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Cover photo: Chopin's birthplace, Zelazowa Wola

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Message from the Founder



Blanka A. Rosenstiel
Founder and President

"Every great work of art has two faces, one toward its own time and one toward the future, toward eternity."

Daniel Barenboim

*A*s I look over the exciting programs we have planned for our 2016-17 Concert Season, I am overcome with emotion. To think that in 2017 we will reach our 40 year anniversary speaks volumes about how important and timeless our mission is for the preservation of classical music, especially Chopin's music, in the United States. Thousands of young pianists have been inspired to learn, master and share this incomparable body of music, and tens of thousands of appreciative audience members have enjoyed their performances.

While it may be difficult to truly quantify the organization's impact over the course of 40 years, here are just a few numbers we are proud of:

- There have been nine National Chopin Piano Competitions with hundreds of pianists participating and hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize monies awarded. All of the pianists - applicants, contestants and winners - were enriched through their experience and each had to work very hard to master Chopin's repertoire. And now, we are seeing the students of past winners and participants entering our Scholarship program!
- Since 1998, we have awarded dozens of scholarships to young pianists between the ages of 14 – 17 as part of this unique 4-year program. Scholarship recipients are encouraged to learn the music required to enter the National Chopin Competition and we hope to see them as contestants in the 2020 Competition.
- Through the Chopin for All Free Concert Series, now entering its 21st season, and the intimate and delightfully social member events, hundreds of spectacular concerts by scores of talented artists have been presented in South Florida to the delight of thousands of attendees.

- In addition to our Florida activities we now have four Regional Councils that carry out our mission in their respective communities and positively impact dozens of young "Chopinists" in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Virginia every year.

These are just a few examples of our accomplishments to date, but what about the future? If the current season is any indication, we have much to look forward to – including performances by several artists who share Chopin's Polish heritage! We will present three renowned Polish masters and some fresh new faces from Poland's next generation of performing artists. Our 40th year is full of promise!

Our next 40 years are equally promising. We are grateful to the many supporters who have been so instrumental in making these past years a great success, and we hope we can count on their continued support for the future. We must also reach out to the next generation of Chopin lovers and impress upon them the urgent need to continue our mission. The level of artistry among today's young American pianists is truly extraordinary. We owe it to them to offer these programs in order to keep Chopin's music alive on the musical stages across the United States.

I invite you to share our message with everyone you know and to please make a donation to the Chopin Foundation so that we can continue our mission for many years to come. We must continuously support our competition winners and with your help, we will hopefully raise the first prize of the next competition to \$100,000 and even more in the future. I look forward to greeting you at the many events that you will find listed in the pages of this issue of the *Polonaise*.

Chopin Foundation Donors and Contributors

We extend our deepest thanks to those

whose vision and support have helped us this year with our mission: to develop the next generation of great musicians! May we continue to add to this esteemed roster others who would join us in support of our mission.

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Message from the Executive Director



Jadwiga Viga Gewert
Executive Director

The 2015-16 season was very special for us – it was truly the Season of Winners. We were fortunate to present a wonderful selection of artists to our audiences in South Florida, while our 2015 National Chopin Piano Competition winner, Eric Lu, continued his victorious concert tour around the world.

We are already thinking ahead to the Competition in 2020, therefore it is with great pleasure that we announce our new 2016 Scholarship Program awardees. Their interpretations of Chopin's music on their audition recordings were really outstanding. The high musicality level of this year's scholarship recipients is a hopeful indication that we can look forward with confidence to very well prepared applicants for the 2020 National Chopin Competition. As always, we are very grateful to the piano teachers for working so diligently with these young pianists. Congratulations to the awardees and their teachers!

Our fortieth anniversary season of concerts in South Florida will introduce new artists, many of them from Poland, and will also bring back two top winners from the 2015 competition -- this time in solo and duo programs.

We are also pleased to introduce two recently published books on the life of Frederic Chopin, which are reviewed in this *Polonaise* issue by the incomparable Dr. Alan Walker. Fascinating reading!

I hope you will enjoy our magazine, and if you are in South Florida, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle or Virginia, we invite you to join us at our concerts.



Eric Lu



Agnieszka Rehlis



Miami Young Pianists with Lady Blanka



Broward Young Pianists

Our Sponsors

The Chopin Foundation's programs are sponsored in part by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of Commissioners; the City of Coral Gables; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council of Arts and Culture; the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council; numerous generous individuals; and the following:



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\$5 ticket can be purchased for an
individual of any age to join them.

