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FALL 2022



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Cover Photo: The Fryderyk Chopin Museum was established in 1954 and since 2005, the museum has been operated by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute. While the Museum is currently closed for installation, we look forward to the grand reopening in May of 2023.

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A Message from the
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER
BLANKA A. ROSENSTIEL

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

~ BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

I have had the great fortune of being involved in a myriad of projects, programs, and ventures over the years. Now that one of my beloved projects, the Chopin Foundation of the United States, has reached its 45th anniversary, I not only have learned so much about Chopin and his music, but I am still yearning for more – more concerts, more deeply moving interpretations by brilliant young musicians, and more ways to share his beautiful compositions with everybody. I believe this passion for Chopin is now shared by so very many people around the world. Even 173 years after Chopin took his last breath, his music still breathes inspiration into the hearts and minds of millions.

Therefore it makes my heart glad to see that the Chopin Foundation continues to grow and find new opportunities to further its mission of supporting the young musicians of today who we hope will become the seasoned masters of tomorrow. Our Miami headquarters is humming with activity as we launch a new season. I am excited to see our loyal Chopin Foundation members at the unique Chopin Salons. This season we are bringing back three members of the 2020 National Chopin Piano Competition jury

- two of them were themselves first prize winners of this special competition.

The *Chopin for All* free concerts are an international affair this season, including some top American pianists of course, along with young musicians from Poland and Ukraine who will be part of the beautiful mix. And in addition to the live performances, the Chopin Foundation was able to award 23 scholarships to deserving young pianists. We congratulate them all in the pages of this edition of the *Polonaise*.

As our audience continues to grow and new members join the Foundation, I want to encourage you to stay involved and to come see us in Miami. I wish to thank the music teachers for sharing their knowledge and inspiring the next generation; thank the parents for providing these educational opportunities; and thank those individuals and institutions that donate the much-needed funds to ensure that our efforts can continue long into the future. The next National Chopin Piano Competition is coming in 2025 so please get ready and start thinking about how you will stay actively involved with the Chopin Foundation.



Lady Blanka outside the Residence of the Polish Ambassador in Washington, DC – May 2022

THANK YOU DONORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

We extend our deepest and heartfelt thanks to all those who have contributed to our mission in recent months. The generosity and kindness of our Donors & Contributors have kept the Chopin Foundation's mission vibrant for 45 years.

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Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel

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the National Endowment for
the Arts
The Village of Key Biscayne

A Message from the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. MUZE

*W*ith cautious optimism, it appears that the world of live performance is starting to spin on a familiar axis. Concerts are again welcoming near pre-pandemic audience numbers while pre-recorded and streamed events are now more of a bonus rather than the only option. It is with great enthusiasm and hope for the future therefore that the Chopin Foundation presents the 2022 Fall *Polonaise* magazine for your reading pleasure.

I am continually encouraged by the number of young pianists who are engaged in the Chopin Foundation's programs. I firmly believe that the future of classical music lies in the hands of our educational systems. It was with the intention to provide learning opportunities for US pianists, that Lady Blanka Rosenstiel created the Chopin Foundation 45 years ago. Her goal was to give a helping hand to young American pianists so that they could compete on the world stage. Based on the success of so many young pianists who have benefited from these programs, and the new artists we meet each year, it is clear that the mission is absolutely still relevant and much needed today.

This is also why the Chopin Foundation applauds the music teachers who continue to pass on this very important cultural legacy. We know that it is the teachers who are keeping the music of Chopin alive through their dedication to the advancement

of the students. This was evident in the applications that were submitted to the Scholarship Program for Young Pianists by this year's group of exceptional young pianists. I really have just one word for the young scholars and their teachers – Bravo! The Frost Chopin Academy and Festival is another



Barbara Muze speaking at the Frost Chopin Academy and Festival

program that is making a significant impact on young pianists by offering very talented students the opportunity to study with some of the very best pianists and scholars in the world. The Academy is the brainchild of Kevin Kenner and the 4th edition took place this summer. Kenner who, in addition to being recognized as a top Chopin performer, is also the Foundation's artistic advisor and Professor of Music at the University of Miami. This partnership with the University of Miami truly exemplifies the goals and mission of the Chopin Foundation. Be sure to enjoy some of the highlights from this summer's program on pages 6 and 7.

The publication of this issue of the *Polonaise* coincided with the start of a new and exciting concert season and really strengthens my conviction that these incredible young pianists need champions. These talented musicians represent our cultural future and the programs like the ones offered by the Chopin Foundation are so important to ensure their success. Thank you to all who assist in these efforts and please continue to support our programs as much as you are able. Come hear the concerts and be inspired!

South Florida Concert Review



We concluded the 2021-22 Concert Season with two final concerts in April and May. Local piano teachers recommended their best students for the annual Young Local Pianists All-Chopin Concert. The future looks bright for each and every one of these talented kids! In May, our season ended on a beautiful note with a concert by **Talon Smith**, one of the amazing finalists from the 10th National Chopin Piano Competition in 2020. Everyone was impressed with Talon's debut performance of his own 24 Preludes!



Anthony Pompa-Baldi
at the Miami Beach
Woman's Club

The November 2022 *Chopin Salon* featured the outstanding artistry of Italian-American pianist, **Anthony Pompa-Baldi** much to the delight of our Chopin Foundation Members and Guests. Maestro Pompa-Baldi was one of the esteemed jurors at the 10th National Chopin Piano Competition in 2020 and it was wonderful to have him back in Florida at the Miami Beach Woman's Club.



Talon Smith

Our first *Chopin for All* Concert in November 2022 welcomed a fine American pianist who has already distinguished himself at important competitions. **Anthony Ratinov** thrilled the audience with works by Beethoven, Scriabin, Silvestrov, and of course, Chopin. The December *Chopin for All* Concerts featured Polish pianist **Cezary Karwowski**, who shared his love for the music of Chopin and enlightened us with the romantic repertoire of Poulenc. The *Chopin for All* free concerts in Broward County welcomed audiences to two new venues: the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Abdo New River Room, and the Dillard Center for the Arts.

Cezary Karwowski at the
Dillard Center for the Arts



Anthony Ratinov at the
Abdo New River Room



REFLECTIONS

ON THE 2022

FROST

CHOPIN
ACADEMY

& FESTIVAL by Kevin Kenner



Opening night of the Festival began with an enlightening presentation by musicologist, **Frank Cooper**, Emeritus Frost Research Professor of Musicology

I believe this summer's Frost Chopin Festival and Academy was a resounding success on many fronts. Turnout to our concerts was at an all-time high, no doubt due to the appearances of high-profile performers such as Garrick Ohlsson, Ewa Poblocka and the recent prize winner of the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, JJ Jun Li Bui. But, the record high levels of participation must also be attributable to the fact that we were able to offer these concerts free of charge for the first time since we started the festival back in 2018. When I reflect on the questions of structural inequities in our society, classical music has unfortunately provided a well-documented example of an industry that has invariably excluded those who have little means to pay to attend classical music events. We have the Chopin Foundation to thank for its continued efforts to offer free classical concerts to everyone during its annual *Chopin for All* series. This is what gave me the incentive to provide free concerts to the community this year.

