

**Music News from 3**

Newman Recital Hall on the USC campus for an afternoon of delightful music and celebration. Please call (213) 821-1356 or email polmusic@thornton.usc.edu if you have any questions.

**In San Diego**

On **January 15, 2010**, San Diego will kick off a year-long "Chopin Bicentennial Celebration" with a performance by Garrick Ohlsson, the first American pianist to win the Chopin Competition in Warsaw in 1970 who considers Chopin to be "a dictionary of the total possibilities of the piano and the human hand together" (see reference below). This celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Frederic Chopin will encompass the complete oeuvre of Chopin's works, performed over the course of 12 concerts in 5 different venues. Several groups are involved to create and support these programs, including the: La Jolla Music Society, San Diego Symphony, California Ballet, and San Diego Youth Symphony.

Journalist Jim Chute wrote about the events of and history behind the Chopin Bicentennial Celebration in his article "The Genius of Chopin" on May 10 in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*:

"People may say that Bach was the greatest composer of all time, or they might argue and say Mozart was, but there's no argument that Chopin was the master of the piano" [Christopher] Beach, [artistic director of the La Jolla Music Society,] said. "And since the piano is the greatest instrument we have, other than the human voice, he deserves a big anniversary."

Even if it were not Chopin's anniversary, it's hard to imagine a better time for a full shot of the 19th-century Polish composer's transformative music. In an era of economic, social and political upheaval, you can find solace in Chopin's rare combination of the most sublime elegance and over-the-top, almost unhinged passion.

"He's such a perfect synthesis," Ohlsson said. "He's right at the cusp of classicism and romanticism, although he thought of himself much more as a classicist. The gods for him were Bach and Mozart, although he knew lots of other music and admired Beethoven. But Beethoven certainly wasn't his guy."

Neither Ohlsson nor Beach is aware of a festival of equal scope – surveying the entire range of Chopin's music – anywhere in the United States.

Watch the La Jolla Music Society website for continuing updates on the events of the Chopin Bicentennial Celebration in San Diego.

[Sources: [www3.signonsandiego.com](http://www3.signonsandiego.com), [www.tunepiano.com](http://www.tunepiano.com)]

**In Chicago**

In honor of Chopin's contribution to music "We The People of Chicago" want to bring Chopin to Our City and to erect a copy of the famous Art Nouveau Chopin Monument in Warsaw's Royal Baths Park here downtown in Chicago.

The Chopin Monument was designed by Wacław Szymanowski, a prolific artist known for his emotionally charged art. Like most of his work, it is composed in the Art Nouveau style. The design is symbolic with the prominent stylized weeping willow over Chopin's seated figure meant to echo the pianist's hand and fingers.

This would not be the first replica of Warsaw's famed monument - a 1:1-scale replica of Szymanowski's statue stands in Hamamatsu, Japan. Szymanowski's statue was also the world's tallest Chopin monument until the unveiling of a slightly taller, modernistic bronze in Shanghai, China on March 3, 2007.

Chicago is truly a global city of Arts and Culture, and is rightfully assuming its position as a global city on the world's stage. Frank Lloyd Wright famously said, "Eventually, I think Chicago will be the most beautiful great city left in the

world." It would be a shame that one of Poland's proudest sons does not have a monument dedicated to him in the city that prides itself as having the largest population of Poles outside of Poland. [quoted from [www.chopinmonumentinchicago.com](http://www.chopinmonumentinchicago.com)]

**Sinfonia Varsovia recording**

The Sinfonia Varsovia orchestra, with conductor Jacek Kasprzyk, has just finished recording a new CD for Sony Music Japan and it is scheduled for release in Japan in January 2010. The album features Japanese pianist Michie Koyama, a laureate of the XI Chopin Competition in Warsaw and Tchaikovsky Competition in 1982 playing two piano concertos by Frederic Chopin. When it is released, it will be one of the first new releases to celebrate the anniversary year of Frederic Chopin.

[Source: [muzyka.onet.pl](http://muzyka.onet.pl)]

**Jonathan Plowright recording**

British pianist Jonathan Plowright, champion of Polish romantic music for the piano and 2006 Paderewski Lecture performer, is currently working on a CD for Hyperion Records to be released in early 2010 to commemorate the anniversary. It will feature pieces written in the style of and/or in homage to Chopin.

The repertoire of the disc will include: BALAKIREV - *Impromptu for piano* (after Chopin's Preludes in E flat minor and B major), BENDEL - *Hommage à Chopin*, Opus 111 No.1; BERKELEY - 3 Mazurkas, "Hommage à Chopin"; BUSONI - *Variations on a theme by Chopin*; GODARD - *Lanterne Magique* (Chopin, Opus 66 No.2); GODOWSKY - *Walzermasken No.7: Profil, B-flat major* (Chopin); GRIEG - *Studie*, Opus 73 No.5, "Hommage à Chopin"; HONEGGER - *Souvenir de Chopin* (1947); LESCHETIZKY - *Homage à Chopin*, Opus 46 No.9; MOMPOU - *Variations on a theme by Chopin*; NAPRAWNIK - *Notturmo*, Opus 48 No.1, "Reminiscence of Chopin"; TCHAIKOVSKY - *Un poco di Chopin*, Opus 72 No. 15 (1893); and VILLA-LOBOS - *Homage à Chopin*, No.1: Nocturne and No.2: Ballade (written for UNESCO, to commemorate the centenary of the death of Chopin).

