

Feliks Nowowiejski



– a Polish composer, concert organist, and conductor. Born on 7 February 1877 in Barczewo (Wartenburg), he was a child of Franciszek, a tailor, and Katarzyna, née Falk.

He was educated how to play the organs in a musical school in the village of Święta Lipka.



Once he and his family moved to Olsztyn in 1893, Feliks became a member of the military orchestra at the grenadier regiment. While staying in Olsztyn, he composed the march *Pod sztandarem pokoju* (Under the Banner of Peace), for which he received the first prize in London in 1898. He used the prize to finance his six-month music studies in Berlin. There, in a music conservatoire, he studied the theory of music and how to play the organs; his additional instrument was the violin.



Since 1 October 1898, he was an organist at St. Jacob's church in Olsztyn for a year and a half. Then he completed further studies in Regensburg. Then again, after working for several months in Olsztyn, he went to study in Berlin for six years. There, he received his composer and conductor diploma. In 1909, he became the art director of the Music Association in Cracow.



In 1910, he wrote music for the Maria Konopnicka's poem *Rota*, which was performed for the first time during the 500th anniversary commemorating the victory of the Battle of Grunwald. During World War I, he stayed in Berlin, where he was conscripted and assigned to the garrison orchestra. Once the war ended, he moved to Poznań.



He took part in the pro-Polish plebiscite in 1920, composed *O Warmio moja miła* (Oh, My Beloved Warmia), performed on 2 June 1920 in Olsztyn for the first time. Nowowiejski spent the interwar period in Poznań. In 1931, he became an honorary member of the Organ Music Society in London. In 1935, Nowowiejski was nominated papal chamberlain by the Pope Pius XI for his composing of church music. Feliks Nowowiejski died on 18 January 1946 in Poznań.

His bibliographical museum is located at St. Anna's church in Barczewo, where the annual International Choir Music Festival is held. Feliks Nowowiejski was the most eminent musician from Warmia.