A new benchmark was also reached in terms of offering full and partial scholarships to every student that was accepted into the Chopin Academy, a program which saw record numbers of applications this year. Obtaining a quality education in classical piano comes at great cost to those families who are committed to helping their children attain their musical goals. I feel great satisfaction that through the aid of the Chopin Foundation, we could help every participant, including a fine young Brazilian pianist and a phenomenal Ukrainian pianist, both of whom received full scholarships. We were also able to offer substantial discounts to the seven Chopin Foundation scholarship recipients who chose to join the program this year.

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, together with the Chopin Foundation of the United States, has created a special new initiative. A substantial endowment has been set up for the University of Miami and the Frost Chopin Academy and Festival which will enable the program to continue to devise more equitable ways to bring the beauty and power of classical music to our community. The endowment will help the program to continue offering high quality mentoring to a budding generation of pianists who are destined to become the leaders of the next generation's classical music world.



John Rink, Professor of Musical Performance Studies at the University of Cambridge, UK presented two evening deep dives into Chopin's Etudes & Nocturnes



Olga Pasichnyk, the renowned Ukrainian soprano was accompanied by pianists and guest faculty members **Ewa Poblocka** and **Kevin Kenner** for an evening of Ukrainian and Polish Song



Academy participants performed at the evening concerts and certainly have a bright future ahead



The Academy students enjoyed the performance of young Ukrainian pianist, **Khrystyna Mykhailichenko**, pictured on the right with Professor **Kevin Kenner**



Maestro Garrick Ohlsson's performance at the Festival's grand finale was beyond words, although captivating comes to mind! It was wonderful to have the Chopin Foundation's Honorary Chairman of the Board as part of the 2022 Frost Chopin Academy & Festival



Chopin Foundation Executive Director, **Barbara Muze** attended every performance and was excited to see so many people in the community fill the concert hall each day. She was delighted to share a moment with (l to r) **Garrick Ohlsson**, **Ewa Poblocka** and **Kevin Kenner**, and is already looking forward to the 5th edition of the Festival in 2023.

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Broward County Locations as Listed

SUNDAYS at 3PM
Granada Church
950 University Drive, Coral Gables



MICHAEL DAVIDMAN

Finalist at the 2021 American Pianists Awards

SATURDAY
MARCH 18, 2023

Dillard Center for the Arts
2501 NW 11th Street, Fort Lauderdale

SUNDAY
MARCH 19, 2023
Granada Church



ANTHONY RATNOV

Prize Winner from 2022 Hilton Head International Piano Competition

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 6, 2022
Granada Church

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2022
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Abdo New River Room
201 Southwest 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale



KHRYSTYNA MYKHAILICHENKO

17 year old Ukrainian Prodigy

SUNDAY
JANUARY 22, 2023
Granada Church

MONDAY
JANUARY 23, 2023
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Abdo New River Room
201 Southwest 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale



YOUNG LOCAL PIANISTS in an ALL-CHOPIN CONCERT

SATURDAY
APRIL 22, 2023
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Abdo New River Room
201 Southwest 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

SUNDAY
APRIL 23, 2023
Granada Church



CEZARY KARWOWSKI

Winner of the 2022 MTNA Young Artist Competition

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 3, 2022
Dillard Center for the Arts
2501 NW 11th Street, Fort Lauderdale

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2022
Granada Church



KAMIL PACHOLEC

Finalist at the 2021 International Chopin Piano Competition

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2023
Dillard Center for the Arts
2501 NW 11th Street, Fort Lauderdale

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2023
Granada Church



KATE LIU

Bronze Medalist at the XVII International Chopin Competition

SUNDAY
MAY 21, 2023
Granada Church

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Abdo New River Room
201 Southwest 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

CHOPIN SALONS

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

SUNDAYS at 4PM

Miami Beach Woman's Club

2401 Pine Tree Drive, Miami Beach



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10th National Chopin Piano Competition 2020



NOVEMBER 20, 2022

ANTONIO POMPA-BALDI

Renowned Italian/American pianist

Sponsored by Lynn Atkinson and David Drucker



JANUARY 29, 2023

JON NAKAMATSU (piano)

MICHAEL KLOTZ (viola)

First Prize Winner of the 1995 National Chopin Piano Competition, 1997 winner of the Van Cliburn Competition, along with Miami-based violist

Sponsored by Gray & Sons Jewelers



MARCH 5, 2023

NING AN

Pianist, Winner of the 2000 National Chopin Piano Competition

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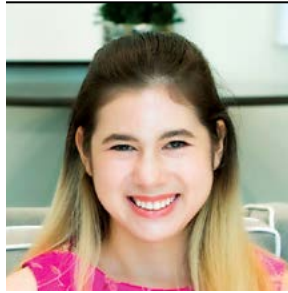


2022/2023 Scholarship Recipients



ANNA BRAY, 14

First Year
Sterling, VA
Trinity School at Meadow View
Piano Teacher: Alexander Shtarkman



CAREY BYRON, 17

Fourth Year
Corona, CA
Oak Crest Academy
Piano Teacher: Ning An



JERRY CHANG, 14

First Year
St. Louis, MO
John Burroughs School
Piano Teachers: Zena Ilyashov and Sasha Starceвич



CRYSTAL CHENG, 16

First Year
Cupertino, CA
Monta Vista High School and San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College
Piano Teachers: John McCarthy and Rose Chen



ARIEL CHIEN, 15

Second Year
Menlo Park, CA
Menlo-Atherton High School and San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College
Piano Teachers: Sandra Wright Shen and Daniel Cheng



LILLIAN FENG, 16

Second Year
Arcadia, CA
Arcadia High School and Colburn Music Academy
Piano Teacher: Dr. Vanessa Fadiál



ALYSSA GABRILOVICH, 16

Third Year
Villanova, PA
Harriton High School and NBS School of Music
Piano Teacher: Dr. Igor Resnianski



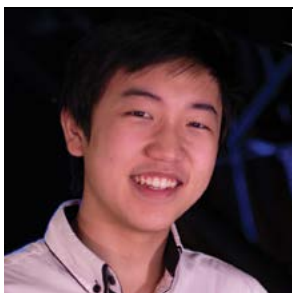
WILLIAM GE, 15

Second Year
Chester Springs, PA
Phillips Academy Andover and New England Conservatory Preparatory School
Piano Teachers: Ya-Fei Chuang and John Perry