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2016-2017 Scholarship Recipients



Cameron Akioka, 16
First Year
Palo Alto, CA
Palo Alto High School
Piano Teacher:
Olya Katsman



Rolando Antonio Alejandro, 17
First Year
Guaynabo, PR
The Juilliard School
Piano Teacher:
Dr. Matti Raekallio



Kyle Fang, 16
First Year
Walnut Creek, CA
Valley View Charter Prep/San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Pre-College Division
Piano Teacher:
Dr. William Wellborn



Avery Gagliano, 14
First Year
Washington, DC
Curtis Institute of Music
Piano Teacher:
Marina Aleksyeva



Ziyao "Chelsea" Guo, 15
First Year
Darien, CT
The Juilliard School
Pre-College Division
Piano Teachers:
Hung-Kuan Chen/
Dr. Tema Blackstone



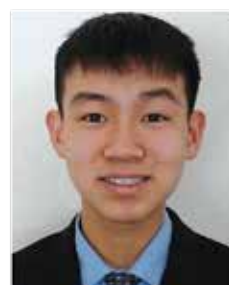
Kimberly Han, 15
First Year
Lake Forest, IL
Lake Forest High School
Piano Teacher:
Brenda Huang/
Alexander Korsantia



Leyla Kabuli, 16
First Year
Davis, CA
Davis High School /
San Francisco Conservatory of
Music Pre-College Division
Piano Teacher:
John McCarthy



Niklas Kniesche, 15
First Year
Providence, RI
Wheeler School/New England
Conservatory Preparatory School
Piano Teacher:
Jonathan Bass



Andrew Lin, 16
First Year
San Jose, CA
Lynbrook High School
Piano Teacher:
Dr. William Wellborn



Ishan Loomba, 14
First Year
Albuquerque, NM
Early College Academy
Piano Teacher:
Dr. Carol Leone



Vincent Liu, 17
First Year
San Ramon, CA
Dougherty Valley High School
Piano Teacher:
Hans Boepple



Evren Ozel, 17
Third Year
Minneapolis, MN
Walnut Hill School for the Arts-
Natick, MA
Piano Teacher:
Wha Kyung Byun



Victor Shlyakhtenko, 14
First Year
Los Angeles, CA
Colburn Community School
of Performing Arts
Piano Teacher:
Teresa de Jong Pombo



William Tang, 14
First Year
Woodside NY
Hunter College High School/
Manhattan School of Music
Pre-College Division
Piano Teacher:
Miyoko Lotto



Taylor Wang, 14
First Year
Centerville, OH
Walnut Hill School for the Arts,
Natick MA
Piano Teacher:
Sergei Polusmiak



Samuel Xu, 15
First Year
Chandler, AZ
Arizona Virtual Academy
Piano Teacher:
Fei Xu



Anqi Xu, 16
First Year
New Providence, NJ
UCVTS Magnet High
School/Manhattan School
of Music, Pre-College
Division
Piano Teacher:
Miyoko Lotto

Scholarship Program for Young Pianists

The purpose of the Chopin Foundation Scholarship Program is to support and encourage young, talented American pianists through up to four years of preparation for the National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States, which is held in Miami, Florida, every five years. 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 Frédéric Chopin's music. In addition, the Scholarship Committee may grant half-awards in the amount of \$500 to qualified applicants. A half-award may be granted to an applicant only once during the four-year program.

Eligibility

The Scholarship Program is open to all qualified American pianists (US citizens or legal residents) not younger than 14 and not older than 17 years of age on May 15 of their first year of application.

Procedure

As of 2015, all Scholarship applications must be submitted online. Please visit the Chopin Foundation website, www.chopin.org for complete requirements and procedures.

**PLEASE READ ALL ONLINE INSTRUCTIONS
BEFORE PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION**

A complete application and recording of required Chopin repertoire are required for EACH year of the scholarship program.

Please use the online application link to www.GetAccepted.com.

Applications, along with all attachments must be received by **May 15th**. Scholarships will be announced by July 15th. Please contact the Chopin Foundation with any questions.

The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

Phone: (305) 868-0624 • Web: www.chopin.org • Email: info@chopin.org

Chopin Prizes Awarded at the 2016 MTNA Piano Competition

The Chopin Foundation was once again pleased to award the Chopin Prize at the MTNA Junior and Senior Solo Piano Competitions. The prizes were presented during the Annual MTNA Conference held in San Antonio, TX in April of 2016.



© 2016 Kathie Garcia

Yannie Tan, was awarded a Chopin Prize of \$500 by the Chopin Foundation of the United States for the Best Chopin Performance by Junior Solo Piano. Pictured with Yannie is presenter Barbara Muze, Marketing/Development Manager of the Chopin Foundation of the United States. Ms. Tan has studied with Alex Kobrin at Columbus State University, Columbus, GA.



© 2016 Harry Butler, Nashville

Christopher Richardson was awarded the Chopin Prize of \$1,000 by the Chopin Foundation of the United States for the Best Chopin Performance by Senior Solo Piano. Pictured with Christopher is his teacher Frederick Weldy from Stanford University. Mr. Richardson was one of the top prizewinners in numerous national and international piano competitions and recently spoke about and performed piano at the TEDxYouth@Redmond conference in Washington.