[Sources: Oxford Music Online, [www.villalobos.ca](http://www.villalobos.ca), [www.godowsky.com](http://www.godowsky.com)]

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**Taxes from 3**

of the home's purchase price, up to a maximum credit of \$8,000. If the taxpayer lives in the home for at least three years, the credit does not have to be repaid. Income limits apply, with phase-out of the credit starting at \$75,000 for single taxpayers and \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The IRS reminds the taxpayers that the credit cannot be claimed until the purchase of the home is final, that is, it cannot be claimed in anticipation of a qualified home purchase.

For first homes purchased from April 9, 2008, through December 31, 2008, a credit of up to \$7,500 is available to qualifying taxpayers. This credit can only be taken on a 2008 tax return, and it must be repaid in 15 equal installments beginning with the 2010 tax year.

If you have additional questions about the ideas mentioned here and/or the many other strategies available to you, they may be directed to me at 800-CPA-KROL (272-5765), or you may write to:

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**ACPC - Pulaski from 5**

Polish Society. Expressing her delight at having an Austin student chosen for this prestigious award, Mrs. Gmurowski added "the Austin Polish Society, a relatively young Polish organization in the Austin area, is proud to participate in this special celebration for a young Polish Texan." The Society may be young, but it already boasts a yearlong schedule of Polish films, holiday gatherings, festivals, lectures and special Polish guest presentations as part of a forward-thinking agenda designed to educate Texans about the rich cultural heritage of Poland.

Application information on the Pulaski Scholarships for the year 2010 may be obtained after Nov. 1, 2009 by visiting [www.polishcultureacpc.org](http://www.polishcultureacpc.org) or by contacting Mr. Winters at [mvwinters@charter.net](mailto:mvwinters@charter.net) or (508) 949-0160. □

**WWII Victims honored from 10**

the project also aims to involve younger generations," says Tomasz Merta, Poland's Deputy Minister of Culture. The initiative is co-financed by the ministry and Poland's Institute for National Remembrance (IPN), responsible for prosecuting Nazi and communist-era crimes.

"Even if it's late, it must be done. The Germans must know everything black on white," says Maria Bromowska 73, who visited the project's headquarters in Warsaw to register her father and five members of her husband's family killed during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising of Polish Home Army partisans against the Nazis.

"I owe it to the memory of my father. He was killed by a German soldier in the street, in a suburb of Warsaw. He was not a member of the resistance, just a civilian," says Bromowska who saw her father die, a memory that still brings tears to her eyes.

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To CONTACT the Group Moderators please send an e-mail to: [Kresy-Siberia-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Kresy-Siberia-owner@yahoogroups.com) □

**Please send news and updates about your Polish Organization to the**  
***News of Polonia***  
**[polishnews@att.net](mailto:polishnews@att.net)**

**Legal from 3**

Rights Network. The New York Times endorsed the legislation in an editorial this week.

There are co-sponsors of the bill from both parties and the apparent support of the Obama administration. Unlike past years when similar legislation was introduced, the Democrats have a larger majority in the Senate and House, and may be able to defeat expected opposition from the anti-immigrant groups.

Farmers and other agricultural employers would benefit greatly from this legislation by providing help with the perennial problem of finding labor, and allowing growers to do so in a way complying with federal immigration law. Thousands of immigrant laborers would find a way to legalize their status and earn a path to green cards. The economy and government would benefit from additional tax base and consumer spending. Sounds like a win-win-win solution for the country. □

**Kościuszko Book Review from 10**

Espousing radical ideas is a cherished Polish tradition utilized by other notable Poles, namely Copernicus and Madame Skłodowska-Curie. One is reminded of the words of Schopenhauer who stated, "All truth passes through three stages. First it is ridiculed. Second it is violently opposed. Third it is accepted as being self-evident." Without political activism these "self-evident truths" might never reach fruition.

Editor and journalist Alex Storożyński has skillfully crafted a sensitive word portrait of Thaddeus Kościuszko. As a military leader he possessed the probity to refuse a promotion if it would "make a great many jealous" and stated, "I prefer peace more than the greatest Rank in the World."

As a civilian he was an educator by profession, ceaselessly promoting equality, education and dignity for all citizens of the world. Young people will no doubt resonate with our Polish hero differently than previous generations have done. Some will admire his "genius for engineering" more than his military acumen.

Others will applaud the fact that the general was not deceived by Napoleon, rather calling the latter "the gravedigger of the republic." Although it took some urging by his fellow officers, the general agreed to clear the name of Adam Poniński, accused of being a traitor for being tardy at the Battle of Maciejowice. Women all over the world can appreciate his legendary charm and admire his unwavering dedication to improving their lives. Storożyński defines Thaddeus Kościuszko's most admirable legacy stating, "...but his greatest actions -- his attempts to free serfs and slaves -- were buried along with the abolitionist movements that did not achieve success until many decades later." Today, after almost 2 ½ centuries, young people in particular are boldly taking up Kościuszko's vision to advance universal human rights. □

**St. John's Eve from 13**

traditional Polish folk and Pol-Am polkas the kind your gang goes in for, be it pop, rock, reggae, hip-hop or techno.

Before the wreaths are lighted and floated on the water, a contest might be held for the smallest, biggest, most beautiful, most unusual, etc. wreath. If there are a great many wreaths being floated, name-tags and phone numbers may be attached to identify their maker. To hold a magic-fern search, the event's organizers would have to hide a potted fern with a flower attached ahead of time. Other activities might include a foot race, tug-o-war or a contest to see who can throw some object (wagon wheel, sledge hammer, rock, brick, cement or cinder block, empty beer keg, even an old tire) the farthest.

St. John's Eve may be a closed party for just your gang, but it can also be held as a community event open to the public. In the latter case, to the above activities some added attractions, refreshments and entertainment would probably have to be added. Since people in local communities are always on the lookout for the new and different, such an event, if properly publicized, could also be as great fund-raising opportunity! □

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