JOHN KIM, 14

First Year
Lexington, MA
Lexington High School
Piano Teacher: Max Levinson



MALVYN LAI, 17

Third Year
San Diego, CA
Mt. Everest Academy
Piano Teacher: Ning An



BRIAN LIN, 15

First Year
Fremont, CA
Mission San Jose High School
Piano Teacher: Hans Boepple



KATHERINE LIU, 17

Fourth Year
Wellesley, MA
Wellesley High School and New England Conservatory Preparatory School
Piano Teacher: HaeSun Paik



MATTHEW LIU, 15

Second Year
Lawrence, KS
Lawrence Virtual School
Piano Teacher: Jack Winerock



TOM LIU, 15

Second Year
Saint James, NY
Collegiate School
Piano Teachers: Yoheved Kaplinsky
and Yi-Heng Yang



JASON NAM, 15

First Year
Bothell, WA
The Bear Creek School
Piano Teacher: Allan Park



HYEONUK PARK, 17

Fourth Year
Lexington, MA
The Juilliard School
Piano Teacher: Hung-Kuan Chen



KASEY SHAO, 18

Fourth Year
Cincinnati, OH
Princeton University
Piano Teacher: Ran Dank



JUSTIN SUN, 15

First Year
Spring, TX
Klein Cain High School
Piano Teacher: Robert Roux



NACHUAN TAO, 17

Second Year
Philadelphia, PA
Curtis Institute of Music
Piano Teachers: John Owings
and Ignat Solzhenitsyn



JOSETTA WANG, 15

First Year
West Palm Beach, FL
Alexander W. Dreyfoos School
of the Arts
Piano Teacher: Michael Ruis
and Ruo Huang-Balko



KEYI WANG, 15

First Year
New York, NY
Juilliard School Pre-College
and The Dwight School
Piano Teacher: Hung-Kuan Chen
and Tema Blackstone



CORY WU, 17

Second Year
Powell, OH
Columbus Academy
Piano Teachers: Kathleen Sadoff
and Nina Polonsky



PHILINA ZHANG, 15

Second Year
New York, NY
Special Music School
Piano Teacher: Irina Morozova

Congratulations

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. The Competition 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

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.GetAcceptd.com.

FOR 2023: Applications, along with all attachments must be received by **May 15th**. Scholarships will be announced by August 15th. Please contact the Chopin Foundation with any questions.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE.



THE CHOPIN FOUNDATION
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FLORIDA MTNA WINNERS

Chopin Prizes were awarded at the Florida State MTNA Competition held in October of 2022.

Both the Junior and Senior prizes were awarded to students who demonstrated an outstanding understanding of Chopin's music.



★ JUNIOR CHOPIN PRIZE ★

YOYO QU

YoYo Qu lives in Ponte Vedra Beach and is a student of Peggy Edwards



★ SENIOR CHOPIN PRIZE ★

MATTHEW PHAN

Matthew Phan lives in Jacksonville and is also a student of Peggy Edwards

MATKA

A NEW BOOK BY
PIOTR MYSLAKOWSKI

CHOPINA JUSTYNA CHOPIN

A Commentary by Alan Walker

Many years ago the distinguished Polish writer and poet Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz drew attention to a major difficulty facing any biographer of Fryderyk Chopin, best posed as a question. Who was Justyna Chopin, the composer's mother? Naturally the bare facts of her life were already known. Her birth in 1782, her marriage to Mikołaj Chopin, her role as a homemaker to Mikołaj and their brood of four children (Fryderyk was the second), her extended widowhood, her death in 1861 long after that of her distinguished son - all were firmly entrenched in the story of the composer's life. We knew, too, that the time-honored virtues were present in Justyna's character. She was an excellent housekeeper, careful with money, and endowed with a kindly and loving disposition. Contemporary observers describe her as having typical Polish features with flaxen hair and sapphire-blue eyes - which the only known portrait of her, painted when she was 47 years old, does nothing to dispel. And that is about all. But there had to be more. George Sand tells us that Justyna was the only woman that Chopin ever loved. And some accounts of the deathbed scene report that shortly before he died Chopin cried out for his mother. Such assertions clamour for attention, and they force us to return to our opening question: Who was Justyna Chopin?

Piotr Mysłakowski's splendid new book provides



Justyna Chopin: a painting by Ambroży Mieroszewski (c. 1829)

us with some answers, and it is likely to remain a seminal work. The author requires no introduction to readers of these pages. In a previous issue of *Polonaise* I reviewed in detail his two source books *Fryderyk Chopin: the Origins* (2010) written in collaboration with Andrzej Sikorski; and *The Chopins' Warsaw* (2013). These foundational texts informed my own biography of the composer, which benefits from them.

Mysłakowski begins by correcting some misinformation that regularly appears in Chopin biographies. He claims that there is no evidence of Justyna's so-called aristocratic background; no evidence that she was Fryderyk's first piano teacher; and no evidence that she even could play the piano above a rudimentary level. It was not music that Justyna brought into Chopin's life. The author quotes Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz as saying: "What Chopin took out of the family's home was culture in general" - not only cultivated manners but a deep attachment to everything beautiful and noble.

In order to explore this thesis, the author devotes some of the early chapters of his book to describing the education that Justyna might have received during her childhood and adolescence. He points out that in the late 18th century only 17% of Polish men could read and write, and only 4% of Polish women. Justyna's father Jakub Krzyżanowski fell into this privileged category, and evidently so did his children Wincenty, Marianne and Justyna herself. Justyna's epistolary style is on full display in the holograph of

Wochany Fryderyku

Cóż ci powiem w dzień twoich urodzin
i imienia, kawske jedno, że się Opatro
ności Bożej polecam i błagam co
Dziennie o błogosławieństwo Dariusza
i cielesne dla ciebie, bo bez tego wszyst
ko jest niczem. Ja z Taty najwy
go Staroży rdzowa jestem tylko
maie Dniwactwa przywiązane do sta
wosci czasem nie polioz, wprostko
inaczej widzę jak młodzi, ale cóż
robic! Wornik waca, Matka ~~u~~
szereśliwa wyjechała w niedzielę na
przeciwo niego do Drexna i tam go
czekać będzie aby z niem razem
wrócić; pisywał do niej często i
miał od niej polecenie, ażeby w

Justyna's letter to Chopin, Paris, March 5, 1848.

a letter that she wrote to Fryderyk in 1848 when she was 66 years old, and it is reproduced in the book. The penmanship is elegant, the language direct. It comes from an educated hand. Dated March 5, 1848, Chopin's name-day, Justyna tells her son that she prays for him constantly and asks him to write to her more often because she is getting old and is deeply attached to him. Mother and son had last met in Carlsbad, in 1835, when they were on holiday there thirteen years earlier. Justyna had meanwhile been obliged to watch Fryderyk's growing fame from afar, for she was never to see him again.