2016-17 Chopin Foundation Concert Schedule

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary with a Taste of Poland

Chopin for All FREE Concert Series

presented by Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits

SATURDAYS at 3 pm

Broward County Main Library
100 S. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale

SUNDAYS at 3 pm

Granada Presbyterian Church
950 University Drive, Coral Gables

- Nov. 12, 13, 2016** Drew Petersen, a laureate of the 2015 Leeds International Piano Competition
- Dec. 3, 4, 2016** Rachel Kudo and Marina Radiushina, solo & duo piano Chopin silver medalist teams up with renowned local concert pianist
- Jan. 21, 22, 2017** Eric Lu, piano and Ariel Horowitz, violin. International Chopin laureate is joined by an outstanding young violinist
- Feb. 18, 19, 2017** Krzysztof Ksiazek, winner of the 2015 National Chopin Competition of Poland
- March 11, 12, 2017** Anna Miernik, young award winning pianist from Poland
- April 22, 23, 2017** Young Pianists Concerts- selected local piano students in an All-Chopin program
- May 20, 21, 2017** Reed Tetzloff, an outstanding young American pianist



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All dates and the artists are subject to change. For more information please visit: www.chopin.org; or call: 305.868.0624

Chopin Salon Concerts

4 pm, La Gorce Country Club, Miami Beach

Concerts followed by wine reception and optional dinner. Reservations required.
Featuring three distinguished master pianists from Poland.



Nov. 20, 2016 | Janusz Olejniczak, Poland

Presented by Gray and Sons Jewelers

Highly acclaimed pianist and juror of the International Chopin Competition, Mr. Olejniczak has also recorded soundtracks to a number of films on Frederic Chopin, including the Oscar winner, *The Pianist* directed by Roman Polanski.



Jan. 15, 2017 | Katarzyna Popowa-Zydrón, Poland

Presented by Dr. Carlos J and Mrs. Domínguez

Head of the Jury of the 2015 International Chopin Competition, Ms. Zydrón is a renowned concert pianist and respected teacher.



March 26, 2017 | Marek Drewnowski, Poland

Presented by Louis Leibowitz Charitable Trust

A former protégé of Leonard Bernstein, Mr. Drewnowski is known internationally for his remarkable skills as a pianist and conductor.

Salon concert tickets: \$50 (includes wine reception) Chopin members free. Optional post-concert dinner is \$60 per person (includes tax & gratuity). Reservations required.

Chopin at Key Biscayne

Presented in partnership with the Village of Key Biscayne, Key Biscayne Community Center

February 26, 2017, Chopin at Key Biscayne. Artist TBA. Free Admission.

All dates and the artists are subject to change.

Sponsor Highlight

Ligia and Joseph Wiegand



reproducing pianos that graced their Miami home and entertained a multitude of guests over many years. Ligia, along with a cadre of fellow music-lovers, helped bring the arts to the children of Saint Lawrence School. For nearly two decades, these dedicated ladies produced an annual musical that included the talents of every child in the graduating class. They also used their musical skill and generosity to raise funds for Saint Thomas University.

Ligia composes her own music which she has published, accompanied by a recording of her songs performed by Jeffrey Biegel. Joe had a lovely touch on the piano—strains of his rendition of Rhapsody in Blue still echo through the halls of their home.

Ligia and Joseph have supported the arts in south Florida for nearly sixty years, and have been engaged with organizations ranging from the Florida Youth Orchestra to the Florida Grand Opera. They were charter members of the Miami Salon Group and have been members and benefactors of the Chopin Foundation of the United States since attending the National Piano Competition in 1980. Ligia and Joseph have served on the Board of the Foundation, while Ligia has been president of the Chopin Council of South Florida and served on numerous committees over many years. Their greatest hope is that their lifetime of philanthropy and volunteerism will prove to be an inspiration for future generations.



Ligia and Joseph Wiegand met in music appreciation class at the University of Pittsburgh in 1949. After a brief parting of the ways, followed by a dozen roses from Joe with a card proclaiming "Red Roses for a Blue Lady," they were married in June 1950. Their first four youngsters were born in Pittsburgh, after which they moved to south Florida in 1957, and completed their family of six children.

