

Chopin Foundation of the U.S

Polonaise

Spring 2009

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Editorial

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER
Blanka A. Rosenstiel

Dear Friends,

In today's world filled with violence we need more music. We need intensive, beautiful music, and we need superb musicians!

For over thirty years the Chopin Foundation has been working to meet the needs and to provide the most beautiful music of Frederic Chopin to appreciative audience. Hundreds of young musicians helped by our programs have brought us back excellent performances and proved that they deserved our help. Now, when we prepare for the Eighth National Chopin Piano Competition, and to the celebrations of the 200th Anniversary of Chopin's birth, more American young pianists expect our help. And we work hard to meet their expectations.

The applications deadline is November 2, the best possible jurors are selected, and everything is ready to welcome the best young Chopinists in Miami. The fundraising campaign has been going well, and we anticipate that our goals are met, despite the uncertain economic situation. We are blessed to have around a great number of individuals who believe in our mission and who

continue to support us. The Florida Chopin Council, our regional chapter in Miami, just started its very special "Prelude to the Competition" campaign, and sells scores of the Prelude no. 20 op. 28. This is a very clever idea to encourage supporters, for whom very handsome benefits are waiting!

While we continue our regular activities, even more intensively than last season, we also work together with the Music Teachers National Association, with the American Pianists Association and with a network of presenters around the country to arrange a national concert tour for our future winner. All six finalists of our National Competition will go to Warsaw in April 2010, all expenses paid by the Foundation, to be part of the Preliminary Round of the International Chopin Competition. A group of Chopin music fans, organized by us, are planning to visit Warsaw in October of next year, to witness first hand the struggle of young pianists from all over the world, and just be there when the new winner of this prestigious competition is announced. A lot more is going on, and I hope to report to you in

This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.

Leonard Bernstein

the next issue of the Polonaise more excitement and more good news!

Great anticipations, along with the necessary work, are in front of us. I am positive though, that the support from the government agencies, from the foundation, corporations, and especially from the concern individuals will continue. I strongly believe that our competition will bring us another group of brilliant artists, and that it will be a great artistic success. Please mark your calendar for February 20-28, 2010, and come to Miami to enjoy Chopin's music, carried on the waves of tropical breeze.

I look forward to seeing you here!

Musically yours,

Blanka



THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION OF THE UNITED STATES

MIAMI, FL, FEBRUARY 20 - 28, 2010

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

LAST MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENT

First Prize Winner of this Competition exempt from the Preliminary Round selection process in Warsaw

THE NATIONAL CHOPIN PIANO

COMPETITION of the U.S. is designed to offer performance opportunities and financial support for young American pianists at career-entry level and to enable the six top Prize-Winners to take part in the Preliminary Round for the XVI International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland, in April 2010.

The expenses related to the participation in the Preliminary Round auditions in Warsaw, including airfare and hotel accommodation, will be covered by the Chopin Foundation of the United States.

The Competition is open to pianists holding U.S. citizenship (native born or naturalized), born between 1980 and 1993. (Previous First Prize Winners of this Competition are not eligible.)

JURY

1. The Jury will consist of nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians.
2. Jurors will disqualify themselves in the case of contestants who are related to them or have had a direct personal or professional relationship at any time during the five years preceding the Competition.
3. The Jury may ask for any work, or only part of any work selected by the candidate.
4. The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to review. The Competition Director's decisions are final on all matters outside the competence of the Jury.

Competition Jury:

Agustin Anievas, USA
Sergei Babayan, Georgia/USA
Bella Davidovich, Russia/USA
Gersende de Sabran,, France
Mark P. Malkovich III, USA
Piotr Paleczny, Poland
Robert Sherman, USA
Ruth Slenczynska-Kerr, USA
Tian Ying, USA

CASH PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE	\$20,000
SECOND PRIZE	\$15,000
THIRD PRIZE	\$10,000
FOURTH PRIZE	\$7,500
FIFTH PRIZE	\$5,000
SIXTH PRIZE	\$3,500

ADDITIONAL PRIZE FOR THE FIRST PRIZE WINNER

- Debut Recital at the Carnegie/Weill Recital Hall, NY
- Twenty-plus concert tour in the U.S. and abroad

ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR SIX FINALISTS

- All-expense-paid trip to Warsaw, Poland, to attend the Preliminary Round for the XVI International Chopin Piano Competition

All prizes listed will be awarded. Awards will be announced and presented immediately following the second part of the Finals on February 28, 2010.





