

Celebrating Chopin Year**Poland's greatest musical gift to the world**By: *Robert Strybel*,

Our Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW—Madame Skłodowska-Curie, Copernicus, Joseph Conrad, Lech Wałęsa and our late beloved Pope John Paul II have certainly all made impressive contributions of one kind or another to world civilization. But in the musical realm no other single Pole can hold a candle to Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin, the brilliant Romantic composer and unsurpassed piano virtuoso. The honor the 200th anniversary of his birth, UNESCO has proclaimed 2010 International Chopin Year.

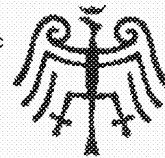
Under UNESCO auspices a ceremonial Chopin concert will be performed at UNESCO Hall in Paris on June 18th. Special concerts, festivals, competitions, symposia, exhibitions and other Chopin-related events are being held across Europe and around the globe from Finland, Israel and Taiwan to Santiago de Chile, Vancouver, Canada and many points in between.

On February 20-28 Miami, Florida will be the scene of America's Eighth Chopin Piano Competition. On March 20th – 24th, the Chopin Foundation of the United States is co-hosting a special Chopin conference with the National Music

Teachers Association in Albuquerque, NM. There are plans to unveil of copy of Warsaw's Chopin Monument in Chicago, home of America's largest Polonia. And in the Detroit area, this reporter's old "stomping grounds", Noreen Śmiałek-Sinclair, the local pillar of Poland's musical heritage, has for years organized an annual Chopiniana Festival each autumn, and this year's will surely be one of the best. But nowhere will the year's celebrations be more extensive and inviting than in the land of Chopin's birth.

Chopin was born on March 1st, 1810 in the village of Żelazowa Wola near Warsaw to a naturalized Pole of French origin and a Polish mother. It was she who introduced him to the piano before he had turned five, and by the age of seven he had composed his firsts polonaises. A true child prodigy, he performed before crowned heads, and was recognized as a musical genius. Soon after he left for Paris in 1830, Poles revolted against their Russian oppressors who crushed their November Insurrection, and Chopin would never again see his native land.

The main event of Chopin Year in Poland will be the Chopin Piano Competition, for which eliminations will begin in January. The winners will be announced at the end of the finals taking place in Warsaw from October 2nd to 23rd. One of the world's leading music events, it was first launched in 1927 and since 1955 is held every five years.

*Strybel - Chopin to page 15**American Council
for Polish Culture*

**Wishing the Blessings & Joy of this
Christmas Season for all of Polonia
Across the United States!**

Give your HS grad/college student a super gift – an exciting week at our Youth Leadership Conference in Washington DC next June! See www.polishcultureacpc.org or contact Irena Mirecki, 703-241-1149, irena@mirecki.us.

Our booth at the Annual National Conference for the Social Studies, Nov. 13-15, 2009 highlighted the Polish contributions to the Allied victory in WWII for the thousands of teachers in attendance at the Conference.

Check our website www.polishcultureacpc.org for information about our scholarships/grants: \$5,000 Pulaski for Advanced Studies, \$1,000 Skalny for Polish Studies and \$2,000 Summer Studies in Poland Scholarship for youths!

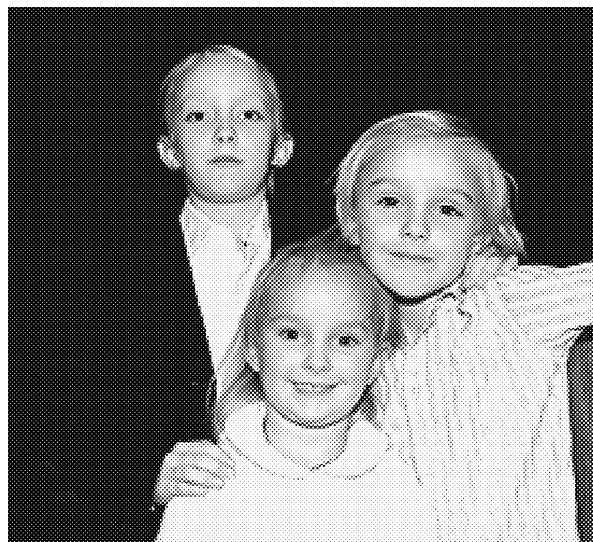
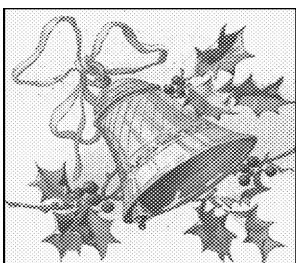
Join the leading Polish cultural organization in the U.S., annual membership only \$10.00 – contact Anna-Mae Maglaty, 860-521-7621 annamae11@comcast.net.

ŻYCZYMY WESOLYCH ŚWIĄT BOŻEGO NARODZENIA!*Deborah Majka, President**Bernadette Wiermanski, 1st V.P. Mary Ellen Tyszka, 2nd V.P.**Gregory Biestek, Treasurer Marcia Lewandowski, Secretary*

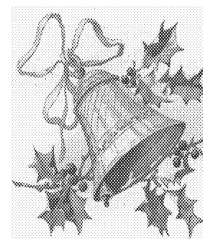
Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

**Teya (Zosia), Chaz and Edyn Cepielik - Weeks****Mom****Kristy (Cepielik)****Dad****Todd (Weeks)**

*May your heart be filled with joy
at the wonderful news
that Christ, our Lord, is born.*

Martin Krawiec, Attorney

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

from the

members and officers

of the

Polish Women's Alliance Group 814

Polka Deli

*The Best Polish Deli
in Orange County California***Polish Traditional Deli Products**Sausage, meat cuts, pierogi
Stuffed cabbage
Polish bread and cakes**Imported from Poland**Candies, cookies and chocolate
Great Polish beer,
wine and spirits
Newspapers and magazines,
Cosmetics**1710 Tustin Ave - Orange, CA****Tel/Fax (714) 974-8276****Mon to Fri - 10 - 6, Sat 10 - 4****Danuta Delnitz, M.D., Ph.D.**Diplomate of American Board
*Of Family Practice***Family Medical Center, Inc.****34052 La Plaza - Suite 102
Dana Point, CA 92629****Tel (949) 240-8555****Fax (949) 240-9040****Mówimy po Polsku****Welcome Home
Realty****Arizona**

New homes from

\$180,000.00With small down
payments

✓ Free Consultations

✓ Free services for buyers

✓ We'll help you find the best
Available loan for your budget**Stan Żarkowski***Associate Broker*

Office (623) 298-2404

Cell (623) 512-7336

E-mail szarkowski@cox.net**Piotr (Peter) Sidoruk***Commercial Real Estate**Kupno --- Sprzedaż --- Porada
Buying --- Selling --- Consulting***Marcus & Millichap***Real Estate Investment Services*

Office: 949-258-4522

Cell: 949-274-6967

e-mail:

psidoruk@marcusmillichap.com

License: CA: 01744605