

**Do not let us forget**

**Wieslaw, Karol, Matthew, Zofia Adamowicz and Principal Debbie Vallas**

The deportation of Poles by Soviets in 1940 is practically unknown to young Americans, even if members of the families were involved in those tragic events. It is highly commendable when the older generation passes along their historical experiences to the younger generation. The grandchildren of Zosia and Wieslaw Adamowicz attend La Purisima Catholic School in Orange, CA and the students were preparing special projects for a general presentation.

Matthew Adamowicz, a grandchild, has chosen to describe suffering of his grandmother during the deportations on February 10, 1940 from their home in Medyka, Poland to Siberia in the Soviet Union. The school principal Mrs. Debbie Vallas and the teacher Susan Agle sponsored the presentation described in an Orange local newspaper. Matthew described in his own words the tragedy of his grandma family, presented below.

**Zofia's Journey to Freedom**

By: **Matthew Adamowicz**

There are a lot of things to talk about when it comes to Zofia Cybulski's early life. Although Zofia is Cybulski, my grandmother, and her family endured an extended period of time with almost no food, much sickness, and brutal conditions, she survived because of her family's support and praying to God. This is her story.

The war started with invasions and deportations. In September 1939 Poland was invaded by the Soviet Union, which is Russia. Then in February 1940 the Soviet Union began massive deportations of 2 million Poles to hard labor camps, or gulags, in Siberia. Zofia, who was 9 years old, her mother, sister and brother were put in a train car with 60 other people. All those people were put into cattle cars with no seats and a hole in the middle of the car that served as the bathroom. They had no privacy. Their train ride to Siberia took 6 weeks. They rode in the train cars like animals and only given watery soup every 2 to 3 days. People died during the journey. Zofia's camp was called Pima and was located east of the city Krasnoyarsk. Her father, Stefan Cybulski, was taken away to a different camp far to the north near the Arctic Sea.

There was much misery and death in camp Pima. In one barrack, about 200 people were crammed in one barrack, with only 2 burner stoves. Zofia had to sleep on top of a suitcase because there was no bed for her. Everyone over 13 had to do hard labor in the forest cutting trees and working the land. The temperature at camp Pima would get to negative 60 degrees during the winter time. A daily ration of food was a small piece of bread (about 400 grams) so everyone went hungry. Zofia's mom, my great grandmother, was punished and taken away for trying to get more food for her starving family. One day Zofia's sister Helena fell thru some ice and became completely wet. The guards refused to let her return to camp to change and she became very ill. She never received any medical attention and eventually died of pneumonia. Zofia also became very ill with typhoid and almost died.

Their chance for freedom came in 1942 when the Germans invaded Russia. Many of the Poles escaped from the camps and headed south toward Persia. Somehow, in what seems like a miracle, her father found them. Zofia and her family travelled by boat, train, and foot until they ended up in Iran. Eventually she was settled in a refugee camp in Uganda, Africa where she lived from 1942 to 1948 in primitive conditions, but free from the brutal guards, the harsh weather and starvation.

Then Zofia and her family made their way to England. She met and married her husband, Wieslaw Adamowicz, while in England. In 1955 she came to the United States with Wieslaw and two children. Zofia's journey to freedom was long and she suffered much. □

By: **Susan Agle,**

Matthew Adamowicz's teacher

The students at La Purisima Catholic School in Orange were treated to a rare glimpse into life as a Polish deportee during WWII when Wes and Zosia Adamowicz spoke to the students last week. Wes and Zosia shared with the students how difficult life was for all Polish citizens during the war, not just the Jews. When Hitler and the Germans attacked from the West and Stalin and the Russians attacked from the East, all Poles were affected. Wes and Zosia were forced from their country into life as prisoners. Zosia was sent on a several month journey in a cattle car deep into Russia where she and her family were sent to a forced-labor camp, crammed into living quarters, expected to survive on only 400 grams of bread a day, and treated like common criminals. When amnesty finally came for the Poles, they found they had no country to return to. Poland was still occupied and no country wanted the more than one million displaced Poles. Zosia and her family joined the refugees in Iran and the Middle East. From there, they joined the many Poles who made their way to British-controlled Uganda where they were finally able to begin rebuilding their lives. Although Zosia and her family had to start over on a new continent, they felt they had everything in the world they needed because they had their freedom. Their freedom meant more to them than gold. Zosia shared that the key to her survival was her faith. She knew God had not abandoned her and that by keeping her faith in Him, He would deliver them, and He did.

What an amazing testimony of faith, courage, and hope Wes and Zosia shared. The students and teachers were moved and enlightened by the Adamowicz's story. May God continue to bless you and your family! □

**Anderszewski Chamber Concert Review**

By: **Daniel Kamiński,**  
Polish Music Center

Pianist Piotr Anderszewski visited Los Angeles for a series of concerts including a chamber performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's *Piano Quintet in G Minor*, Op. 57 on January 26 and a performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major*, Op. 15 with Los Angeles Philharmonic on January 29, 30 and 31.