Ligia and Joseph have had an abiding interest in all things musical, reaching above and beyond that shared music appreciation class. At the age of 12, Ligia sat on stage during one of Ignacy Paderewski's last American appearances at the Syria Mosque in Pittsburgh. Joe worked for years re-building two Ampico

Ligia and Joseph Wiegand were awarded *Amicus Poloniae* by the government of Poland in 2005. L-R: Jadwiga Gewert, Blanka Rosenstiel, Anna Niewiadomska (Embassy of Poland), Joseph and Ligia Wiegand, Kris Lewicki, and Marvin and Isa Leibowitz - also recipients of this award

New Directions in Chopin Biography

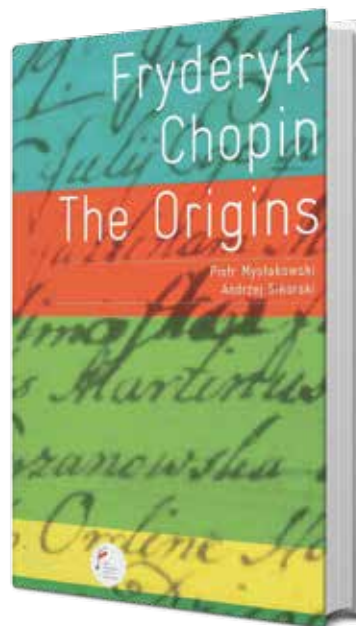
by ALAN WALKER

Somerset Maugham once famously declared: "There are three rules for writing biography, and nobody knows what they are." Behind the joke lies something profound, and it is revealed in the sort of chaos that has prevailed in the field of Chopin biography for the past 150 years. Every time you pick up a book on Chopin (particularly a biography) you may be forgiven for supposing that you have been placed inside an echo chamber, where the same information bounces from one wall to another, in an endless series of reverberations. Has any composer been called upon to carry a greater weight of mythology, fantasy, and pure invention, repeated *ad infinitum*, than Fryderyk Chopin?

The key players in the story of Chopin's life are well known, for they turn up in all the standard biographies.

Piotr Mysłakowski has been described as the Great Saboteur among Chopin scholars. He spends much of his professional time behind enemy lines, so to say, exploding many of the myths and legends with which Chopin's story has for years been encumbered, leaving the field a bit safer for the rest of us. As you put down his books you realize that few biographers of the past have been spared, even the most distinguished, although they are rarely mentioned by name. Casimir Wierzyński, Arthur Hedley, Adam Zamoyski, Iwo Źałoski, and Tad Szulc, are among those who are shown the error of their ways. I myself have had to do penance for following too slavishly the siren song of these and

other writers, in which fiction is transmuted into fact with a simple wave of the wand. In an interesting conversation that I had with Mr. Mysłakowski in Warsaw last year, he told me that it was not his intention to damage the work of his musician colleagues, but simply to go where the evidence leads him. And if the evidence does not support the legends, then the legends must be jettisoned. A year or two ago Mr. Mysłakowski was engaged in a public dispute with the University of Warsaw, which claimed that Fryderyk Chopin was one of its graduates. This could not have been possible because of the way in which the curriculum of the High School for Music (from which Chopin *did* graduate) had been set up under its director Józef Elsner. But such is the posthumous prestige attached to Chopin's name that everyone in Poland now wants to claim him as their own (even the national airport is named after him). For those readers who speak Polish and wish to follow the details of this discussion, it may be found in three



Fryderyk Chopin: The Origins, by Piotr Mysłakowski and Andrzej Sikorski. Translated by Zygmunt Nowak-Soliński and Sandra Jacobson. The Fryderyk Chopin Institute, Warsaw 2010. 357pp. Available at the Chopin Institute Website: http://sklep.nifc.pl/?produkt=1_119

recent issues of the journal *Ruch Muzyczny*, July 24, September 19 and October 16, 2014.

Mr. Mysłakowski appears not to like purple prose and he is critical of those who use it to obfuscate the issues. He reminds me of something that F.L. Lucas once wrote in his masterly book on Style. "I have been told that when the late Sir Edward Marsh, composing his memoir of Rupert Brooke, wrote: 'Rupert left Rugby in a blaze of glory,' his mother, a lady of firm character, changed 'a blaze of glory' to 'July'". It is the sort of response that stops a conversation in its tracks. There should be more of it in books about Chopin. The emphasis that Mr. Mysłakowski places on the plain facts of the composer's life is a welcome antidote to the perfumed poetry that has passed for informed commentary on him in the past.