Tekla Justyna Krzyżanowska (that was her full name) was born in 1782 on the Długie estate in the vicinity of Izbica, owned by Count Kacper Skarbek and his wife Ludwika. It was a remote settlement inhabited by 35 villagers, the sort of place where one could easily wither away, worn down by hard labour on the land, detached from any possibility of an education. Save for one thing. The large residence where the Skarbek family lived in nearby Izbica was a centre of culture, attracting members of the lesser nobility to its social and artistic gatherings. It was an elegant building that stood out among the other local residences in the town, both in the magnificence of its construction and the richness of its furnishings. It had marble floors, vaulted ceilings, crystal mirrors, fur rugs, paintings, and a collection of musical instruments including horns and trumpets. The Skarbeks could even afford a small court orchestra and they arranged concerts, ballroom dances, and other social events. Mysłakowski conjectures that Jakub's family would have participated in the cultural life of the residence. There is documentary evidence that by the time she was fourteen Justyna already lived there and was probably employed by Countess Ludwika Skarbek, the putative owner of the estate. And it was there that Justyna acquired her education, her social graces, and a quiet confidence that she carried with her for life. When Ludwika's spendthrift husband Count Kasper Skarbek fled the country in order to escape his creditors, leaving his wife and five young children to fend for themselves, Ludwika drew Justyna yet closer into the family circle, entrusting her with the running of the household and looking after her offspring. From this moment Justyna was more than a housekeeper. She was Ludwika's faithful friend.

In 1799 Kacper Skarbek sold the estate and his wife bought one at Żelazowa Wola after starting divorce proceedings from the Count. Justyna stayed behind in Izbica to care for her father, but after his death in 1805 she appears to have fallen on hard times and faced impoverishment. From this bleak future the 24-year-old Justyna was rescued when Ludwika invited her to rejoin the family as housekeeper at Żelazowa Wola, and that is where history was made. Among the people she met was the 35-year-old French tutor of the Skarbek children, Mikołaj Chopin. Ludwika evidently played the role of matchmaker. Justyna and Mikołaj were married within a few short months of their first meeting. They moved into a modest tenement dwelling on the Żelazowa Wola estate (made available to them

by Ludwika), located close to the manor house where the newly-weds continued to work. Fryderyk Chopin was born there on March 1, 1810, and the building has meanwhile become a national shrine, attracting visitors from across the world.¹

Not long after the composer's birth, Mikołaj was appointed lecturer in French at the newly created Warsaw Lyceum. Since his annual salary of 3000 zlotys was not enough to support his growing family, Mikołaj opened a boarding-school for young boys enrolled at the Lyceum, some of them coming from the best families in Poland, and it flourished for the next twenty years. There were never fewer than six boys lodging with the Chopin family and since the fee for each boy was 4000 zlotys a year the family was soon well off. In exchange, these young scholars received comfortable accommodation in a safe environment, healthy meals, and excellent care. Justyna was central to the enterprise. Her domestic skills, general thriftiness, and careful bookkeeping were guarantees of success. Soon Justyna had four small children of her own to look after, in addition to six young boarders. The task could not have been easy, but she received the finest accolade possible when the boarding school was recognized as the best of its kind in Warsaw. Fryderyk Skarbek, Countess Ludwika's eldest son and incidentally Fryderyk Chopin's godfather, eulogized his old teacher Mikołaj Chopin in his memoirs, referring to his elevated stature as a mentor, and recalling a cautionary sentence that Mikołaj liked to repeat to his young charges: "The medals one possesses are worthless, if one is not a good human being."

Several recollections about Justyna come to us from grateful students and their families. She was remembered as a kind and loving person, who admired cleanliness, good order, correct manners, and she cultivated these virtues in her young boarders. She was deeply religious, but never in any fanatical way. After the family had moved to Warsaw, she worshipped at the Carmelite Church on Krakowskie Przedmieście, and often took young Fryderyk with her and had him kneel in front of her pew and read from his prayer book. (In later life there is clear evidence that Fryderyk became an agnostic.)

Justyna Chopin passed away in 1861, at the age of 79, and was buried in the catacombs of the Powązki cemetery, next to her husband who had died in 1844. During the funeral service, a choir performed *Salve Regina* by composer Tomasz Napoleon Nidecki, Chopin's friend and a fellow student at the Warsaw's High School for Music. During World War II the catacombs suffered serious damage. In March 1948, after a memorial service at the Church of the Holy Cross where Chopin's heart resides, the remains of Mikołaj and Justyna were laid to rest in a new grave elsewhere in the Powązki Cemetery.

¹Piotr Mysłakowski has argued elsewhere that Chopin's true date of birth was February 22, 1809, this contradiction arising from a clerical error in the baptismal records. But he accepts that Chopin himself maintained that he was born on March 1, 1810.



Piotr Mysłakowski (right) and Alan Walker exploring the catacombs of the Powązki cemetery, the original location of the graves of Mikołaj and Justyna Chopin. September 2015.



Mr. Mysłakowski's book, written in Polish, contains numerous illustrations, pictures and drawings (several of them unfamiliar even to Chopin scholars), together with a useful synopsis of the text in English and French. Some of the illustrations are by the celebrated French painter Jean-Pierre Norblin (who lived in Poland during the period covered by this book) and were selected by Mysłakowski from the vast collection that the painter left to the Warsaw National Museum. They depict the material realities of life when Justyna was growing up – people, clothing, buildings, and landscapes of the Polish countryside.

Matka Chopina is a vital contribution to Chopin's biography, written with the same passionate attachment to the details of the composer's life that characterised the author's earlier publications. Any future attempt to explore the composer's family background must rely heavily on its findings. Meanwhile, a complete English translation of this ground-breaking book is an urgent requirement.

[With thanks to Dr. Szymon Sobieszek, McMaster University, Canada, for his help with the Polish text. AW.]



The Scenes at the Palace are paintings by the celebrated French painter Jean-Pierre Norblin, mentioned in the article. They come from his vast collection in the Warsaw National Museum.



Justyna Chopin Place, Izbica.



Chopin's Mother: A Biographical Landscape by Piotr Mysłakowski 122 pages, Published by the Warsaw Chopin Society, Poland, 2022.