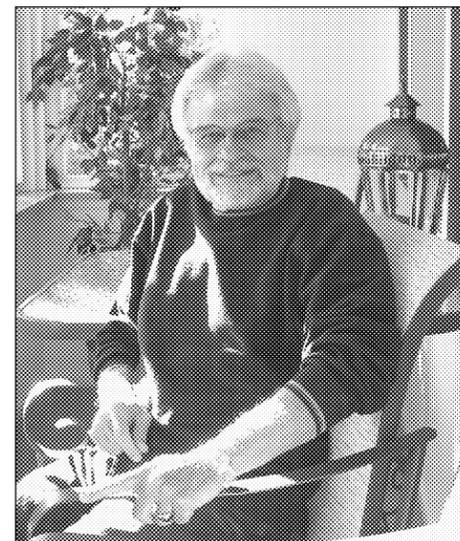
Widely considered to be one of the greatest pianists in the world, Piotr Anderszewski is of Polish-Hungarian descent. He was born in Warsaw, where he studied at the F. Chopin Music Academy. Later, he continued his studies at the conservatories in Strasbourg and Lyon. At 18 he spent a year in the Thornton School of Music at USC on a scholarship. He has also studied with Murray Perahia, Fou Ts'ong and Leon Fleisher. Since 2000 he has been an exclusive Virgin Classics artist.

Your reviewer was lucky enough to have experienced the January 26 LA Phil Chamber Music Society concert, which featured not so much Anderszewski as a soloist, but rather the musicians of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in various chamber configurations, reinforced by Anderszewski for the final piece of the program. The concert opened with Beethoven's *String Trio in C Minor*, Op. 9, no. 3, performed by members of the LA Phil's string section (Stacy Wetzel, violin; Minor Wetzel, viola; and David Garrett, cello). The performance was solid, if not slightly understated. Some of the faster passages lacked detail and definition, however the overall experience was esthetically very pleasing and set a great mood for the remainder of the concert.

The second work on the program was Franz Krommer's *Partita in E-flat Major*, Op. 79. The piece was masterfully performed by members of the LA Phil's wind section (Ariana Ghez and Anne Marie Gabriele, oboes; Lorin Levee and Monica Kaenzig, clarinets; Shawn Mouser and Michelle Grego, bassoons; Patricia Kindel, contrabassoon; Ethan Bearman and Bruce Hudson, horns). This piece was performed without a conductor, which for such a large chamber group is no small feat. The ensemble worked together as tightly as a great Swiss watch and delivered a stellar performance of this rarely performed work. The amount of energy combined with fantastic detail and beautiful sound made me crave more music from this grouping, however it was time for the intermission.

After the break, the audience was treated to Johann Sebastian Bach's *Sonata in E Minor*, BWV 1034. The performance, which again featured two members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic joined by USC's own Lucinda Carver on harpsichord, was nothing short of stunning. The flute performance of Catherine Ransom Karoly took my breath away; her command of the instrument and silky smooth timbre were simply outstanding. The trio, including cellist Jonnathan Karoly, worked closely yet effortlessly and created a masterful performance, one of which Bach himself would have been proud.

After such an excellent start to the second half of the concert, expectations for the final work were very high, especially considering that most of the audience had come to Wald Disney Concert Hall on Tuesday evening to hear Piotr Anderszewski play. The *Piano Quintet in G Minor*, Op. 57 by Dmitri Shostakovich is a rather challenging work, both technically and musically. In this performance Anderszewski's partners included Associate Concert-master, violinist Bing Wang, violinist Varty Manouelian, Principal violist Carrie **Kamiński - Anderszewski to page 16**

**Marian Michał "Mike" Drobniowski †**

Mike died suddenly and unexpectedly of a massive coronary while shoveling snow at his home in Nieszawa, Poland.

Mike was born on September 24, 1939 in Ciechocinek Poland, just 24 days after the Nazi invasion of that country. His father Łucjan was an American citizen, having been born of Polish parents in Detroit; thus Mike and his brother were eligible for American citizenship once residency requirements were met.

After WWII, the Drobniowski family, Łucjan, Leokadia, Mike and younger brother Maciej "Mitch" left Poland in 1948 and moved to Detroit, Michigan, where Łucjan was able to obtain employment with GM as a Model Maker in their styling department. In 1955, the family moved to Arizona for Leokadia's health, needing a drier, warmer climate to relieve her chronic sinus infections. The parents moved back to Detroit in 1960, but both sons stayed in Arizona.

Most of Mike's adult life was spent in Tempe, Arizona, where he married, and divorced after 25 years. He joined University Realty Inc. in Tempe and eventually became majority stockholder and president. He became a successful investor in rental properties, which led to his firm's change in focus from sales to property management.

Mike was active in the Pułaski Club in Phoenix, and instrumental in bringing a permanent Polish Parish to Phoenix.

Mike retired from his real estate career in 2001 when he was asked to help take care of his aunt and godmother, Isabella Nawrocka Tarta, who was dying of cancer in Florida. While in Florida, he reunited with Polish cousins from his mother's Nawrocki family who came to pay their respects to their beloved aunt. He was executor of Isabella's will whose heirs were in Poland. While visiting the heirs in Nieszawa, Mike fell in love with the town, the country, and the relaxed way of life there, he purchased some land, had a house built and moved there permanently. Being a "doer" all his life, Mike, (not liking the King's English British language style locally taught), became an American English-language teacher to a number of young people. He also started a town tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July holiday with fireworks and a Sock Hop.

Mike was a frequent contributor to News of Polonia, first with news from Arizona, then a series of articles regarding his impressions of Poland as a returnee, and later, giving some insight on his political views of Poland as well as the USA.

Mike is survived by brother Mitch, Sister-in-Law Beth, nieces Marilyn Bacon and Ann Adams, grandnephews Matthew and Brian Bacon and Zachary Adams and grandniece Heather Adams, all living in the Denver, Colorado area. †