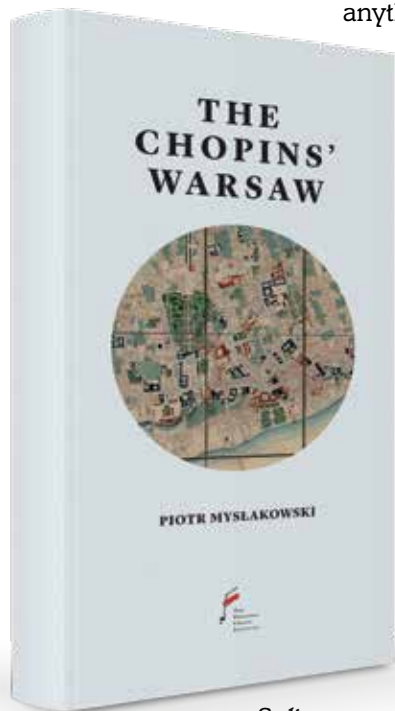
One of the excellent features of *Fryderyk Chopin: The Origins* (which Mysłakowski wrote in collaboration with his colleague Andrzej Sikorski) is the widely comprehensive Preface by Chopin scholar Jim Samson: "Reflections on a Family History". It is difficult to disagree with his statement, "I know of no study that goes so far in making the world that produced Chopin 'real' for us." The book is nothing less than a social history of the Poland which nurtured Chopin and his family, and in which they grew up. We learn of daily life in the great manor houses and estates of Szafarnia, Sanniki, and Sokołowo where the boy spent his holidays and became familiar with Polish folk-music, and above all of Zelazowa Wola where he was born. Lavishly illustrated with pictures of the places in question, *The Origins* is a veritable "Baedeker's Guide" to Chopin and his circle.

With the more recent publication of *The Chopins' Warsaw*, Piotr Mysłakowski confirms his position

as one of the leading Chopin scholars of his time. I imagine that I am not the only person who, after reading this book, regretted that it had not been published fifty years earlier. The error and confusion that were ever Chopin's portion might have been avoided, or at any rate reduced. The key players in the story of Chopin's life are well known, for they turn up in all the standard biographies. Aside from his parents and siblings, Chopin's wide circle of Polish friends during his youth and adolescence in Warsaw included his classmates at the Warsaw Lyceum, Jan Matuszynski, Dominik Dzięwanowski, 'Jasio' Białobłocki, and above all Tytus Woyciechowski, the dedicatee of his early *Là ci darem* Variations, op. 2. But how much do we actually know about these young men? Hardly

anything, it seems, as we turn the pages of one Chopin biography after another. Then there were Chopin's teachers at the Lyceum, above all its Rector Dr. Samuel Linde. And after the Lyceum came the High School for Music with composer Józef Elsner, organist Wilhelm Würfel, and singing teacher Carlo

Soliva among the luminaries.



The Chopins' Warsaw. The Chopins' Addresses in Warsaw Established from Sources, by Piotr Mysłakowski. Translated by John Comber. The Fryderyk Chopin Institute, Warsaw 2013. 222pp. Available at Amazon .com & the Chopin Inst. website: http://sklep.nifc.pl/?produkt=1_54



Zelazowa Wola, Chopin's birthplace

These people form part of the cavalcade of characters who regularly crowd their way into Chopin's biography. They make their entrances and their exits, but they never linger long enough for us to make their firm acquaintance. We generally have to delve into arcane sources, beyond the reach of the average reader, to find out more about them. Mr. Mysłakowski more than obliges us on that score. He explores the family backgrounds of these people in unprecedented detail, tracing their Polish roots, their perambulations in and out of Warsaw (following a paper trail of mortgage deeds and employment records along the way) as they move from one address to another; he invites us to share in their joys and their sorrows, and even explores the graveyards in the towns and villages around Warsaw, places in which they lived out their lives

and died. Mr. Mysłakowski, in brief, knows where the bodies are buried. The result is a biographer's dream, a veritable lexicon of all the information that he is likely to require in the reconstruction of Chopin's early years. And 'reconstruction' is not too strong a word to use in this context. The author reveals to us a world with which Chopin would have been entirely familiar but one which has hardly yet begun to penetrate the received narrative. The amount of research involved in such pioneering work is massive and it is a pleasure to acknowledge it here.

One or two examples will serve to illustrate the forensic nature of the book. Every Chopin biography tells the story of the fifteen-year-old youth's accident as he was skating on the ice-rink

near the Church of the Holy Cross in the winter of 1825/26. The boy fell and cut his head which bled so profusely that a doctor had to be summoned. There was a happy ending and Chopin went to school as usual the following morning. Do you know the name of the doctor who treated Chopin? Neither did I until I read Mr. Mysłakowski on the topic. His identity is revealed here as Dr. Fryderyk Szwencki (1774-1860), a local surgeon who was called in by neighbours who had witnessed the accident, and who will surely enjoy a modest celebrity in any future story of the composer's life.

Then there is the well-worn legend that Chopin's father Mikołaj rose to the rank of Captain in the Polish army during the Kosciuszko Uprising of 1794, and fought in the Battle of Maciejowice. Neither fact is true and Mr. Mysłakowski shows that it could not have been possible, although Mikołaj did join the civilian militia, like many other ordinary Polish citizens, and fought behind the barricades in defence of Warsaw, before the Russians overwhelmed the city and wiped sovereign Poland from the map.

