

Music News from 3

Nelson Goerner, Janusz Olejniczak, Evgeny Kissin, Daniel Barenboim, Leif Ove Andnes, Yundi Li, Dang Thai Son and Martha Argerich. These soloists will be accompanied by the Warsaw National Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, and XVIII Century Orchestra. Conductors include Antoni Wit, Jacek Kasprzyk, and Frans Brüggen. For the complete program of concerts, please visit pl.chopin.nifc.pl/chopin2010.

The **XVI International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition** will take place in Warsaw in October 2010. As always, this highly prestigious competition will attract participants and visitors from around the world. Currently there are 335 applicants for the competition. From those, the preliminary jury will choose 160 participants who will be invited to Warsaw to present their musicianship and contend for this thrilling anniversary edition of the Chopin Competition. More about the competition is available at konkurs.chopin.pl.

The VI edition of the "**Chopin and his Europe**" International Festival will be presented by the National Frederic Chopin Institute and has been touted as one of the most important projects of the year. The special edition of the Festival will last for all of August and encompass 50 music events with the participation of over 1,000 performers from all over the world. Events will include recitals, classical and jazz concerts, open-air performances and more. As there are only limited details available at this time, please continue to check the Festival website—pl.chopin.nifc.pl/festival—for more information.

Chopin in Łódź

The World Premiere of the opera *Winter in Mallorca* is planned at the Łódź Grand Theatre for June 12, 2010. The opera was composed by Marta Ptaszyńska, with a libretto based on the drama by Janusz Krasiński, *Kochankowie z klasztoru Valdemossa* [Lovers from the Valdemossa monastery]. Frederic Chopin stayed in Mallorca between December 1838 and February 1839 in the mountain town of Cartuja de Valdemossa. That is where he finished his 24 preludes cycle. Artistic direction for this production is by Wojciech Michniewski and the opera is directed by Grzegorz Wiśniowski. According to Marek Szyjko, director of the Grand Theater, production preparation started a year and a half ago.

The opera follows Chopin and French writer George Sand as they take a ship to Mallorca, where they hope to enjoy their love. Quickly it occurs that the reality is not as they had hoped for. The islanders are not as hospitable as it would seem to be. Additionally, the ship carrying Chopin's piano is delayed. The wait-time makes the lovers restless and competitive about their independence. In their rivalry they are joined by the painter Maurycy and two children of George Sand.

Chopin benches

The City of Warsaw has installed multimedia benches made of black stone at various geographical points that are important to Chopin's life and legacy. Each bench has a switch that activates a pre-recorded presentation of Frederic Chopin's music. Currently there are 14 benches, however one more will be placed near the Chopin Museum when it opens in March.

Each bench also includes a map with Chopin points of interest and information about each place. For example, at the Krasiński Square you will read that there was once a National Theater building there where Chopin premiered his Piano Concerto in F Minor. Also in 1830 Chopin's farewell concert was performed there.

All of the benches also have a special photographic code, which, when photographed with a cell phone camera and sent to a toll-free number, unlocks

access to online multimedia collection including samples of Chopin's works, photographs and information about composer.

Chopin Benches is an initiative of the Design Society and were created by Prof. Jerzy Porębski, Dean of the Design Department of the Fine Arts Academy in Warsaw. The multimedia trail that these benches create is a supplement to the guide published by the City of Warsaw, which is available on the City's website at chopin2010.um.warszawa.pl.

Chopin in TV

Programming on Polish Television [TVP] this year will include numerous documentaries, features and concert broadcasts related to Chopin. On New Year's Eve, the special *To będzie rok Fryderyka Chopina* [This will be Chopin's year] was aired. Recorded at the Żelazowa Wola Manor, the special featured foremost scholars, representatives of artistic circles and the Minister of Culture, Bogdan Zdrojewski, and included a performance of the *Waltz in D flat Major* by young Jan Lisiecki.

On January 7, Polish Television will broadcast a concert performed by Chinese piano prodigy, Lang Lang, at the Warsaw National Philharmonic. The broadcast will be aired by Channel 2 and will be preceded by an interview with the artist. The program will include the *Andante spianato* and *Grand Polonaise in E flat Major*.

