

Paderewski competition from 1**American Paderewski Piano Competition**By: *Andreas Eckstein*

Los Angeles has reaffirmed its place in the international musical community with the creation of an American Paderewski International Piano Competition. The competition premiered from May 26-29, 2010 at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, California, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of its namesake, Polish pianist and composer Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The Competition attracted 44 young keyboard artists from across the globe. Countries represented in the semifinals included Uzbekistan, Italy, China, Canada, Poland, Russia, Korea, Macedonia, and the USA.

Twenty four gifted pianists were invited into the semifinals, where each musician was required to perform a 25-30 minute program, including a compulsory piece by Paderewski. Six winners emerged and went on to perform a 50-55 minute recital in the Final Round before the Competition Jury of five adjudicators. The esteemed Competition Jury was comprised of internationally acclaimed pianists and piano educators who brought a wide range of educational and performing experience to the competition. Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, a former First Prize Winner of the Paderewski Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz Poland, is currently a Clinical Professor of Piano at Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles. Evelyne Brancart is a professor and Chair of the Piano Department at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University in Bloomington. Jon Kimura Parker is a professor at the Shepherd School of Music

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L. - **Piotr Kosiński (Poland), Leonard Gilbert (Canada), Gloria Campaner (Italy), Nicholas King (USA, California), Hsiang John Tu (USA)**

at Rice University, and Margarita Shevchenko is an internationally recognized performer who also serves on the faculty at Cleveland Institute of Music. Professor Adam Wibrowski sits on and directs several notable musical organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Paderewski Music Society in Los Angeles, which organized this competition.

Members of the jury listened for masterful performances that partnered accurate articulation and interpretation with sincere artistry and musical vision. Though the 24 semifinalists demonstrated an impressive command of difficult literature, the Jury elected the six most compelling performers of an already impressive cohort to compete in the final round. Those selected for awards succeeded not only because of their obvious musical talent and technical ability but also because of their gripping presence on stage.

The First Place prize of \$5,000 was awarded to Piotr Kosiński, age 21, of Poland. Mr. Kosiński, while conservative in both his stage manner and interpretation, used this no-frills approach to great effect, presenting his considerable musical abilities unveiled by any embellishments. His playing was intense and virtuosic, leaving no doubt regarding his technical mastery of each piece. His final performance included the Scarlatti Sonata in G Major K. 13 and Sonata in b minor K. 27, Chopin's *Polonaise-Fantasia* in A flat Major Op. 61, Granados' *El Pelele*, and Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit*.

Gloria Campaner, age 23, of Italy won the Second Place award of \$2,500 with her own distinctive interpretations of Chopin, Ravel, and Rachmaninoff. Exhibiting a confident and striking stage presence, she used her glamorous visual presentation to embody the music in a highly expressive manner. Unorthodox and vibrant, her performance was poetic, captivating, and even sensual at times—an inarguably exciting experience. This vibrancy was especially evident in the piece she shared with Kosiński, the Chopin *Polonaise-Fantasia*. Campaner was unapologetically romantic while Kosiński would be better described as a 'controlled' romantic, though both interpretations were certainly performed in style. It is here that the judges' necessary subjectivity showed preference for Kosiński's more reserved and conventional approach. Besides the Chopin, Ms. Campaner's final performance featured Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales* and the Rachmaninoff *Moments Musicaux* Op. 16 nos. 1-4. Ms. Campaner was also honored with a \$1,000 prize for the best performance of Chopin, awarded by the L'Association Chopin à Nohant, France.

Leonard Gilbert, a 19-year-old pianist from Canada, placed third, winning \$1,000. Though one of the younger competitors and the youngest finalist, Mr. Gilbert has already received many honors and accolades, which his performance proved to be well-deserved. Mr. Gilbert had a remarkable musicality and beautiful sound. His performance produced the most intimate aura of the three awardees, and as his educational career unfolds, much will rightly be expected of him. His final performance presented captivating interpretations of the Scarlatti Sonata L.449 in b minor and Sonata L.431 in E Major, Beethoven's Sonata in C Major No. 21 Op. 53 "Waldstein", and Chopin's Sonata no. 3 in b minor Op. 58.

All three, mentioned above, performers received also the ex-aequo prize of the Paderewski Music Society for the best performance of Paderewski. Mr. Hsiang John Tu received a \$1,000 prize for the best performance of Leschetzki, awarded by the Leschetzki Music Society of Warsaw, Poland. Additionally, Mr. Nicolas King received the Jury's Choice Award, presented by Henryk Martenka, the Director of the International Paderewski Piano Competition un Bydgoszcz, Poland - the Award is a weeklong participation in the masterclasses with orchestra in Bydgoszcz-Ostromecko, Poland in August 2010.

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Blessed Fr. Popieluszko from 1

The 37-year-old priest was murdered by the communist secret police in 1984 in reprisal for his patriotic monthly Homeland Mass (*Msza za Ojczyznę*) at Warsaw's Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church. The mass lifted the spirits of his downtrodden compatriots during the grim years of martial law (1981-1983) and afterwards but infuriated Poland's communist rulers.

