

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (10.10.11)

Further information, media or other inquires: Becky Harris, 508.694.6508, beckbird17@yahoo.com

### ***Seeking the Infinite: A Tour de Force***

Learning full orchestral scores at age four, composing by age seven, conducting a professional orchestra at thirteen, eventually fleeing his native Poland in a hush of secrecy, and becoming an American classical-music sensation as music director of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra—so began the artistic ascent of conductor-composer Stanisław Skrowaczewski.

Much more than a fascinating life saga, the comprehensive new biography *Seeking the Infinite: The Musical Life of Stanisław Skrowaczewski* by Frederick E. Harris, Jr., is an epic work spanning more than 90 years of music history. It reveals little-known facets of concert life and the changing landscape of the professional orchestra while illuminating Skrowaczewski's artistic philosophy, creative genius, and his ties to many of the 20th-century's most eminent musical figures. This maestro has guest conducted every major orchestra in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, and created dozens of orchestral compositions. He has held celebrated directorships with the Minnesota Orchestra (formerly Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra) and the Kraków and Katowice Philharmonics, and was principal conductor of England's Hallé Orchestra and Japan's Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra. A beacon for new music, Skrowaczewski also is considered one of the world's foremost interpreters of the works of Anton Bruckner.

The book's author, Dr. Harris, is music director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Wind Ensemble and Festival Jazz Ensemble. He was inspired to undertake *Seeking the Infinite* after interviewing Skrowaczewski while working on his Ph.D. dissertation about the ways in which a conductor conveys musical feeling. Nine years of meticulous research and 230 interviews have gone into this monumental work.

Throughout the book Harris portrays Skrowaczewski as a man of keen intellect, wit, sensitivity, and integrity. His Old World courtliness, natural reserve, and never-ending quest for perfection have endeared him to many musicians and disaffected others. Decades before it became fashionable, he embraced organic foods, vigorous exercise, and a passion for the outdoors. Skrowaczewski's family life provides some of the book's most moving and charming aspects. Krystyna Skrowaczewski, who died August 26, 2011, was her husband's true partner and the family's bedrock.

The book is both a compelling read with popular appeal and a treasure trove of scholarly resources with its comprehensive list of Skrowaczewski's compositions, transcriptions, and arrangements; full discography; life chronology; and a list of awards and honors. It also includes a full history of the Minnesota Orchestra, including details on how he championed the creation of Orchestra Hall, and a comparative history of Manchester's Hallé Orchestra. Pulitzer Prize-winner Gunther Schuller wrote the book's foreword.

*"Reading Harris' book, one cannot fail to note the principal qualities of his subject: his self-deprecating modesty, wit, intellectual curiosity, scholarship, and—always—his total dedication to his art. Seeking the Infinite is a riveting portrait of a 20th and 21st century man, musician, and his contribution to our world."* —George Sturm, Music Associates of America

Published by CreateSpace, *Seeking the Infinite: The Musical Life of Stanisław Skrowaczewski* is now available at [www.seekingtheinfinite.com](http://www.seekingtheinfinite.com) and Amazon.com

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