All Lisztians will welcome the next example. In the spring of 1843 Liszt gave a series of widely acclaimed recitals in Warsaw's National Theatre, en route to Moscow. No Liszt biography known to me goes further than that. But Piotr Mysłakowski's book does. He tells us that in the middle of the Warsaw concerts, in which Liszt also played some works of Chopin, Liszt took time to visit Chopin's parents Mikołaj and Justyna. That meeting took place on April 5, 1843, at house number 47 Nowy Swiat Street, where Mikołaj and Justyna were living with their daughter Izabella and her husband, the mathematics professor Antoni Barcinski. This is the kind of precision that biographers require and rarely get.

One of the valuable features of the book is the series of maps featuring Old Warsaw, the largest of which folds away into a slipcase inside the back cover. The rest reveal the city locations associated with the Chopin family, to which Mr. Mysłakowski has provided a series of keyed texts within the volume

itself. Of additional interest is the inclusion of pictures, ranging in scope from some rare early photographs of the old city to reproductions of iconic oil-paintings, which help to bring the narrative vividly to life. One example can stand for the others. On September 19, 1863 the Tsarist viceroy General Fyodor Berg was riding at the head of a detachment of Russian soldiers along Nowy Swiat Street. As they passed the Zamoyski Palace, where Izabella and Antoni Barcinski now lived, there was an attempt to assassinate the General. A bomb was thrown from one of the upper floors. It missed its target but injured an aide and one of the horses. In reprisal Berg ordered his troops to ransack the building. All the males were arrested and taken to the Warsaw Citadel where they were severely beaten, including Chopin's brother-in-law the 60-year-old Antoni Barcinski. Meanwhile Berg's

troops worked their way through the palace with a will, plundering everything in sight. When they came to the Barcinski apartment, containing one of the finest collections of Chopiniana inherited by Izabella following the deaths of her mother and her older sister Ludwika – letters, manuscripts, diaries, family heirlooms – everything was thrown onto the street below and put to the torch. According to one eye-witness, "the flames reached as high as the bell-tower of the Holy Cross church."

This dramatic scene was captured in Albert Lessel's famous oil-painting which Mr. Mysłakowski reproduces to illustrate the story which he tells on pp. 190-91 of his book. Among the items consumed by the conflagration was the young Chopin's Buchholtz grand piano, on which he had composed most of his early pieces, including the two piano



concertos and the *Là ci darem* Variations. The national poet Cyprian Kamil Norwid immortalized the destruction of the instrument in his well-known poem "Chopin's Piano".*

A final thought. The only reason to publish books on Chopin today is to say something new, to escape from that "echo chamber" I referred to earlier. Piotr Mysłakowski and Andrzej Sikorski have done just that and their work should find a permanent place on the bookshelves of all those of us who are interested in the Polish master.

* 8

Over here – Frederic, look! ... This is – Warsaw:

Under a star blazing forth

A crazed brightness –

– Attend to it, organs in parish halls; look! it's Your nest:

It's elsewhere – old houses patrician

As commonwealths,

Pavements of squares deaf and grey,

And Sigismund's sword in a cloud.

9

Look! ... from alley to alley

Caucasian horses break forth

Like swallows ahead of a storm,

Ahead of their regiments, darting,

By hundreds – by hundreds –

– The town house caught fire, died down,

Then flared up again – And there – Under the wall

Saw the foreheads of widows in mourning

Pushed back by rifle butts –

And again, smokeblinded, I saw,

As it moved past the portal, the pillars,

A contraption that looked like a coffin

They were heaving out ... crashing and crushing – your piano!

From Cyprian Norwid: 'Chopin's Piano'

Translation from Polish by Jerome Rothenberg & Arie Galles

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alan Walker is Professor Emeritus of Music at McMaster University, Canada. Before settling in North America he was on the staff of the Music Division of the British Broadcasting Corporation in London.

He has broadcast for the BBC, for the CBC, and for CJRT - FM (Toronto), and gives regular public lectures on the music of the Romantic Era, a period in which he specializes. His thirteen published books include *A Study in Musical Analysis*, *An Anatomy of Musical Criticism*, and symposia on Chopin, Schumann, and Liszt.

Dr. Walker's three-volume, prize-winning biography of Franz Liszt, published by Alfred A. Knopf (New York), was a project which took him twenty-five years to complete, and for which the President of Hungary bestowed on him the medal Pro Cultura Hungarica. The biography also received the Royal Philharmonic Society Prize, presented by HRH The Duke of Kent in London.

Time Magazine hailed the biography as "a textured portrait of Liszt and his times without rival". **The Wall Street Journal** called it "The definitive work to which all subsequent Liszt biographies will aspire."

The Washington Post selected it as a Book of the Year.