A man of slight build and frail health with a somewhat boyish face, Popieluszko was no fiery orator but spoke in calm, rather monotonous, droning voice. He never mentioned the word communism nor directly criticized Poland's communist rulers by name, but Homeland Mass goes knew that Jaruzelski's Zomo riot police were being referred to when he called for prayers for "those who persecute their own countrymen for Judas silver." He spoke of fidelity to God and country, of freedom, human dignity, truth, honesty and justice – all things most Poles felt were sorely lacking in communist Poland.

Soviet-trained communist strongman General Wojciech Jaruzelski clamped Poland under martial law to crush the 16-month-old Solidarity movement, the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union. The country was cut off from the world, as all flights were grounded, phone lines were cut, public gatherings were banned, a curfew was imposed, industrial plants were militarized and some 10,000 Solidarity activists were jailed.

The murder might have never been discovered, because the victim's weighted-down body would have soon decomposed in the depths of the Włocławek dam basin, were it not for one fact. Father Jerzy was abducted while travelling along a dark country road together with his friend and driver Waldemar Chrostowski who managed to escape and tell the story.

Under public pressure and extensive international media scrutiny the regime had no choice but to hold a trial in which the three killers and their mid-level direct superior were convicted of the crime. They have long since been released following a series of amnesties, but the higher-ups who ordered the killing have never been brought to justice nor even identified.

"Was Father Jerzy a criminal, a murderer or terrorist?" the Italian prelate asked rhetorically in his homily and answered: "No, he was simply a faithful Catholic priest who was defending his dignity as a servant of Christ and the freedom of those like himself were persecuted and humiliated. But religion, human dignity and freedom were notions not in agreement with the Marxist ideology. That is why the destructive anger of the great liar, the enemy of God and oppressor of mankind was unleashed against him."

Jerzy was one of five children born to the devoutly Catholic Popieluszko family in the village of Okopy in northeastern Poland's poor Podlasie region. His older brother Józef recalls how the entire family would pray on their knees together every morning and evening. Jerzy served as an altarboy and, on days when he wasn't serving at the altar, would rise earlier and walk an extra three miles to attend mass before going to school. He was drafted into a special army unit for seminarians which subjected recruits to atheist propaganda and various forms of humiliation and harassment to turn them against the Church. He was punished for refusing to remove his religious medallion and surrender his rosary. "How easy it is to suffer, when one suffers for Christ," he wrote to the director of his seminary.

When the peaceful Solidarność revolution erupted in 1980, the late Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński assigned the soft-spoken priest to be the chaplain to Warsaw steelworkers and nurses. At St Stanislaus Church he pioneered his trademark Homeland Mass, celebrated on an outdoor balcony, which regularly attracted up to 20,000 faithful who filled the entire street in front of the church and spilled over into an adjoining park.

In addition to his compatriots Lech Wałęsa and Pope John Paul II, Father Jerzy made a significant contribution to the collapse of the Evil Empire, as US President Reagan called the USSR. By 1984, the Jaruzelski junta had used threats, intimidation and blackmail to force the Polish nation into submission and offered incentives to those ready to play ball with the authorities. Ordinary people had to think about feeding their families and many began succumbing to what the country's communist rulers called "normalization". It was Popieluszko's brutal murder that convinced a majority of Poles that the totalitarian regime had no future and re-ignited their quest for freedom.

The beatification ceremony was followed by a massive four-hour procession bearing the martyr's relics which wended its way across the sun-drenched city to the Church of Divine Providence in the south Warsaw suburb of Wilanów, a distance of 7.5 miles. There they were enshrined in a basilica still under construction which is due to become a National Religious Sanctuary. □

Movie review: "Burzyński"By: *Kevin Thomas*

Eric Merola's "Burzyński" charts how a Texas medical doctor and biochemist developed Antineoplastons, genetic-targeted medicines, and with them began to treat a wide range of cancers, including difficult-to-treat brain malignancies, with remarkable and continuing success only to bring down the full force of the medical establishment, which has laid assault to him in the most stupefying, devious and costly manner.

Stanisław Burzyński, a Polish immigrant with an unflappable, bemused attitude, eventually won a 14-year struggle — during which he found himself threatened with life imprisonment and astronomical fines for fraud and other violations — to obtain FDA-approved clinical trials of his Antineoplastons, an ordeal that cost Burzyński \$2.2 million in legal expenses and the FDA \$60 million in taxpayers' money. If anything, his dealings with the National Cancer Institute were to prove even more outrageous.

Merola unleashes a barrage of information, including much testimony from grateful patients, but he could have made an even more effective film had he paused to summarize each phase in Burzyński's long ordeal. Even so, the film makes the case that big pharmacy holds the FDA in its thrall, that the National Cancer Institute perversely refused to follow Burzyński's protocols in its clinical trials and seemingly has violated Burzyński's long-held patents.

Julian Whitaker of the Whitaker Wellness Institute of Newport Beach and one of Burzyński's most eloquent defenders makes an all-crucial point: Burzyński's Antineoplastons, with their high success rate and lack of side effects, pose a significant threat to the trillion-dollar industry of treating cancer with the traditional methods of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. □

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