REQUIRED REPERTOIRE

Selections to be chosen from the following works by Frédéric Chopin

STAGE I – PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. One of the following Etudes:

A minor, Op. 10 No. 2; G sharp minor, Op. 25 No. 6;
A minor, Op. 25 No. 11

2. Two Etudes, one from each group below:

a)	b)
C major, Op. 10 No. 1	C major, Op. 10 No. 7
C sharp minor, Op. 10 No. 4	A flat major, Op. 10 No. 10
G flat major, Op. 10 No. 5	E flat major, Op. 10 No. 11
F major, Op. 10 No. 8	A minor, Op. 25 No. 4
C minor, Op. 10 No. 12	E minor, Op. 25 No. 5
	B minor, Op. 25 No. 10

3. One of the following works:

Nocturne in B major, Op. 9 No. 3
Nocturne in C sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 1
Nocturne in D flat major, Op. 27 No. 2
Nocturne in G major, Op. 37 No. 2
Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48 No. 1
Nocturne in F sharp minor, Op. 48 No. 2
Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 55 No. 2
Nocturne in B major, Op. 62 No. 1
Nocturne in E major, Op. 62 No. 2
Etude in E flat minor, Op. 10 No. 6
Etude in C sharp minor, Op. 25 No. 7
Etude in E major, Op. 10 No. 3

4. One of the following works:

Ballade in G minor, Op. 23
Ballade in F major, Op. 38
Ballade in A flat major, Op. 47
Ballade in F minor, Op. 52
Barcarolle in F sharp major, Op. 60
Fantasy in F minor, Op. 49
Scherzo in B minor, Op. 20
Scherzo in B flat minor, Op. 31
Scherzo in C sharp minor, Op. 39

Scherzo in E major, Op. 54

The works may be performed in any order, with the exception of the Etudes from groups a) and b), which must be performed one after the other.

STAGE II – QUARTER FINALS

1. One of the following works not performed in Stage I:

Ballade in G minor, Op. 23
Ballade in F major, Op. 38
Ballade in A flat major, Op. 47
Ballade in F minor, Op. 52
Barcarolle in F sharp major, Op. 60
Fantasy in F minor, Op. 49

2. One of the following waltzes:

Waltz in E flat major, Op. 18
Waltz in A flat major, Op. 34 No. 1
Waltz in F major, Op. 34 No. 3
Waltz in A flat major, Op. 42
Waltz in A flat major, Op. 64 No. 3

Scherzo in B minor, Op. 20
Scherzo in B flat minor, Op. 31
Scherzo in C sharp minor, Op. 39
Scherzo in E major, Op. 54

3. One full set of mazurkas from the following opuses:

17, 24, 30, 33, 41, 50, 56, 59

The mazurkas must be played in the order they are numbered in the opus.

In the case of the Mazurkas Op. 33 and Op. 41 the authentic numbering applies:

Op. 33:	Op. 41:
G sharp minor, No. 1	E minor, No. 1
C major, No. 2	B major, No. 2
D major, No. 3	A flat major, No. 3
B minor, No. 4	C sharp minor, No. 4

4. One of the following polonaises:

Andante Spianato and Polonaise E flat major, Op. 22
Polonaise in F sharp minor, Op. 44
Polonaise in A flat major, Op. 53

5. At least one Chopin work of the contestant's choice not performed in Stage I.

Performances in Stage II should last 45–50 minutes. Works may be performed in any order.

Should a competitor overrun the time limit, the Jury may stop the performance.

STAGE III – SEMI FINALS

1. Polonaise-Fantasie in A flat major, Op. 61

2. Sonata in C minor, Op. 4 or Sonata in B flat minor, Op. 35 or Sonata in B minor, Op. 58
(the repeat of the first movement exposition in the B minor Sonata should not be played; the repeat of the first movement of the B flat minor Sonata is optional).

3. At least one Chopin work of the contestant's choice not performed in the previous stages.

Performances in Stage III should last 55–60 minutes. Works may be performed in any order.

Should a competitor overrun the time limit, the Jury may stop the performance.

STAGE IV - THE FINALS

One of the following piano concerti: in E minor op. 11 or in F minor op. 21.

The Finalists will perform with the orchestra.



APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2, 2009!

ATTACHMENTS TO THE APPLICATION:

1. Copy of birth certificate and a copy of a document showing proof of U.S. citizenship.
2. Two letters of recommendation from renowned pianists or teachers of national standing stating that the applicant is prepared to enter the Competition.
3. Copies of diplomas and/or certificates from various schools of music.
4. One recent color portrait-photograph of the applicant; 300 dpi resolution if electronic version or a good quality glossy 6" x 4" print.
5. Documents showing artistic activities and achievementS for at least the last three years (reviews, concert, programs, awards, etc.).
6. DVD recording containing:

(a) complete program required for Stage I of the Eighth National Chopin Piano Competition (see Repertoire Stage I listing),

(b) a Mazurka chosen from one of the following opuses: 17, 24, 30, 33, 41, 50, 56 and 59,

The works may be performed in any order, with the exception of the set of etudes which have to be performed one after another.

The recording must be made by a single camera, with no cuts during the performance of the work, right profile to the camera, with the pianist's whole silhouette and hands visible.

The DVD should be clearly labeled, including pianist's name, list of the recorded pieces in order and the duration of each piece; the name of the edition of Chopin's works used is also required.

7. A check or money order for the entrance fee of \$100.00 (non-refundable) made out to the Chopin Foundation of the United States. The fee may be

sent electronically to the Chopin Foundation's account via Paypal.

8. A short biography.
9. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Submitted documents will not be returned.
10. A candidate who has supplied misinformation on his or her application, or on the attached material will be automatically disqualified.

The Admission Committee, consisting of acclaimed American pianists, will select not more than 26 contestants. All applicants will be notified by mail/email of acceptance or rejection by January 10, 2010. This notification will constitute an agreement between the Chopin Foundation of the U.S. and the candidate concerning his/her admission and participation in the Eighth National Chopin Piano Competition, in accordance with the rules specified herein.