CHOPIN FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES
NORTHWEST COUNCIL

chopinnw.org

ChopinCouncilNW

The 2022 Chopin NW Festival was held online again this year. We wish to thank our adjudicators for their hard work and helping make this online event possible – **Phyllis Lehrer** (Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, N.J.), **Dr. Susan Boettger** (Lyceum Village, SPC), **Dr. Soyeon Kate Lee** (Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music), **Dr. Ran Dank** (University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music). Our 2023 festival and competition will be ‘live’ again.

Please take a moment to visit our Facebook page (ChopinCouncilNW) to hear some of their wonderful recordings.

Congratulations to All of Our Prizewinners!

DIVISION A1: 7 YEARS AND UNDER

ADJUDICATOR: Susan Boettger

GOLD MEDAL: Chloe Wang, Daniel Chiang, Molly Wu

SILVER MEDAL: Aimee Tian Ai He, Annabelle Zhang, Crystal Jiao, Hailey Xu, Lingyi Li, Nathan Jiao, Sally Gao

BRONZE MEDAL: Agnivesh Chaudhuri, Amelia Fu, Bella Jiang, Caleb Casper, Catherine Dong, Ellie Zhang, Finley Cai, Kyle Tan, Roy Kim, Zachary Chen

DIVISION A2: 8 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Soyeon Kate Lee

GOLD MEDAL: Alvin Lee, Ru-Shan An

SILVER MEDAL: Austin Miao, Jeffrey (Zixiao) Quan, Lucas Zheng, Nicole Wang

BRONZE MEDAL: Brandon Yang, Ethan Xu, Sofia Shao, Yilan Jin

DIVISION B1: 9 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Ran Dank

GOLD MEDAL: Cara Fan, Lingxi Chen, William Feng

SILVER MEDAL: Dana Wang, Ella Qiu, Victoria Marie Ramos

BRONZE MEDAL: Inez Ko, Jessie Wu, Sydney Cui

DIVISION B2: 10 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Phyllis Lehrer

GOLD MEDAL: Jimmy Huang, Yuexi Lu

SILVER MEDAL: Arabella Grote, Kyle Liao, Joyce Ye, Lenka Dzunic

BRONZE MEDAL: Angela Xiao, Eli Long, Eric Xue, Lourdes Ko, Simon Zhu, Toko Ota

DIVISION C1: 11 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Ran Dank

GOLD MEDAL: Audrey Cui, Emily Liu

SILVER MEDAL: Eli Antony, Joshua Kwan, Nina Iorik

BRONZE MEDAL: Hanen Guo, Nicolette Yang

DIVISION C2: 12 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Soyeon Kate Lee

GOLD MEDAL: Enzo Zhao

SILVER MEDAL: Emily Qi

BRONZE MEDAL: Albert Zhang

DIVISION D1: 13 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Susan Boettger

GOLD MEDAL: Grace Li, Kyle Yeung

SILVER MEDAL: Ashley Zong, Avery Pun, Leah Im, Melanie Liu, Nicholas Grote, Zoe Zhang

BRONZE MEDAL: Allison Lin, Bill Wang, Bowen Leung, Chloe Woo, Leslie Park, Ruohan Huang, XiYuan Gong

DIVISION D2: 14 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Phyllis Lehrer

GOLD MEDAL: Brian Li, Jason Nam, William Wang

SILVER MEDAL: Anna Yang, Harrison Li, Jason Kwon, Jeffrey Zhao, Jens Otterness, Michelle Cao, Yuanrui

BRONZE MEDAL: Ashwin Krishnaswamy, Daniel Hsu, Elaina Mergler, Mingyue Yang, Sarah Youn, Todd Miao

DIVISION E1: 15 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Susan Boettger

GOLD MEDAL: Earnest Wheelwright, Haolin Cong

SILVER MEDAL: Eric Ma, Isaac Goldstein, Olivia Qi, Ryan Chung

BRONZE MEDAL: Bailing Hou, Chaochao Gu, Constantina Tsang, James Huang, Jamie Kwon, Meredith Nam

DIVISION E2: 16 YEARS OLD

ADJUDICATOR: Soyeon Kate Lee

GOLD MEDAL: Marcus Yeung, Minoo Jang

SILVER MEDAL: Rachel He

BRONZE MEDAL: Mia Chen

DIVISION F: 17-18 YEAR OLDS

ADJUDICATOR: Ran Dank

GOLD MEDAL: Joshua Jung

SILVER MEDAL: John Meneses

BRONZE MEDAL: Lily Jonsson

DIVISION G: ADULT AMATEUR

ADJUDICATOR: Soyeon Kate Lee

BRONZE MEDAL: Jennifer Siney

CONCERTO DIVISION

ADJUDICATOR: Phyllis Lehrer

GOLD MEDAL: David Gatien, Jason Nam

GOLD ALTERNATE: Hyun Yoon

SILVER MEDAL: Daniella Tsang, Jeffrey Zhao, Nicholas Grote, Ruohan Huang, Ryan Chung

BRONZE MEDAL: Chloe Song, Courtney Tam, Katie Shen, Madison Yeon, Melanie Liu

A warm thank you to all of our supporters and donors, as well as our Board of Directors members, all volunteers, for their hard work and dedication: **Dr. Steven Lagerberg, Allan Park, Dr. Hanna Cyba, Judy Baker, Dr. Yelena Balabanova, Cathy Carpenter, Dr. Mary Chandler, Yunbo Cassady, Conney Vernall, Nino Merabishvili, Dr. Vladimir Balabanov and Victor Ro.**



Dr. Adam Aleksander, President
Chopin Foundation of the U.S., Northwest Council



CHOPIN FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGINIA COUNCIL

BY ROBERT JOSKOWIAK, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

With the recent invasion of Ukraine by a Russian army, several million women and children have been displaced. Over five million have already crossed the Polish border and were welcomed by private citizens and volunteer organizations.

I knew that we in Virginia had to do something to help. With the fluid situation in Ukraine, I have focused on the refugees in Poland and I thought that special attention was needed for Ukrainian children. They no longer had the carefree childhood that most of us experienced. They ended up in a foreign country worrying about their family members left in Ukraine. For years I have stayed in touch with Dr. Marcin Swierad, a professor of Cardiology at the famous Silesian Clinic in Poland, who together with hundreds of volunteers, worked to provide medical, social, and material assistance to Ukrainian children in Poland as well as the sick and injured in Ukraine. Dr. Swierad was part of the Polish Association of the Order of Malta, a chapter that recently celebrated its 100th anniversary of providing medical aid in Poland. Dr. Swierad and his team have been directly involved in caring for 50 Ukrainian children. The immediate needs at that time were related to paying for school lunches, language classes, providing respite stay, and any type of medical care they would need. This was in addition to the ambulance the Order was sending with medical supplies and ongoing first aid training to save lives of soldiers on the battlefield. Truly needed and dangerous work!