Another broadcast featuring Piotr Paleczny in a concert at Polish Sejm will be aired on January 20. The program will include a performance of Chopin's *Piano Concerto in E Minor*.

There will be numerous presentations dedicated to Chopin, including: the feature film *Chopin. Pragnienie miłości* directed by Jerzy Antczak; a movie "*Fryderyk Chopin - romantyzm wygnañców*" by Maria Sartowa; a program *Chopin jakiego nie znamy - pianista i pedagog*; as well as fragments of the "*Chopiniana*" ballet production directed by Thomas Grimm.

TVP has also launched an internet website dedicated to Frederic Chopin. The website—www.chopin.tvp.pl—includes materials from the depths of the TVP archives which are unavailable elsewhere. The website will also feature shows, concerts and interviews recorded during 2010. More information about the TVP plans for the 2010 will be made available on January 20 during a press conference at the Chopin Music University in Warsaw.

Other resources:

As always we recommend that you visit the *Chopin 2010 website*—chopin2010.pl—which is the most comprehensive source of Chopin related information prepared especially for the celebration year. Another helpful resource is the website of the International Federation of Chopin Societies: www.ifcs.pl. [Sources: rmfclassic.pl; wyborcza.pl; muzyka.onet.pl; culture.pl]

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Winetzki - Ohlsson from 5

and sparkled like champagne. At the conclusion of the recital, the audience response brought to mind a foot stomping hootenanny rather than a classical music program. Listeners leapt to their feet shouting "bravo" while applauding with uproarious approval. After treating the audience to four encores, Ohlsson bowed and smiled and finally placed his hand over his heart in a warm gesture of gratitude.

Garrick Ohlsson's series of All-Chopin recitals will continue on to Seattle, La Jolla and conclude at Lincoln Center later this year. A special gala featuring him will be held on March 1, 2010, the birthday of Poland's beloved composer, in the manor house at Żelazowa Wola where Chopin was born. Ohlsson will appear in other solo recitals in Chicago, Fort Worth and Philadelphia. Subsequent appearances this year with symphony orchestras are scheduled in New York, San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta, Vancouver, Indianapolis, San Diego, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Baltimore. In the San Francisco area, classical music enthusiasts are familiar with the FOG Trio, a chamber music ensemble of which he is a founding member. Devotees of this prolific recording artist will be pleased to learn that Ohlsson's 16-disc set of the complete works of Chopin was re-released in the fall of 2008. □

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Investments from 3

mutual funds and company stock. With a self-directed Rollover IRA, you can work with your financial professional to structure a portfolio using stocks, bonds, annuities and other investments utilizing an asset allocation that is customized to help you meet your retirement investment objectives. And your retirement strategy can be further tailored with a wider range of beneficiary selection and distribution choices.

Consider Consolidation

This may also be an excellent time to deal with multiple IRAs you may have opened over the years, and with account balances you may have left in the plans of former employers. Together, these assets may represent a significant sum. There are good reasons to consider consolidating them all in a Rollover IRA:

Comprehensive investment strategy—It can be difficult to maintain an effective investment strategy—one that accurately reflects your goals, timing and risk tolerance—when assets are spread among multiple financial institutions. When you consolidate, your financial professional can help you ensure that these assets are part of your overall asset allocation strategy that is reflective of your current financial situation and long-term retirement goals.

Greater investment flexibility—A self-directed IRA generally offers you the ability to choose from a wide range of investment products, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities and more.

Simplified tracking—It is easier to monitor your progress and investment results when all your retirement savings are in one place, because you will receive one statement instead of several. That simplifies your life while protecting the environment.

Lower costs—Reducing the number of accounts may also reduce your account fees and other investment-related charges.

Dealing with one account rather than several also simplifies the distribution process—including complying with complex minimum distribution rules when you reach age 70½.* And you avoid the risk of losing track of your retirement accounts or access to the account assets should your former employer merge with another company or go out of business. Your financial professional can help you assess your alternatives so you can make decisions based on what's best for you. You may find that this time of transition holds benefits for your retirement assets.

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