Application available at www.chopin.org

ACCEPTED CONTESTANTS

1. Travel expenses to and from Miami is the responsibility of the contestants. They will be housed in private homes; practice facilities and local transportation provided.
2. Contestants not advanced to the next round are not obliged to stay for the remainder of the Competition, but are invited to do so.
3. Contestants must arrive in Miami no later than 12 noon on Thursday, February 18. Transportation from the airport will be arranged.
4. Upon arrival, contestants will immediately register with the Competition Committee at a designated location.

5. All contestants will be required to attend a briefing session on Thursday evening and at the same meeting will draw for the order of performance for all stages of the Competition through the Semi-Finals.

6. The Chopin Foundation reserves the right to produce and distribute, without restriction or fee, audio or video recordings of the entire Competition or parts thereof, including the Finals.

7. Sessions may, by permission of the Competition Committee, be:

- a) broadcast live on radio/television/internet
- b) filmed and/or recorded on film, tapes and records for subsequent broadcast, telecast or film documentary
- c) photographed by and for the press, or other publicity purposes, all without fee to the participants.

8. The First Prize Winner will be responsible to appear in all concert engagements arranged by the Chopin Foundation.

9. The Competition Repertoire must be played from memory.

10. The texts of all available editions of Chopin's works are admissible; however, the organizer recommends the Urtext of the National Edition of the Works of Fryderyk Chopin (ed. Professor Jan Ekier).

11. Competitors are obliged to specify in their applications the edition of Chopin's works they will be using and the exact timing of each work.

12. A competitor may alter his/her program for any stage of the Competition by informing the Chopin Foundation of the change by January 31st, 2010.



*Audrey Love
Charitable Foundation*

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More Than Mere Exercises

In Chopin's 27 Études technique and music become one

by Byron Janis

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It was May of 1829 and Frederic Chopin was 19 when he went to hear the great Niccolò Paganini perform his first concert in Warsaw. He was called "a wizard," "the devil incarnate," "super-human," "a violinist without equal" wherever he performed. Chopin was mesmerized by his playing -- Paganini's technique was positively acrobatic. What could he, Chopin, compose for the piano à la Paganini, something different that would echo what he had just heard? A few months later, he wrote to his best friend, Titus Woyciechowski, that "I have written a big, technical exercise -- in my own way." Shortly afterward, he wrote again: "I have composed a few exercises. I would play them well for you if only you were here."

These two études (Exercise 1 & 2, he called them) were the beginning of his 27 Études ("Studies" in English) that were to become the cornerstone of every gifted pianist's repertoire. They are extremely difficult, and he must have been thinking of Paganini -- or Liszt, "The Paganini of the Piano," the only one Chopin felt capable of playing them. In any case, he dedicated the first 12 "to his friend Franz Liszt." Later, on hearing Liszt play them, Chopin exclaimed, "I wish I could steal the secret from Liszt of how he plays my études!"

In "Exercise 1" an extra-large extension of the right hand is required to play the difficult, widely spaced arpeggios that race up and down the keyboard throughout. Chopin's hand was small but extremely flexible, otherwise he could not have played this étude. Could his sleeping with wine corks between his fingers have helped his stretch? It could have, judging from my own finger-stretching devices (though not with wine corks!).

"Exercise 2" especially demonstrates his highly unorthodox but effective way of fingering, which he considered a vital aspect of piano playing. Chopin found that each finger produced a different color. "Don't try to make all your fingers equal in strength. Each one has its own job to do." Searching for ways to improve evenness and legato, he often crossed his longer fingers over each other, slid the same finger from one note to the other, crossed his thumb under his fifth finger -- all sending shock waves among pianists, particularly as it did the trick!

After hearing the first 12 études, the acerbic German critic Ludwig Rellstab gave a highly exaggerated but rather amusing account of their difficulty. "He who has sprained fingers will be able to straighten them out with these études," Rellstab said, "but he who has healthy fingers should be careful not to play them until surgeons

are nearby." The pianist-composer Ignaz Moscheles thought differently: "He who has a small soul should not attempt to play these études."

Chopin's fascination with Paganini continued. In 1831, he attended every one of his 10 concerts in Paris. Paganini comes up again in 1834, when Mendelssohn writes his mother, "He [Chopin] produces new effects (pedaling for example) like Paganini on his violin and accomplishes wonderful passages such as no one could formerly have thought practical."

The second 12 études were dedicated to Countess Marie d'Agoult, Liszt's mistress -- why still remains a bit of a mystery. They are even more beautiful musically and even more technically challenging. The last three studies, "Trois Nouvelles Études," were commissioned by an 1840 publication, "Methods of Piano Playing." For some reason, they seem to be performed less often.

In the 19th century, composers, pianists and teachers wrote exercises providing practice material for developing stronger techniques. Chopin's approach was radical and revolutionary. He wrote his own extremely difficult "exercises" but then did something very different. He merged them with music only he could have written. Magically, the technique and music became one. Exercises could now be performed in public. Each étude has a specific, technical difficulty that continues from beginning to end without a moment's respite. If practicing them over and over doesn't increase your endurance, nothing will.