I decided to reach out to my favorite resource - Barbara Muze, the Executive Director of the Chopin Foundation of the US in Miami to discuss a fundraising concert and Barbara recommended Maestro Stanislav Khristenko, a Ukrainian born pianist. Stanislav is most known for winning the Cleveland International Piano Competition in 2013. In addition to this success, Khristenko also won the First Prize at Maria Canals International Piano



Ambassador Magierowski, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel
& Robert Joskowiak

Competition in Spain. All and all, Stanislav has won prizes at over 30 various piano tournaments in his career. One of his most exciting ventures is the co-founding of the Kharkiv Music Fest as well as well as being a Music Director of Nova Sinfonietta Chamber Orchestra in Kharkiv, Ukraine, and a mentor to young artists. An amazing and giving person!

The concert date was set for May 15, 2022. We were honored to have HE Marek Magierowski, Ambassador

of the Republic of Poland join us in person for this special event! Ambassador Magierowski expressed his concerns about the atrocities committed on Ukrainians in Bucha and the Russian's disregard for human dignity. In his comments, Ambassador Magierowski talked about the Polish/American bond. He stressed the importance of cooperation between the two countries and the need for a permanent NATO base on the Eastern flank considering Russia's expansionist agenda. We are grateful and honored for his participation in our event!

I also shared a personal letter from HE Niels Carl A. Lorijn, Ambassador of the Order of Malta to the Republic of Poland. He talked about evacuating over 600 patients from Ukraine, including 92 children with serious, chronic conditions. He thanked hundreds of volunteers running two 24/7 open kitchens at two border crossings and first-aid points at Krakow and Katowice railway stations. The Medical Team is also



Stanislaw Khristenko

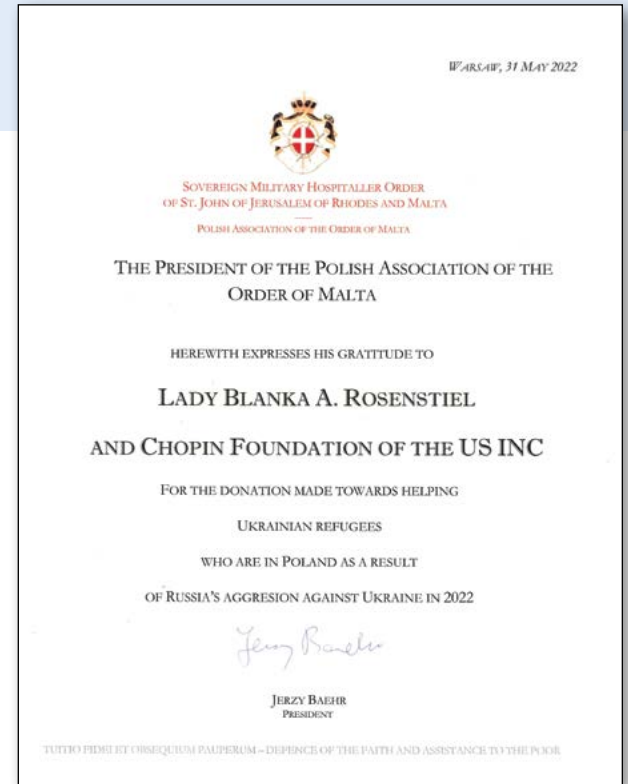
involved in running long term care facilities in several locations around Poland. This is a remarkable medical assistance program for people in need and in line with the Order's 900-year tradition.

Mr. Khristenko performed the works of Fryderyk Chopin and rarely-played pieces of Ukrainian composers like Borys Lyatoshinsky and Valentin Silvestrov. Maestro Khristenko started with a vigorous rendition of Chopin's Polonaise in A Flat Major, op.53 "Heroic," electrifying the audience. He followed up with poetic rendition of two preludes from Shevchenko Suite, op. 38 and three contemporary Bagatelles (2005). This somber and reflective event came to an end with four Ballades by Chopin. The evening concluded with a masterful performance of Robert Schumann's Childhood Dreams — "Traumerei" or "Dreaming, Scenes from Childhood." Slow, pensive, and melancholic music that allowed the audience to bring back memories of their childhood. Wow! What a concert!

All and all, we have raised over \$10,000 for Ukrainian Children in Poland and \$5,000 for the VA Chapter of US Chopin Foundation. We are so fortunate to have very generous people in our area. My sincere thanks go to the following people:

Karla Bayer, who not only generously donated the beautiful "Music Room" with concert piano but also contributed financially to our cause; Esqs. Christopher and Sally Honenberger, Ed and Ada Harvey, Darby Gingery, and Barbara Miller among others.

Special thanks go to Hon. Consul of Poland in Florida and the Founder of the Chopin Foundation of the United States, Blanka Rosenstiel. She has been an inspiration, donor, and supporter of our effort for over 17 years. We were delighted with her presence at our concert. Her support and generosity are never taken for



granted and always appreciated!

I would also like to thank Mr. Lyle Sanford for his logistical skills and attention to detail. He made sure all aspects were beautifully handled! What a wonderful tuning job by the Steinway tuner, Mr. Paul Ferlan. You never see him, but you can always hear the quality of the sound! Thank you, Paul!

Please visit our website at www.chopininbarboursville.org to learn more about the VA Chapter of the US Chopin Foundation. We are preparing to host a concert to celebrate the Official Days of Generals Kosciuszko and Pulaski, Polish born, American heroes of the Revolutionary War, on October 13th. Proceeds will benefit Joy Outreach Food Pantry and the VA Chapter of Chopin Foundation.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHOPIN SOCIETIES

From October 14 – 16, members of the International Federation of Chopin Societies gathered together near the charming village of Nohant and the home of George Sand where Chopin spent long summers from 1839 to 1846. The bucolic landscapes that surround the novelist's family château have lost none of their charm. And it was at Nohant that Chopin composed many of his works for piano, from the Third Sonata to the last of the Grand Polonaises. Even though Sand had all traces of Chopin removed from her home, it is not hard to imagine the peaceful and inspiring moments that he may have experienced walking the beautiful gardens that Sand so meticulously cultivated. As our dear friend and brilliant author Alan Walker said, "There is nothing like geography to bring biography to life."



CHOPIN NIGHT 2022 — THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SONGS



Organized each year in homage to Frédéric Chopin who died in Paris on the night of October 16 to 17, 1849, "La Nuit Chopin" took place from October 14 to 16, at the Château d'Ars, which was the home of Gustave Papet, a doctor and friend of the Sand-Chopin couple. During this three-day weekend, the IFCS members and the public experienced a beautifully organized series of concerts, dinners, and brunches filled with exquisite music and creative programming thanks to Yves Henry, the President of the Nohant Festival Chopin, and Sylviane Plantelin, the Vice President. Maestro Henry, a member of the IFCS Board of Directors and celebrated pianist, was the gracious host of this year's IFCS meeting. We were all very grateful for his warm hospitality and generous sponsorship.