Alan Walker's latest book is a long-awaited biography of Hans von Bülow, Franz Liszt's leading pupil and the world's first virtuoso orchestral conductor. Published by Oxford University Press in December 2009, the book is the first biography of Bülow ever to appear in the English language. The European Piano Teacher's Journal extolled

it as 'a magnificent long-overdue biography... and as unputdownable as the latest historical novel by Mary Renault'. The Washington Times praised it as

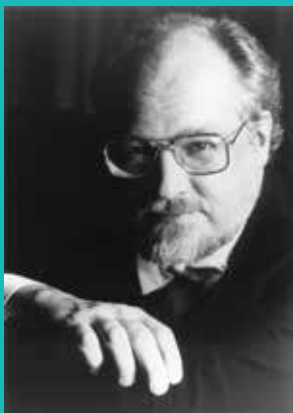
"a superb biography... and a treat to read". In January 2012, the Government of Hungary bestowed on Alan Walker one of its highest honours: the Knight's Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dr. Walker's forthcoming biography is titled, "Fryderyk Chopin: A Life and Times". The publisher is Farrar, Straus & Giroux, and the provisional publication date is the second half of 2017. The biography, which took ten years to write, includes research done in European archives, including Poland.

Alan Walker's review originally appeared in the Canadian Chopin Society Newsletter *Impromptu*, February 2016 edition.





Mack McCray, President

*L*ast season was an exciting one for the San

Francisco Council of the Chopin Foundation. We enjoyed a spectacular Chopin Birthday Concert by the superb pianist Ning An (the 2000 Chopin Competition winner, and a laureate of many other major competitions) and we had a very busy and successful Young Pianists Competition on July 4th. As usual, there were so many contestants that we had to appoint two panels of judges to hear all three categories of contestants. On July 5th our Winners Concert took place featuring some absolutely splendid performances. These winners will perform for us again on December 4th at our holiday concert at the beautiful Queen Anne Hotel. This year one of our judges was Allan Park, the president of the Northwest Seattle Council of the Chopin Foundation. We were delighted and honored that he could accept our invitation. We are also happy to welcome a new board member to our San Francisco chapter, Noagisa Ariza.

Website: www.chopinsf.org



Winners of the 2016 competition and our board members
L to R: John Harris, Nagiza Ariza, Robert Bryan & Mary Robinson

WINNERS of the FIRST AGE CATEGORY (through 9)

First Prize: **Jacob Rockower**
Second Prize: **Angelina Wong**
Third Prize: **Munan Cheng**

Honorable Mention: **Emily Tsai**
Honorable Mention: **Jarett Xu**

WINNERS of the SECOND AGE CATEGORY (10-12)

First Prize: **Mikan Tsuchida**
Second Prize: **Kelvin Jiang**
Third Prize: **Ethan Yu**

Honorable Mention: **Spencer Cha**
Honorable Mention: **Anna Guan**

WINNERS of the THIRD AGE CATEGORY (13-15)

First Prize: **Claire Cheng**
Second Prize: **Karina Tseng**
Third Prize: **Joshua Kushner**

Honorable Mention: **Evangeline Gao**
Honorable Mention: **Justin Wang**

Chopin Foundation Council of the Northwest



Allan Park, President

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest! Our hard working Chopin NW board, consisting of Dr. Steven Lagerberg, Yunbo Cassady, Cathy Carpenter, Dr. Mary Chandler, Judy Baker, Dr. Hannah Cyba, Dr. Adam Aleksander, Kurt Kolb and Dr. Yelena

Balabanova, assembled once again for the master planning stages of the upcoming 2017 Chopin NW Festival. In anticipation of record breaking attendance again this year, we are pleased to announce the four internationally acclaimed adjudicators taking part in our 2017 festival. They are:

- Yakov Kasman, 1997 Silver Medalist in the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition
- Dr. Asaf Zohar, one of the most active Israeli pianists and pedagogues, is a graduate of the Givatayim Conservatory and The Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv
- Dr. Josh Wright, first prize winner at the 2013 Heida Hermanns International Piano Competition, first prize winner at the 2013 Rosamond P. Haeberle Piano Award competition, gold medalist at the 2010 Seattle International Piano Competition and a finalist at the 2015 National Chopin Piano Competition where he also won the prize for Best Mazurka
- Dr. Danius Vaicekonis, Seattle Pacific University faculty and prize winner of the International Franz Schubert Piano Competition in Dortmund, Germany

For the 2017 Festival, we are anticipating over 170 pianists of all ages to compete in six different divisions. One winner will also be selected from the Concerto Class to perform with Orchestra Seattle, a highly coveted symphony in the Northwest. Last year, we had a record number of Concerti contestants who competed for a chance to perform with this 30-piece orchestra under the baton of Maestro Clinton Smith. Our 2016 concerto winner was 12-year old prodigy Edward Zhang, a student of Dr. Sasha Starcevich, who brilliantly performed the 1st movement of the Chopin E minor Concerto to a standing ovation.

