ceremony of Emperor Nicolas I in May 1829 in Warsaw, he played with Paganini again. He played in Leipzig, Frankfurt am Main, Paris (where Fryderyk Chopin helped him organise the concert), London, Manchester and Wrocław. After performances in Vienna, he received the title of honorary citizen of this city as a token of recognition for his mastery. In 1839, he settled in Dresden, where he had performed his duties as the leader of the orchestra of king Frederick Augustus II of Saxony for 20 years. He also participated in numerous symphony and chamber music concerts (he played with e.g. Ferenc Liszt) and travelled to Lviv, Kiev and Warsaw. He reconciled his musical duties with pedagogical work, e.g. in 1845, he had the 14-year-old Jozsef Joachim, and in 1848, the 13-year-old Henryk Wieniawski, under his care. He had been gradually limiting his concert life since 1846 due to his illness. After retiring in 1861, he moved to his estate Urłów near Lviv.

Instrumental works prevail in the creative compositional output of Lipiński, mainly the ones in which the violin plays the leading part. They are characterised by wonderful melodic invention and dance-like quality. Elements of the Polish and Ukrainian folklore are to be found in numerous works.

Deux Impromptus op. 34 were published after Lipiński's death at Friedel's (Dresden and Zittau), manuscript of *Impromptus* is held by Det Kongelige Bibliotek (Copenhagen).

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SOON

Karol Lipiński
Souvenir de La Mer Baltique op. 19
for Violin & Piano

Karol Lipiński
Chopin's *Polonezy - Nokturny - Tarantela*
for Violin & Piano