Just prior to the IFCS meeting, Executive Director Barbara Muze spent a few days in Paris. While there she made a pilgrimage to the Père Lachaise Cemetery where Chopin is (mostly) interred. She also had the wonderful occasion to hear a recital at the Salle Cortot, enjoy lunch with Steven Lagerberg (past president of the Chopin Foundation's Northwest Council) and Marian Rybicki, pianist, teacher at L'École Normale De Musique De Paris – Alfred Cortot, and Artistic Director of Animato. Mr. Rybicki graciously organized an all-Chopin masterclass and celebrated the occasion with champagne and a meeting with Muze, and Animato members Patrick Amat, President, Katherine Simon, Treasurer and Michelle Nakata-Durif, Secretary.

Briefly, A Delicious Life by Nell Stevens

A BOOK REVIEW by Barbara E. Muze

Chopin's relationship with French author George Sand has been documented from many angles. The details of this unlikely pairing between the two 19th century celebrities have been preserved and re-examined over the course of close to two centuries. We still seem to be fascinated by their personal letters and can probably even dig up the old tabloids which published salacious tidbits that were eagerly lapped up by the gossip hounds of the day. The notes and images left behind by family, friends, and acquaintances with whom their lives were entwined, live on in museums and textbooks. Their time together in Mallorca has also been examined from all sides. Most notably for pianists and Chopin devotees, this was the time and place where Chopin composed many of his most loved works, including the Preludes.

It is hard therefore to imagine a fresh perspective on the relationship between George Sand and Frederic Chopin. Their tumultuous love affair has been so thoroughly and continually revisited for more than 150 years. A recent account even appeared in the brilliant book authored by Alan Walker, *Fryderyk Chopin: A Life and Times*, (Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 1st Edition October 16, 2018) which deliciously recounts the 5 months in Majorca with the historical accuracy of a great researcher who labored for 10 long years to make sure he got the story right. What more then could be left to say?

Enter author, Nell Stevens. *Briefly, a Delicious Life*, a newly published historical novel that broaches this brief moment in time from a seemingly unorthodox perspective.

By turning this well-known story into an historic novel, Stevens uses a very clever device to bring readers *literally* into the hearts, minds and even souls of the characters living on the Spanish island. Stevens has crafted a way to provide a new take on this old tale by conjuring up the ghost of a 14-year-old girl who died on the island more than 300 years earlier. And not just any ghost, but a ghost who can settle into the very physicality of those she haunts, feeling not only each breath and heartbeat, but every emotion and thought occurring at the moment, as well as every memory of the past and, she can even slip into the future if she dares. Only this seemingly omnipotent ghost can so intimately envelope the personal space between George Sand, Chopin and Sand's two children Maurice and Solange. Only this ghost can be the casual observer with the weight of 300+ years of history and generations of ancestors to bear who can describe every taste, smell, color, temperature and sensation in such visceral detail. So, while this is essentially a story based on historical circumstances, it is also a novel that the author has brilliantly brought to life through the eyes of Blanca the ghost.

Those who know Chopin's history well will enjoy reading *Briefly, A Delicious Life* knowing many of the references while enjoying the smartly told back story of Blanca the precocious ghost. Those who are not familiar with Chopin or his history may be inspired to listen to the 24 Preludes and learn more about Chopin's life and times. The book is written in a way that covers all the universal themes: love, sex, music, literature, death, and life and is engaging from start to finish.

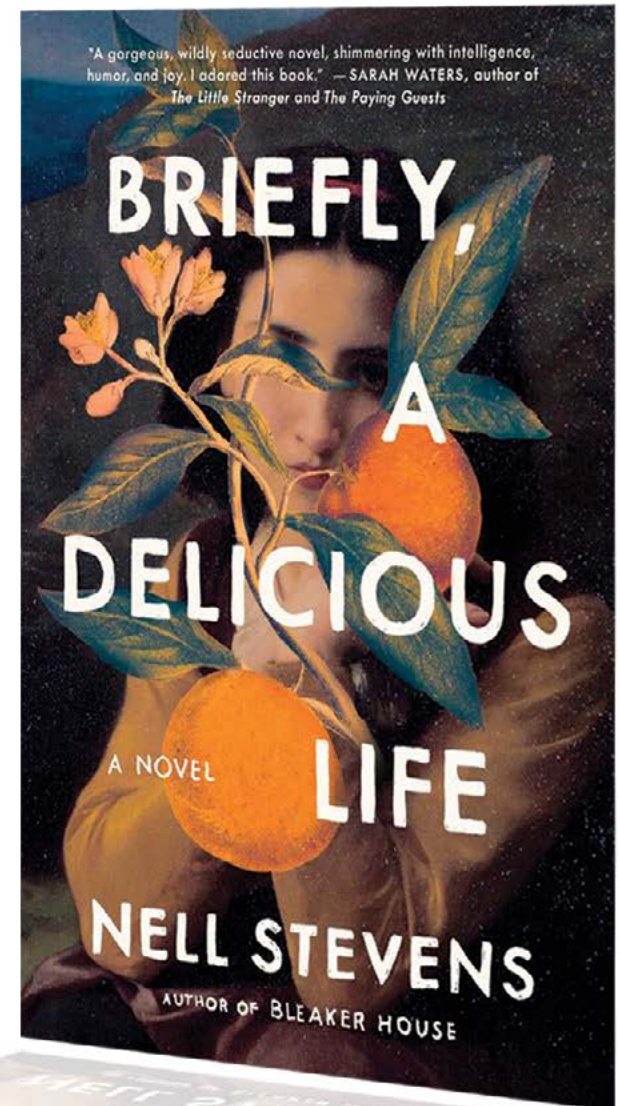


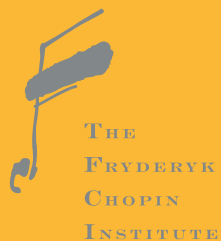
Publisher: Scribner (July 19, 2022)