The word "legato," used often by Chopin here, is regrettably a marking that is too rarely fully applied. It means the bonding of one note to the next, almost as if they were glued together. Its use is the best way to emulate the human voice and make a percussion instrument not only sing but "speak" -- a unique perspective of Chopin's.



In the famous “Revolutionary Étude,” Opus 10 No. 12, the left hand is marked “legatissimo,” extremely legato, which makes it sound like a musical partner to the passionate, right-hand theme, not just a mechanical accompaniment. Perhaps legato should always be marked legatissimo -- it would get the pianist’s attention and then we might have a real legato!

Chopin resented his pieces being given names. “Let them dream what they want.” But publishers knew it increased sales, so every étude was named (not by Chopin): “Tristesse,” “Butterfly Étude,” “Winter Wind,” and so on. Chopin said about “Tristesse” (Sadness), “Never in my life could I again find such a beautiful theme.” Technically, the difficulty is to play both the theme and its accompaniment with one hand. It became so popular that it was made into a song, “So Deep Is the Night,” which can even now be heard on YouTube.

The highly original and experimental mind of Chopin gave birth to the “Black Key Étude” -- where, for the first time, the right hand plays only on the black keys from beginning to end. Incredibly, with changing harmonies, he creates a theme despite all that virtuosity.

The great violinist Jascha Heifetz, whom I had the good fortune of knowing very well, walked into the room where I was practicing this étude. He asked, “Would you just play the left-hand accompaniment?” I thought, “Is he going to try to play that very difficult right hand on the piano?” But, instead, out of his pocket came an orange, which he held in his right hand. “Ready?” He rolled the orange back and forth over the black keys, sounding almost like the real thing -- almost! We were in hysterics. I thought, maybe this étude should now be called the “Orange Étude” -- though I am not sure Chopin would have agreed.



BYRON JANIS is internationally renowned as one of the world’s greatest concert pianists.

In 1978, he made a television special on the life of Frederic Chopin that was shown on PBS in the United States, as well as in different countries around the world.

Among his honors are, Commander of the French Legion d’Honneur for Arts and Letters, the Grand Prix du Disque, the Stanford Fellowship at Yale University and the Distinguished Pennsylvania Artists Award.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2010!

February 20 – 28, 2010

National Chopin Piano Competition of the US, Miami, FL
www.chopin.org

March 20-24, 2010

Annual Convention of the Music Teachers National Association devoted to the music of Frederic Chopin, Albuquerque, NM
<http://www.mtna.org>

October 1-23, 2010

International Chopin Piano Competition, Warsaw, Poland
<http://konkurs.chopin.pl/en>



The 200th Anniversary of Chopin’s Birth in Poland,
<http://chopin2010.pl> or
<http://en.chopin.nifc.pl/institute/>





COMING EVENTS

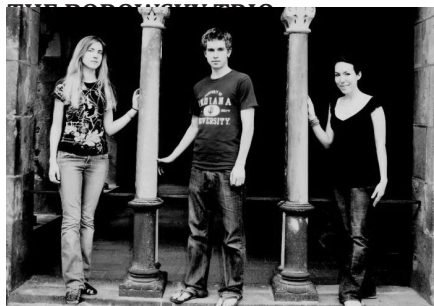
CHOPIN FOR ALL Free Concert Series



Saturday, April 25, 2009
Sunday, April 26, 2009

JULIA KOCIUBAN,
 17-year old winner of the 2008
 National Chopin Piano Competi-
 tion of Poland

Saturday, May 16, 2009
Sunday, May 17, 2009



Frances, cello; Emmanuel, violin; Elizabeth, piano

ALL CONCERTS ARE HELD IN TWO SOUTH
 FLORIDA LOCATIONS:

**Saturdays, 7 PM, at the Broward County Main
 Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave, Fort Lauderdale;**

**Sundays, 3 PM, at the Granada Presbyterian
 Church, 950 University Dr., Coral Gables**

www. chopin.org 305.868.0624

JULIA KOCIUBAN, U.S. TOUR

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 7 PM - PHILADELPHIA, PA
 Presenter: Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia
 The Settlement Music School
 416 Queen Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19147
 Tickets: \$25, students, \$15.
 Contact: Debbie Majka: 215-627-1391

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 4 PM - CLEVELAND, OHIO
 Presenter: The Kosciuszko Foundation, Cleveland
 Chapter
 Shrine of St. Stanislaus, 3649 East 65th Street
 Cleveland, OH 44105; www.ststanislaus.org
 Tickets at the door: \$10 KF members and seniors,
 \$15 adults, \$5 students.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 7:00 AKRON, OH
 Presenter: Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
 Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
 714 N. Portage Path, Akron, OH
 By invitations only
 www.stanhywet.org

APRIL 23, 7:00, THURSDAY - KEY WEST, FL
 Presenter: Performance at St. Paul's
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 401 Duval St; Key West, FL 33040
 \$10 suggested donation
 Contact: 305-296-5142

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 - NEW YORK
 Presenter: Consulate General of the Republic of Poland
 and Chopin Foundation
 Consulate General of the Republic of Poland
 233 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
 Free
 Reservations by April 27 to: 646-237-2114 or to
 evz@polishconsulateny.org

