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**BOOSEY & HAWKES TO PUBLISH THE MUSIC OF WLADYSLAW SZPILMAN, "THE PIANIST"**

Boosey & Hawkes is pleased to announce the signing of an agreement to publish the music of **Wladyslaw Szpilman**, the Polish composer and pianist whose turbulent life is chronicled in Roman Polanski's award-winning new film, "The Pianist." Szpilman's catalog includes several orchestral works (previously unpublished), various pieces for solo piano, and some 500 pop songs. Twelve of these songs have been recorded, with new English lyrics, on a CD titled "Wendy Lands sings the music of The Pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman," released November 27 on the Hip-O label (Universal Music). B&H's first Szpilman publication will be an album of these same twelve songs, complete with the new texts; it will appear early in 2003.

[pron. VLADislav  
SHPEELmahn]

Wladyslaw Szpilman (1911-2000) studied piano with Arthur Schnabel and composition with Franz Schreker. By the early 1930's he had already established a national reputation as a leading classical pianist and pop songwriter. However, as a Jew living in Warsaw, he was subject to the terrors of the invading Nazis' "final solution." Several times, he narrowly escaped deportation to the death camps. After the war, he wrote his memoirs under the title "Death of a City," but the book was banned by the postwar Communist government. In 1998, the manuscript was rediscovered, leading to a new German edition. It was an immediate success, and formed the source for Polanski's film.

carefree music from a  
troubled time

Remarkably, the music that Szpilman composed during the war years bears little trace of the horrors he experienced. His charming and effervescent 1940 *Concertino* for piano and orchestra is a case in point. Wrote the *Los Angeles Times*, "Playing on a catchy four-note motif, the piece sounds like a European reaching across the sea to a fellow Jewish composer, George Gershwin, with bluesy, rhapsodic flourishes capped by a jazzy final chord." Like Szpilman's other orchestral works, *Concertino* is ideally suited to both standard programs and symphonic pops concerts.