Length: 304 pages

ISBN13: 9781982190941

www.nellstevens.com

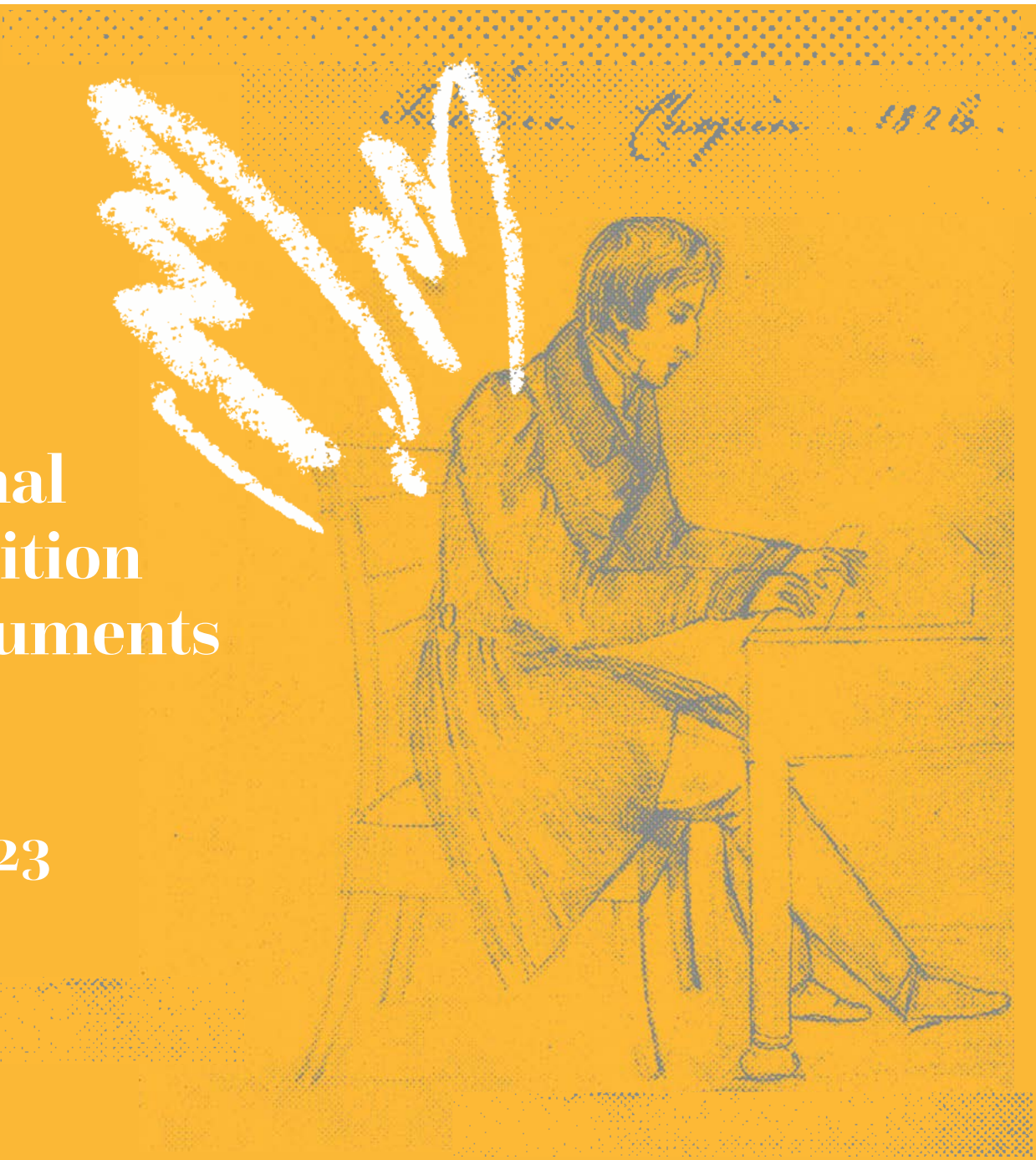




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The American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc.



The American Institute of Polish Culture (The Institute) continues to celebrate its 50th year, having been established by Lady Blanka in September of 1972 and officially incorporated in August of 1973. The Institute's objectives are two-fold: to bring to the forefront and share Poland's rich heritage with all, including centuries of Polish achievements that have played a vital role in the formation of Western civilization, and to develop a public resource dedicated to support and promote the scholarly, cultural, and scientific contributions of Polish-Americans.

To this end, the Institute has presented hundreds of events in Miami encompassing all artistic endeavors. For example, in 1975, and in collaboration with University of Miami's School of Music, The Institute presented the First National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States in Miami. The success and reverence achieved in its first year inspired Lady Blanka to create a second, non profit organization. Thus, in 1977 she established the Chopin Foundation of the U.S.

Each AIPC event, program, and project unveiled further strengthen its role as an enduring, innovative cultural force, locally and globally. From scholarships, to lecture series' at both the University of Miami and Florida International University, to literary events and publications, to art exhibitions, to film screenings, and The International Polonaise Ball and Brunch annual fundraising gala, we remain more committed than ever to educating everyone, everywhere, about Poland and her people as we embark upon five decades of service.

As AIPC's 50th anniversary continues, please *Save the Date*
and join us for **The International Polonaise Ball**
'Golden Jubilee' and Special Brunch
Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12, 2023
at the *Eden Roc Hotel*, Miami Beach
We hope to see you there!



For more information,
call 305-864-2349,
send an email to:
assistant@ampoloinstitute.org
or visit our website:
www.ampoloinstitute.org



In Memoriam

The Chopin Foundation was saddened to learn of the passing of one of its long-time members, George Berberian. George served as the President of the Chopin Council of Florida until August of 2010 and held the position for more than 10 years. As a loyal Foundation member, his passion for Chopin's music and the many pianists who came to Miami for concerts and competitions, was contagious. He was an enthusiastic volunteer and introduced many of his friends and colleagues to the Chopin Foundation. George was also Deputy Director of the Ocean Chemistry Laboratory at NOAA. After he retired in 1994, he continued to work as a consultant for NOAA through the University of Miami. Our deepest condolences to his many, many friends and colleagues.

GEORGE BERBERIAN
JANUARY 27, 1929—SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

TAX WISE WAYS TO GIVE

Building the Chopin Foundation Endowment Fund

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.

THERE ARE MANY TAX WISE WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHOPIN FOUNDATION

■ OUTRIGHT GIFT OF CASH

Consider a one time gift or set up regular monthly payments through your bank's bill pay service.

■ BEQUEST

A charitable bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or what remains after other bequests are made.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS OF SECURITIES OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

■ RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS

Assets from qualified plans or IRAs are ideal for charitable giving. This option offers an opportunity to avoid income and estate tax.

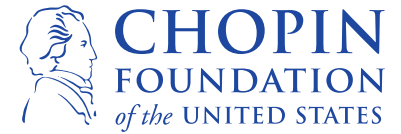
■ CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

Allows you to receive income (or provide income to another person) for life with the knowledge that funds remaining when the trust terminates will be used to support the Chopin Endowment.

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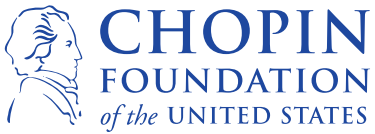
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