APRIL 30, 7 PM - BARBOURSVILLE, VA
 Presented by Virginia Chapter
 of the Chopin Foundation
 Barboursville Vineyards
 17655 Winery Road, Barboursville, VA 22923
 Tickets: \$60, hors d'oeuvres, Barboursville wine,
 black-tie optional.
 info/tickets at: 540-832-

SPECIAL CONCERTS



May 15, 2009, 8 PM

NING AN, the first prize win-
 ner of the 2000 National Chopin
 Piano Competition of the US with Orchestra Miami;
 Miami-Dade County Auditorium.
 Tickets and more information at:
www.OrchestraMiami.org

May 31, 2009, 5 PM

Mainly Mozart Festival
 in cooperation with the Chopin Foundation
 presents:



ANIA AND PIOTR FILOCHOWSKI, violinists,
 with **JEFFREY LOFF,** pianist
 Tickets \$20; Westin Omni Hotel, Coral Gables. More
 information at:
www.mainlymozart.com





2009-2010 CHOPIN FOR ALL FREE CONCERT SERIES

October 3, 4, 2009

CLAIRE HUANGCI, winner of the 2007
Kosciuszko Foundation's Chopin Piano Competition

November 7, 8, 2009

ARTIST TBA

February 20-28, 2010
8TH NATIONAL CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

April 24, 25, 2010

ARTIST TBA

May 15, 16, 2010

A FINALIST OF THE 2010 NATIONAL COMPETITION

June 5, 6, 2010

WINNER OF CANADA'S 2010 CHOPIN COMPETITION

Free concerts in the *Chopin For All* series are held in two locations:

SATURDAYS, 7 PM, at the Broward County Main Library,
100 S. Andrews Ave, Fort Lauderdale;

SUNDAYS, 3 PM, at the Granada Presbyterian Church,
950 University Dr., Coral Gables

More information at
www.chopin.org or at 305.868-0624



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Jadwiga Viga Gewert

The Chopin Foundation has recently intensified its promotion of the coming National Chopin Piano Competition on national and international scale. We have also been busy running the annual concert season here in South Florida.

We opened the season with two special events in **October**. Renowned Polish violinist, **MARIUSZ PATYRA** with his Italian accompanist **GIOVANNI CASELLA**, performed at the FIU's Wertheim Concert Hall on October 10.



Just two days later **NING AN**, the 2000 National Chopin Competition winner, was a part of the annual Festival Miami hosted by the University of Miami Frost School of Music.



Dr. Shelly Berg, Dean of Frost School of Music, with Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and pianist Ning An

In **November** we resumed our free concert series, Chopin for All. All concerts in this series are presented twice: on Saturdays at the Auditorium Hall of the Broward County Main Library in Fort Lauderdale, and on Sundays at the Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables.

HUBERT RUTKOWSKI from Poland opened the series, and appeared later at the YASI salon in New York with a program "Julian Fontana, in the Shadow of Chopin." Great-great-grand daughter of Julian Fontana, Ms. Margo Reynolds, attended the concert!



H. Rutkowski with Frank and Margo Reynolds and Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



H. Rutkowski with James Steeber, Viga Gewert and Magdalena Baczewska

In **December** very talented **HOWARD NA**, the finalist of the 2005 National Chopin Competition, substituted for Yulianna Avdeeva, who was not able to come to the US.



Howard Na with (l-r) Laurea Keith, Dr. Rosalina Sackstein and Dr. Frank Cooper.



Howard Na flanked by fans after the concert

In **January** incredible **SPENCER MYER**, 2006 Fellow of the American Pianists Association, enchanted our audience.



Spencer Myer at the Polonaise Ball with (l-r) Viga Gewert, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and Tania Alonso



Spencer Myer with fans in Coral Gables, FL





February brought us an outstanding young pianist, ERIC ZUBER, the 2007 winner of the Hilton Head International Competition.



*Eric Zuber
with the Garcia family*



*Eric Zuber (center) with Tiberiu Dabo and
Carol and Agustin Anievas*

In **March**, as usual, we featured young local musical talent in the Young Pianists concerts. There were seventeen selected young piano students performing in Fort Lauderdale, and fourteen in Coral Gables!



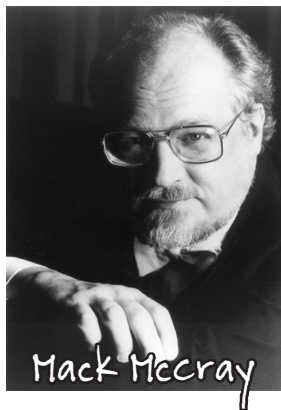
*March 21, 2009 Young Pianists Concert in
Broward - first half performers*



March 21, 2009, Young Pianists Concert in Broward - all performers

March 22, 2009, Young Pianists Concert in Coral Gables - all performers





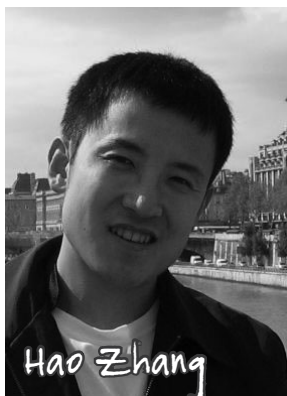
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ChopinSF@aol.com



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George Berberian, President
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info@chopin.org



Northwest Chopin Council
Hao Zhang
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Suite C-4 #259
Bellevue, WA 98006

425.454.9220
alisonwbell@comcast.net

REGIONAL COUNCILS

The regional Councils are branches of the Foundation and operate under the Foundation's charter, By-Laws and IRS Tax-exemption number. Their purpose is to carry out the Foundation's objectives at the regional level. They plan membership drives, fund raising events, concerts, and other special events. They retain the proceeds which they generate from fund raising and membership for their operating budget and transfer the remaining funds to help support the Foundation's national activities. In return, the Foundation offers assistance to the organization, assisting with artists, preparing promotional materials, publicity, etc.