On a personal note, I flew to San Francisco in June, 2016 to adjudicate and select winners for our sister Chopin Council of San Francisco. My gracious hosts, Dr. Mack McCray, president of the Chopin Foundation Council of San Francisco and Meikui Matsushima, the San Francisco Council's secretary and membership chair, were delightful and helped me feel right at home. Their generosity and hospitality were second to none. The performers were spectacular and convincingly confirmed that the Bay Area has some of the most amazing teachers and gifted young pianists in the country. These pianists certainly made the six-hour adjudicating process fly by. This was one of the most fun and memorable 48-hour retreats.

Finally, our wonderful past president and secretary, Alison Bell, has decided to vacate her seat with the Chopin NW board this year so that she can spend more time traveling and assisting with family endeavors. She has been instrumental in helping our council grow and in developing our Festival into one of the most prized in our region. The Chopin NW board voted unanimously to honor her with a gift basket and the title, "Honorary Board Member & Past President" for her many years of tireless energy and spirit.

Website: www.chopinnw.org

Chopin Foundation Council of the Southwest

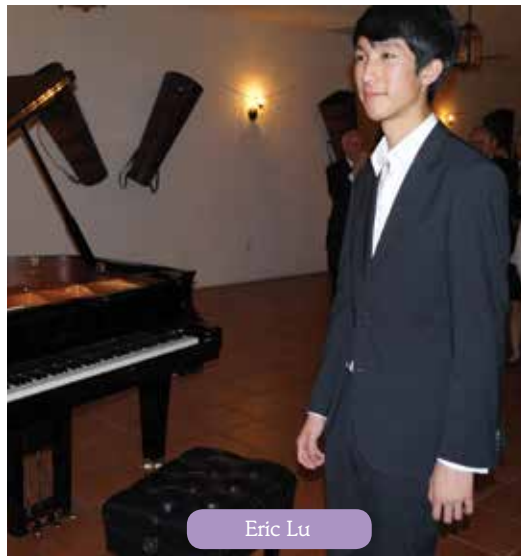
The Southwest Council of the Chopin Foundation is pleased to announce a concert by Krzysztof Ksiazek, the winner of Poland's 2015 National Chopin Competition on February 21 at California State University, Channel Islands, in Camarillo, CA. Please visit the Southwest Council website: www.chopinswcouncil.com, for updated information.

Chopin Foundation Council of Virginia

On a beautiful, sunny and warm Sunday, May 8th, the Chopin Council of Virginia hosted its 12th

Season of "Chopin in Barboursville." The award winning Barboursville Vineyards, located among rolling hills in Orange County Virginia, was a perfect venue to celebrate Mother's Day. Concert goers were welcomed by the beauty of blooming grapevines and vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains. As always, General Manager of Vineyards, Sig. Luca Paschina and his team, made sure Zonin Hall was ready for Eric Lu and Yamaha Artists sent us their finest CFX instrument straight from Carnegie Hall (thank you Makia Matsumura).

For the first time we focused on reserving twenty percent of our tickets for younger audience members. Thanks to the generosity of Drs. Jacek and Barbara Paszkowiak and one anonymous donor, we were able to offer "student tickets." Prof. Zygmunt Derewenda and his wife reached out to Polish graduate students at the University of Virginia who responded en masse and purchased all tickets within a few days. What a great sight to have so many young Chopin lovers present at our event. We were fortunate to have Minister Maciej Pisarski and Mariusz Gbiorczyk (Head of Diplomatic Protocol) along with their spouses as our guests. The Embassy of the Republic of Poland has supported our Chopin series on a number of occasions, recognizing the importance of promoting Polish culture in Virginia. We thank you once again!



Eric Lu

Eric Lu did not disappoint. His performance of Mozart and Schubert was flawless. Mr. Lu certainly satisfied audience expectations with his interpretations of Chopin's Ballades, Waltzes and Polonaise. His final piece, Prelude in B minor by Bach and Siloti, left us wishing for the moment to never end. What an artist; what an evening!

With a history of past excellence comes great responsibility. We are reviewing a number of requests for our next season to make certain the artists meet the quality and high artistic level our audience expects.



Luca Paschina, winemaker (left) with daughter and Minister Maciej Pisarski with wife (right)



University of Virginia students presenting flowers to sponsors, Drs. Jacek and Barbara Paszkowiak



Sponsors' dinner with the Artist

Please visit our website at Chopininbarboursville.org for the latest information.

Contributions

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The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc., is a national non-profit organization headquartered in Miami, FL, and since 1977 has been dedicated to the support of young, very talented American classical musicians. Thanks to your gifts, many more young talented American artists will receive the encouragement they need and the recognition they deserve.

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