We are always open to new proposals aiming at promoting our mission in new regions. If you would like to consider creating a regional council in your city, or have an idea for a collaboration, contact our Miami office.

The Chopin Foundation of the U.S.
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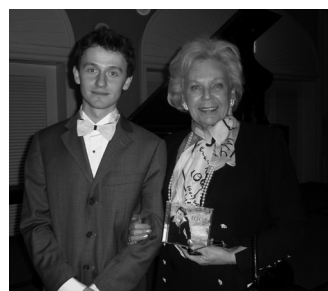


FLORIDA CHOPIN COUNCIL

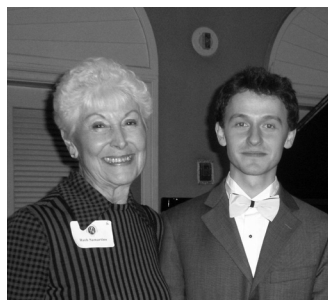
The Florida Council opened its annual salon-styled membership concert season on November 16th. Featuring Igor Lovchinsky, who was the winner of the Best Mazurka prize in the 2005 National Chopin Piano Competition, the evening consisted of an emotional program of Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich. The program was thoroughly enjoyed by our members.



*Igor with
Kay Carpenter
and B G Carter*



*Igor Lovchinsky
with Lady Blanka
Rosenstiel*



*Igor with Ruth
Samartino*

The winter concert saw the Miami debut of Andrew Tyson, one of the winners of the Kosciuszko Foundation's 2008 Chopin Competition. This 21-year old student of Curtis Institute of Music impressed us with his fantastic rendition of the music by Liszt, Cesar Frank, and – especially - Chopin! We were glad to hear that Andrew has been preparing to participate in our 2010 National Chopin Competition.



*Margarita Emiliani, Peter Capua,
Andrew Tyson, Linda Smoak and
George Berberian*



*Andrew Tyson with (l-r) Barbara Cooper, Blanka
Rosenstiel and Ala Iwaszkiewicz*

By popular demand, Mei-Ting Sun, the winner of the 2005 National Chopin Competition, will present the final concert of the membership series on May 3.



Mei Ting-Sun

The Florida Chopin Council, formed in 1980, has always been ultimately instrumental in funding all Chopin Foundation programs, especially those which are held in conjunction with the National Chopin Piano Competition. This extraordinary competition is held in Miami every five years. Because the 8th National Competition will be held in February 2010, the Florida Council joins the Foundation in its fund-raising campaign. Please see next page to learn more about this exciting sponsorship opportunity!

In addition, the membership series will also continue. Next season opens on October 18, 2009. Instead of the Winter Membership Concert, this year we will offer our members complimentary tickets to the Competition Finals. In May we'll go back to the Alexander Hotel, where one of the finalists of the 2010 Competition will be our guest artist.

As always, the membership concerts take place at the lovely Alexander Hotel and are followed by a buffet reception. Please come and join our Chopin family in a continuing celebration of music!

Musically yours,

George Berberian



Prélude Op.28, No. 20
Frédéric Chopin

**THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Miami-Dade County Auditorium
2901 West Flagler Street, Miami FL 33135-1300
February 20 – 28, 2010

“PRÉLUDE TO THE COMPETITION”

In 1990 and again in 1995, the Chopin Foundation Council of Florida invited music lovers to help score one of Chopin’s *Préludes*. We are once again re-creating *Prélude op. 28, No. 20*. By purchasing a note, a chord, a measure, or even the title, you make it possible for our most talented young American musicians to receive the support they need.

We offer a broad range of opportunities in which to participate. In addition to keying yourself into sessions of the next competition, you will help cover the costs of the competition. These include such various needs as the rental of a concert hall, all publicity for the event, the cost of sending winners to Warsaw, arrangements for a concert tour for the winner and the many miscellaneous items required to produce a first-rate competition of which we can all be proud.

The National Chopin Piano Competition of the U.S. is the major program of the Chopin Foundation of the United States. The Eighth NCPC will be held February 20 – 28, 2010, the year during which the world will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Frédéric Chopin’s birth. Preparations have already begun. We need your help.

You can participate in the 2010 Competition by supporting our fundraising effort to complete the “*Prélude*”.

Please consider one of the following sponsorship options:

PRELUDERS - \$250 (per Note)

NOTE-ABLES - \$500 (for 3 Notes)

KEY-NOTERS - \$1,000 (for 7 Notes)

GRAND KEY-NOTERS - \$3,000 (for a Measure)

TITLE-HOLDER - \$5,000 (The Title)

**All donors will have their names
engraved on the permanent plaque displayed
during the competition.**

Other benefits are listed at www.chopin.org

Please send your check with your purchase order to

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The “*Prélude*” Campaign
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Miami, FL 33141

You may also make a purchase on line at www.chopin.org
For more information please call (305) 868-0624



NORTHWEST CHOPIN COUNCIL

The Northwest Chopin Council held its seventh and largest Festival on Saturday, February 7, 2009, to great acclaim. One hundred and forty-four students from the ages of six to eighteen performed. Due to the large turnout, four very talented judges were hired this year. They were: Jeffrey Gilliam, from Western University, Bellingham, WA; Drs. Jeffrey Savage and Karen Savage, from Washington State University, Pullman, WA; and Dr. Julia Lee from Portland, OR. As in the past, the Mayflower Park Hotel and Sherman Clay Pianos of Seattle helped to host the Festival. The children all played on Steinway pianos, courtesy of Sherman Clay Pianos.

The four age categories with both winners and honorable mentions are as follows:

Division A, Students 10 and under:

Alex Sun, Pearl Lam and David Zhao.
Honorable mentions: Alexander Zhou, Linda Xu, Jason Dan, Christina Chou, Daniel Qiang and Ariel Hsieh.

Division B, Students 11 through 13:

Raymond Zhang, Adrianna Svitak, Max Ma and Christina Kwon.
Honorable mentions: Audrey Chen, Edward Wang, Andrew Liu, Serena Xu, Wesley Yu, Laetitia Zhang and Ransom Cutshall.

Division C, Students 14 to 16:

Min Joo Yi, Isaac Chua and Emily Shavers.
Honorable mentions: Manning Feng, Hyun Su Seo, Amy Bearman, Toby Chen and Annie Yang.

Division D, Students 17 to 18:

Alexander Li, Nigel Packer and Stephanie Kwon.
Honorable mentions: Ashley Tzung, Bezalee Ho and Adriana Cherskov.

The following evening, Feb. 7, at 7:00 PM, we hosted the Honors Concert for the winning students at the beautiful Frye Art Museum in Seattle. Our "Founding Father," Steven Lagerberg, was back in town from Paris, France, and acted as our MC for the evening. He entertained the audience by giving little vignettes of Chopin's life between each of the wonderful pieces the children played.

The evening was magical and all agreed the Festival was very successful. We look forward to 2010 which will include some very special events in addition to our annual February Festival.

Alison Bell

www.chopinNW.org

The winners with Allison Bell and Dr. Steven Lagerberg:

Back Row (left to right) Alison Bell, Stephanie Kwon, Nigel Packer, Alexander Li, Min Joo Yi, Adrianna Svitak, Issac Chua, Emily Shavers, Steven Lagerberg.

Front Row (left to right) Raymond Zhang, Max Ma, Pearl Lam, David Zhao, Alex Sun, Christina Kwon.





SAN FRANCISCO CHOPIN COUNCIL

The Chopin Council of San Francisco continued its annual activities, presenting two concerts: its traditional Chopin Christmas Concert and its Chopin Birthday Concert.

The Christmas concert was held on December 7th at the hospitable ballroom of The Queen Ann Hotel, featuring the winners of the Thirteenth Chopin Competition for Young Pianists.

Christmas concert participants with San Francisco Council's Board members



The Annual Chopin Birthday Concert, sponsored jointly by Old First Concerts and the San Francisco Council, was held on Sunday, February 22, 2009, as a part of the Old First Concert Series. It featured Tao Lin, Prof. of Piano at the Conservatory of Music at Lynn University, Boca Raton, Florida. This versatile musician enchanted the audience with the beautiful program of music by Mozart, Shubert and – of course – Chopin.



Pianist Tao Lin with Mack McCray, President of the San Francisco Council after the concert

FOURTEENTH YOUNG PIANISTS COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PIANISTS

The San Francisco Council is now getting ready to its Fourteenth Young Pianists Competition, which will take place on June 06, 2009 at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco, California

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 16!

The 14th Annual San Francisco Chopin Competition for Young Pianists is open to pianists fifteen years old or younger, residing or studying in the San Francisco Bay Area in the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.

For more information on our programs and requirements for the coming Competitions, please go to our website at: **www.ChopinSF.org**





The Pleyel Piano from the Days of Chopin

By Thomas Swick

The film *The Red Violin* traced the international journey of a 17th century string instrument. A similar movie could be made about a 19th century Pleyel piano with connections to one of history's greatest composers.

Pleyel #13555 is an upright piano in bird's-eye mahogany that was manufactured in France in 1847. Before beginning its travels, it entered the life of Frédéric Chopin, who, living in Paris at the time, recommended the piano to one of his pupils. A document in the Pleyel archives records that Chopin received a commission for the sale. (In fact, the piano carries the composer's alleged signature.) But it is the commission that strongly suggests that this is a piano – one of the few in existence – that Chopin played.

The piano was eventually shipped to Moldavia (where the pupil was from), and then Italy, before ending up in San Marcos, California.

For lovers of Chopin, the piano is an important historical artifact, though few have ever seen it. That may soon change. There is a strong possibility that the famous piano will be donated to the Chopin Foundation, which in turn will send it to the National Chopin Institute in Warsaw to be included in the exhibit next year to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. If this comes to pass, the well-traveled piano played by Chopin will finally be seen in his homeland.

(Editor's note: We hope that in the next issue we will be able to report on the official donation of the piano to the Chopin Foundation!)



www.chopinpleyelpiano.com





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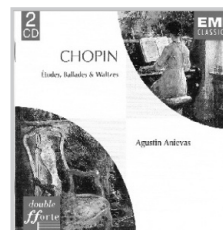
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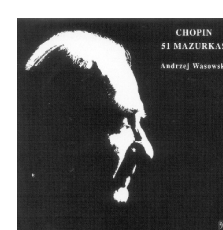
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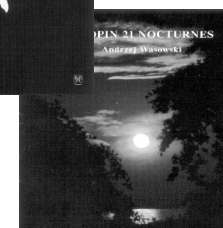
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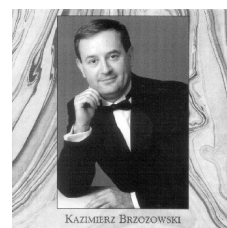
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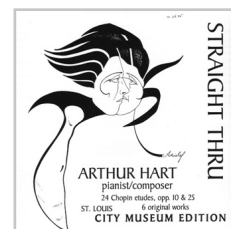


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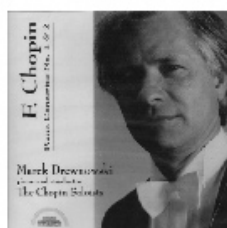
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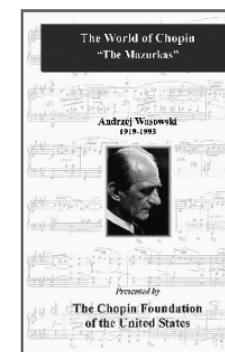


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THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG U.S. PIANISTS

Up to ten (10) renewable scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded each year on a competitive basis to outstanding young American pianists who demonstrate a special affinity for the interpretation of Chopin's music.

Purpose

Through this unique renewal process the pianist is supported and encouraged throughout the four years of preparation to be ready for the National Chopin Piano Competition held in Miami, Florida, every five years. Besides receiving substantial cash prizes, the top four winners of this competition are fully sponsored to participate in the Preliminary Round auditions for the prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition in Poland.

Eligibility

The Scholarship Program is open to any qualified American pianists (citizens or legal residents) not younger than 14 and not older than 17 years on the application deadline, whose field of study is music and whose major is piano. If applicant is already 17 years old, he/she may only be accepted if currently in this Scholarship

Program. Enrollment at the secondary or under graduate school level as a full-time student is required.

Renewal

The awards are renewable up to four years as long as the recipient continues to study piano, maintains satisfactory academic progress, and each year submits an audiocassette of unedited performances of Chopin's works for evaluation as follows:

Year 1: 2 Etudes, 2 Nocturnes, 1 of ballads, or Barcarole in F sharp major Op. 60, or Fantasia in F minor Op. 49
Year 2: 6 Preludes, 2 Waltzes, 2 Mazurkas,
Year 3: 1 Sonata, 1 of the following polonaises: Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise in E flat major Op. 22, Polonaise in F sharp minor Op. 44 or Polonaise - Fantasia in A flat major Op. 61
Year 4: at least one movement of the Concerto.

An applicant, who was not awarded the scholarship, may re-apply the following year submitting a new recording of the music of his/her choice from the same requirement. Reapplication is allowed only once while in the Scholarship Program.

Procedures:

Applicants must submit a formal application, along with:

- (a) a statement of career goals,
- (b) a minimum of two references from piano teachers or performers,
- (c) a DVD recording of Chopin's works as listed above. Each piece must be an unedited performance and the recording of good quality. The recording must be clearly labeled, including applicant's name, address and works performed. The recording must be certified for accuracy by a qualified person such as a teacher or recording engineer.

The formal application, audio tape, statement of career goals, references, and \$25.00 registration fee must be received by April 15. The scholarships will be granted by June 15.

APPLICATION AVAILABLE AT:

www.chopin.org

For more information contact:

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1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117,
Miami, FL 33141
Tel. (305)868-0624 FAX.(305)865-5150
http:// www.chopin.org
Email: info@chopin.org





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The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the support of talented young American musicians. Since its inception in 1977, the Foundation has provided young pianists with performance opportunities, exchange programs, and special scholarships and awards. The Foundation also gives the pianists a chance to compete in the National Chopin Piano Competition of the U.S., held every five years in Miami. The Chopin Foundation is committed to making Chopin's music available to the community by initiating such diverse activities as free major public concerts, home musicales, and free publications. The Chopin Foundation's mission is carried on nationally and locally by its three regional councils in South Florida, San Francisco, and Seattle.

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- "Chopin For All" - Annual free concert series
- Scholarship Program for Young American Pianists renewable for up to four years
- Semi-annual issue of the *Polonaise* magazine, sent to all music schools in the U.S., and to Chopin Societies around the world
- Activities of the Regional Councils of the Chopin Foundation

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APPLICATION DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 2nd, 2009

**EIGHTH
NATIONAL
CHOPIN
PIANO
COMPETITION
OF THE U.S.**

MIAMI, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 20 -28, 2010

www.chopin.com

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TO: