Officers & Directors

Krzysztof Penderecki - Honorary Chairman
Blanka A. Rosenstiel - Founder & President
Olga Melin - Vice President
Thomas A. David - Treasurer/Secretary
Dr. Adam Aleksander Wegrynek - Artistic Advisor
Jadwiga Gewert - Executive Director

Directors
Agustin Anievas, Rosa-Rita Gonzalez, Dr. Tomasz A. Grabczak, Dr. William J. Hipp,
Mack McCray, Oti Roberts, Renate Ryan, Hao Zhang

Scholarship Committee
Agustin Anievas, Dr. Hanna Cyba, Dr. Adam Alexander Wegrynek

International Artistic Advisory Council
Agustin Anievas, Martha Argerich, Emanuel Ax, Jeffrey N. Babcock, John Bayless,
Luiz Fernando Benedini, John Corigliano, Ivan Davis, Christopher T. Dunworth,
Charles Dutoit, Nelson Freire, Bruno Leonardo Gelber, Gary Graffman, Horacio
Gutierrez, Marta Istomin, Byron Janis, James Judd, Cyprien Katsaris, Zoltan
Koscis, Jacob Lateiner, Garrick Ohlsson, Paloma O’Shea, Daniel Pollack, Maurizio
Pollini, Abbey Simon, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Michael Tilson Thomas, Charles
Wadsworth, Susan Wadsworth, Krystian Zimerman

Editorial:
Polonaise is published semi-annually by the Chopin Foundation of the U.S.
1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141
Editorial Office: 305-868-0624 • 305-865-5150 (Fax)
E-mail: info@chopin.org • Website: www.chopin.org
Publisher: Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel
Executive Editor: Jadwiga Gewert
Cover Art: “Zelazowa Wola - Mazovian Willows,” Chopin and the Land of His
Graphic Layout: Melissa J. Szwanke
Other Contributors: Carol Anievas, Allison Bell, Veronica Dicker, Mack McCray
Photos: Jadwiga Gewert, Marilyn McAuliffe, Mike Skronska

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Founder and President .......... 1
Chopin Foundation San Francisco Council .......... 2
Chopin Foundation NW Council .................... 3
Season Report on Florida Activities ................ 4
Bess Kronowitz Scholarship Fund
and Birthday Celebration .......................... 5
Chopin For All Free Concert Series ............... 6
Membership Concert Series ......................... 7
Sponsors ........................................... 8
Sponsors and Donors ................................. 9
Bach and Chopin: Reunion
by Magdalena Baczewska .......................... 10-12
Etude by Elisabeth Murawska ........................ 13
Chopin’s Heart by Steven Lagerberg ............... 13
International Federation of Chopin Societies ....... 14
Letters by Chopin .................................. 14
Scholarship Requirements & Chopin Prize .......... 15
Support Young American Pianists .................. 16
Contribution Form ................................. 17
Dear Friends of Chopin’s music,

Last year the whole world celebrated the 200th anniversary of Frédéric Chopin’s birth. For us the celebrations are not over and will never be. Promotion of Chopin’s music is our mission, and there is a constant demand for it from young pianists and audiences alike. Therefore, we continue our musical journey with Chopin, in the company of a growing and appreciative group of supporters.

In this issue, we are happy to report on our successful current season of concerts in South Florida, and on our plans for the future. There is always more to do, more young talented musicians who need our assistance, and a growing need for live concerts in our communities.

We have been fortunate to receive generous support from Southern Wine and Spirits of America for this current season of concerts, and are pleased to announce the continuation of this partnership for the next three seasons! Thanks to generous companies like Southern Wine and Spirits, and with support from music lovers, as well as from others committed to the future of classical music and the development of young artists, we have been able to continue our mission for almost thirty-four years!

A recent celebration of the 100th birthday of one of our most devoted volunteers and leaders, Bess Kronowitz, gave us a great opportunity to establish a new scholarship fund, which will help us expand our assistance to young American piano students.

Our partnership with the Music Teachers National Association will allow us to select the best young “Chopinists” from among the winners of the MTNA Piano Performance Competition. The “Chopin Prize” in three age categories will first be awarded at the National Conference of the MTNA in March 2012 in New York.

I hope you will enjoy an article on Chopin and Bach musical connections which we also included in this issue of our magazine. Please let us know if you have any comments and suggestions so we can better meet the needs of our readers and supporters.

With warm regards,

Blanka A. Rosenstiel
Founder and President
On Sunday, February 13, 2011 we held our Annual Chopin Birthday Concert, featuring twenty-three year old pianist, Josh Wright, who recently won the gold medal at the Seattle International Piano Competition. The large and enthusiastic audience enjoyed a lovely afternoon of Chopin’s music, including the Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante. Mr. Wright’s strong technique and poetic musicality created a memorable event for all in attendance.

Our annual Holiday Concert was held December 5, 2010 at the Queen Ann Hotel in which the winners from the previous June’s Young Pianists Competition performed. The event was heavily attended, the Queen Ann’s hall was full, and everyone enjoyed a delicious reception following the performance. We were so pleased and proud to be able to present the next generation of musical talent at this festive event. Upcoming events include our next Young Pianists Competition on June 4, 2011, and in October 2011 we will present pianist Paul Posnak in a recital.

To join Chopin Membership in the San Francisco area and to learn more about the Council’s activities, please go to our website:

www.chopinsf.org
The Northwest Chopin Foundation is celebrating its 10th year!

We sponsored our 9th annual Chopin Festival on Saturday, February 5, 2011, and it was one of our best. As always, the Festival was held at the Seattle Sherman Clay Store and also in two lovely rooms at the Mayflower Park Hotel. This year saw 114 students from ages 7 - 18 play the beautiful music of Frédéric Chopin in 5 divisions. In addition to the 4 age-related divisions, we decided to try something a little new and different. We had a Concerto Division, which we invited the older students to enter. Four students entered and were asked to play one movement from the Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11. They were accompanied by their teachers or other accompanists, and student and teacher played side-by-side on two lovely Concert Grand Steinway Ds, provided by Sherman Clay in Seattle.

The winning student, Christopher Lu, performed the next day Sunday, February 6, at our Honors Concert with a professional string quintet. He was also awarded a lovely plaque furnished by the Polish Home Foundation and presented to Christopher by one of their members. The concert was played to a full house at the Frye Art Museum. Dr. Steven Lagerberg, noted musicologist, physician, and expert on Frédéric Chopin, acted as Master of Ceremonies at our concert, and we had many compliments from members of the audience who so thoroughly enjoyed his introductions of the students and commentary on the pieces they played.

To join Chopin Membership in Seattle and to learn about the coming Chopin Festival, please go to www.chopinnw.org

The adjudicators this year were Dr. Renato (Ron) Fabbro, Dr. Robert Swan, Dr. Sasha Starcevich, and Dr. Kay Zavislak. We are truly indebted to them for their hard work and dedication to the students who came to play.

We are excited about the future of the Northwest Chopin Foundation, and are currently working on plans for a fun summer Sunday afternoon recital featuring Josh Wright, the collegiate winner of the 2010 Seattle International Piano Competition. This will be a fundraiser to help with the Helen Belvin Scholarship Fund, which we award to the D division winners each year. We have a very dedicated board of directors: Judy Baker, Alison Bell, Cathy Carpenter, Mary Chandler, Jinwha Chon, Karin Ng, Gary Peterman, Steven Lagerberg, and Hao Zhang. We also hold the highest esteem for our emeritus past president, Helen Belvin.
Message from the Executive Director

It has been a very busy and exciting season for the Chopin Foundation. After returning to Miami from the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, we opened our Chopin for All Free Concert Series with a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of another great Pole, Ignacy Jan Paderewski. This concert was performed by Andrew Tyson, a finalist of our 2010 National Chopin Competition. Later in the month, we presented another finalist, Esther Park, who performed in our Membership Concert Series at the beautiful La Gorce Country Club on Miami Beach. In December, Hubert Rutkowski traveled from Poland to present Polish and Cuban music. In January, Claire Huangci, our 2010 first prize winner, charmed our members with her exquisite technique, and the Atma Trio presented beautiful chamber music by Chopin and Schubert. Also in January, in cooperation with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, we enjoyed a concert by violinists Ania and Piotr Filochowski, with accompaniment by local pianist Geoffrey Loff. In February another trio, Magdalena Baczewska on piano with mezzo-soprano Marta Wryk and violist Veronica Dicker, performed a program titled “Chopin and the Art of Romantic Songs.” The March concert, as always, was devoted to young local piano students, all of whom displayed their excellent talents in an all-Chopin program.
To celebrate the 100th Birthday of one of the most devoted volunteers and leaders within the Chopin Foundation, a new Scholarship Fund has been established to honor Bess Kronowitz and to continue her legacy of supporting young American pianists. This Fund will be part of the Chopin Foundation’s Scholarship Program.

The scholarships are awarded each year, on a competitive basis, to outstanding piano students, ages 14-17, who demonstrate a special affinity for the interpretation of Chopin’s music. Scholarship winners are supported, for up to four years, as they prepare for the National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States, held in Miami every five years. Beginning in 2012, one of ten recipients of the Chopin Foundation scholarships will be awarded a grant from the Bess Kronowitz Scholarship Fund.

On March 6, 2011 we celebrated Bess Kronowitz’s 100th Birthday with her family and friends in attendance. A special concert was performed in tribute to Bess by surprise artists: Alan Gampel, who flew to Miami from Paris just for this occasion, Wendy Chen, who generously fit this event in her busy calendar, and Agustin Anievas, who fortunately lives in Miami and was also available.

Please see a few photos of the Birthday Lady with her family, friends, and fellow Chopin Foundation members.
The Southern Wine and Spirits of America’s 2011-2012 Chopin for All Free Concert Series

November 5 & 6, 2011
Eduard Kunz, Russia
First prize winner of the 2010 Int’l Paderewski Piano Competition

December 3 & 4, 2011
Ania & Kasia Karkowski, violin and piano
Chopin and the 19th Century Paris

January 21 & 22, 2012
Artist TBA

February 18 & 19, 2012
Kinga Augustyn, violinist
The Romantic Violin
Special appearance on February 17, 7:30 pm at Sunrise Civic Center Theatre, 10610 W. Oakland Park Blvd. Tickets at 954-747-4646

March 24 & 25, 2012
Young Pianists Concert
local piano students
All-Chopin Program

April 28 & 29, 2012
Nikolai Khozyainov, Russia
The youngest finalist of the 2010 International Chopin Competition

May 19 & 20, 2012
Artist TBA

All concerts in this series are presented in two locations:
Saturdays at 3PM:
Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale
Sundays at 3PM:
Granada Presbyterian Church, 950 University Drive, Coral Gables

For more information, please call the Chopin Foundation office at 305-868-0624 or visit www.chopin.org
2011-2012 Membership Concert Series

Featuring Jurors of the 2010 National Chopin Competition

Agustin Anievas
November 20, 2011

Tian Ying
February 26, 2012

Juana Zayas
April 15, 2012

These salon style concerts are held at
La Gorce Country Club
5685 Alton Road, Miami Beach

Each concert is followed by a wine reception and dinner

Free to paid members; guests $75

Prior reservations required at 305/868-0624
More information at: www.chopin.org
Southern Wine & Spirits of America is a proud sponsor of the programs of the Chopin Foundation of the United States.
**Sponsors and Donors**

**Acknowledgement**

We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to those whose vision and support have helped us in our efforts toward developing the next generation of great artists. It is our hope that we may add to these numbers others who would join us in the Foundation’s efforts to fulfill these goals.

**Bess Kronowitz Scholarship Fund Contributors**

- **$10,000 and above**
  - Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Leibowitz

- **$5,000 and above**
  - The Beveridge Family Foundation

- **$1,000 to $4,999**
  - Mr. George Berberian
  - Mr. Ronald Kronowitz
  - Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wiegand

- **Up to $999**
  - Ms. Hilda Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Agustin Anievas, Ms. Betsy Atkins, Ms. Evelyn Axler, Mr. George Barket and Dr. Idalia Lastra, The Baumgard Charitable Foundation, Ms. Myrtle Bernstein, Mr. and Mrs. David Buck, Hon. S. Peter Capua, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Torres, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Elson, Ms. Vera FEBLES, Mr. Ira Fingerman, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Fingerman, Ms. Eileen Gately, Ms. Margaret Gaub, Mrs. Lenore Gaynor, Miss Rosa-Rita Gonzalez, Ms. Ruth Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hall, Mr. Charles Hammer, Ms. Arlene Hathaway, Mrs. Iga Henderson, Dr. and Mrs. William Hipp, Mrs. Marilyn Holzberg, Mrs. Betsy Kaplan, Dr. and Mrs. Jesus Lastra, Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Levin, Mrs. Ann S. Lieff, Mr. Budd Mayer, Drs. John and Marilyn McAuliffe, The David and Olga Melin Foundation, Mrs. Mona Michel, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Millheise, Ms. Adele Neumann, Ms. Miki Tatum Newmark, Mrs. Doris Notarius, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Piotrovsky, Ms. Dorothy Raphaelo, Ms. Anita Ricci, Ms. Joan Rosenberg Rogers, Mrs. Ruth Samartino, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Sanford, Ms. Ileen Schey, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schulte, Mrs. Ruth Ann Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sears, Segal Foundation, Inc., Ms. Leslie Silverman, Ms. Sandra Simon, Mrs. Marcia Simon Kaplan, Ms. Linda Smoak, Mrs. Selma Sorkin, Ms. Jean Stockheim, Ms. Janice Sussman, Ms. Jacqueline Tuozzolo, Mr. Irving Udell, Ms. Marilyn Udell, Ms. Maria Zayas, Ms. Patricia Taxman Craven

**Chopin Foundation Contributors**

- **FOUNDER**
  - Lady Blanka A. Rosenstiel

- **Grand Benefactors**
  - The Miami-Dade County Mayor, County Board of Commissioners, and the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council; Rosenstiel Foundation; Southern Wine and Spirits of America, Inc., Mr. Harvey Chaplin, Chairman & CEO; Florman Family Foundation, Inc.

- **Benefactors**
  - Audrey Love Charitable Foundation, Philip F. Balbi, The Beveridge Family Foundation, Chopin Vodka, Bacardi, Mrs. Audre Carlin, American Council for Polish Culture, City of Coral Gables, Funding Arts Network, Drs. Tomasz & Claudia Grabczak, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Leibowitz, Sheldon L. & Pearl R. Leibowitz Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. James H. McConnell, The David and Olga Melin Foundation, Mr. Oti Roberts, Ms. Renate Ryan

- **Sponsors**
  - Fran Ivy Ames, Kaori Azzi, Dr. and Mrs. Enrique Blondet, Mr. James C. Butt, Mr. Chester Chien, Mr. Robert P. O’Connor, Mrs. Edith P. Cubas, Mr. Candido Font, Mrs. Florence “Flossie” Fowlkes, Mr. Edward Francis, Dr. Margaret Gaub, Ms. Dalia Glottmann, Mrs. Miriam Guazzini, Ms. Marilynn Hagler, Ms. Helene M. Hogue, Miyako Ito, Mr. Lawrence Johnston, Mrs. Mary Kirwan, Ms. Pamela Lam, Mr. Elias J. Lien, Dr. Janet Lopinski, Mrs. Teresa Lowenthal, Ms. Teresita Mestre, Mr. Albert Montague, Ms. Li Chiung Moyant, Dr. Sonny Nguyen, Ms. Marta Olchyk, Dr. Cyril Parkanyi, Mr. William Riddle, Mr. Joseph Roman, Ms. Rose Sazant, Mr. Leonard Sanginario, Ms. Clara SREDNI DE KASSIN, Mr. Mr. Tony Traveis, Ms. Jacqueline Wallace, Ms. Mary Ruth Wong, Mr. and Mrs. John Zawisny
Nearly two years ago, at the invitation of the Chopin Foundation of the United States, I was asked to present a recital of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and Fryderyk Chopin. Works of these composers constitute a major part of any pianist’s education, and remain, or at least should remain, every pianist’s “daily bread.” This was a wonderful opportunity for me to share the beauty of this music, and at the same time to demonstrate the little-known fact that Chopin had a musical debt to Bach. My intention was to explore the strong influence Bach had on Chopin. Imagining a scenario of both composers meeting at the keyboard, I called the program “Bach and Chopin: Reunion.”

The birth of Fryderyk Chopin is separated from the death of Johann Sebastian Bach by 60 years. Yet it appears that Chopin was a true musical disciple of J. S. Bach, more so than Bach’s own children, who in their music departed from “old wig’s” compositional style. Music of J. S. Bach was undergoing a revival of sorts during Chopin’s time. It was Felix Mendelssohn who unearthed Bach’s St. Matthew Passion and conducted its performance in 1829, over a hundred years after the Passion was performed in St. Thomas Church in Leipzig during the composer’s life. While Fryderyk Chopin was not present at the performance, he was well aware of the greatness of Bach’s music.

Wojciech Żywny, who gave young Fryderyk his first formal piano instruction, understood the unusual talent of his young pupil and immersed him immediately in works of Bach and Mozart, both from pianistic and compositional perspective. Chopin’s second teacher, Józef Elsner, continued bringing up the boy in the same musical tradition. Chopin went on to cite Bach and Mozart as the two most important composers to influence his musical development.

Chopin was known to travel with a copy of Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier, a two-volume collection of preludes and fugues written in all keys. He is said to have studied and practiced The Well-Tempered Clavier, and occasionally perform selections from the set to the delight of his cosmopolitan audiences. As a sought-after teacher, Chopin required his students to work on Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier in addition to their other repertoire.

Chopin pays homage to J. S. Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier in his Preludes op. 28, twenty-four short pieces written in all keys. Instead of a chromatic ascent through all major and minor keys the way Bach arranged them (C major, C minor, C-sharp major, C-sharp minor, etc.), Chopin utilizes the circle of fifths (C major, A minor, G major, E minor, etc). Each of Bach’s preludes is followed by a fugue; meanwhile, Chopin’s Preludes are self-contained miniatures; each one is a prelude to the next, with no fugue to follow. Chopin did make an attempt at a fugue form. The two-part Fugue in A minor, B. 144, however, does not well represent the mastery of his contrapuntal writing, and was most likely conceived as an exercise.

Polyphony (multiple independent melodic parts sounded together) is abundant in the work of Chopin. One of the most striking examples of incorporating the polyphonic writing into an utterly Romantic form may be found in Chopin’s tumultuous Ballade No. 4 in F minor, op. 52. Bach’s influence is present in this excerpt from the Fourth Ballade through the imitation of parts.

Throughout the Fourth Ballade, the main theme is heard mostly in a homophonic structure, where the melody is clearly separated from the accompaniment. In this excerpt, the theme is present in all three parts that overlap in a way they would in a Bach fugue.
Another instance of Chopin’s tribute to the style of the old master is the thunderous development of his Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, op. 35. In the development section of the opening movement, Chopin superimposes the hasty and “breathless” first theme (measures 9-10) over the ominous octaves of the introduction (measures 1-2).\(^7\)

Chopin: Sonata No. 2, op. 35, mm. 1-2  Chopin: Sonata No. 2, op. 35, mm. 9-10

The technique seems to be borrowed again from the fugues of J. S. Bach, who often adds a counter-subject (a co-existing theme) to his main theme in a fugue. This configuration produces a glorious effect. In Chopin’s Sonata, it is the introductory octaves and the first theme that are at play.

Chopin adds more texture to enhance the dramatic effect by fortifying the first theme (in the right-hand part) with extra notes. He also inserts extra chords in between the familiar octaves from the introduction.

Bach had a strong affinity for the human voice and singing. In the preface to his Inventions, he stresses the importance of learning a cantabile (singing) manner in playing.\(^9\) Chopin was also known for his love of opera and singing. A student of Chopin’s, Karol Mikuli, writes in his notes on Chopin’s instruction “every pupil was taught to recognize, love and produce the legato and the beautiful connected singing tone.”\(^10\) Chopin is said to have remarked that all those who wish to master piano playing should take singing lessons.\(^11\)

Bach’s vocal treatment of the ever-weaving melodic lines could, and did, find its place in the 19th century. One could look for a precursor of a nocturne in such keyboard works as the second movement of the Concerto for Harpsichord and Orchestra in F minor BWV 1056, or the Andante from the Italian Concerto BWV 971, shown below.

Chopin: Nocturn op. 27 No. 2 in D-flat major, mm. 1-3\(^13\)

Both composers must have had the human voice in mind while writing these movements. As the pieces unfold, more references to vocal techniques may be found, in a way similar to the progression of an aria (mindful of the different stylistic resources, relevant to their times).

It is not unlikely that if Bach and Chopin were to meet, they would spend a large part of the evening at the piano, improvising. Both composers were renowned virtuosi of their instruments.\(^14\) They were also known for their ability to play extemporaneously for long periods of time. Some of the surviving examples of Bach’s improvisation, hand-written by the composer,
include the Chromatic Fantasy, BWV 903, and the Sarabande of the English Suite in A minor, BWV 807. Chopin’s improvisation can be identified in his Piano Concerti, Fantasia on Polish Themes op. 13, Variations on “La ci darem la mano” op. 2, or the Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante, op. 22.

And if Bach and Chopin were to exchange gifts at the end of their reunion? Although there is nothing wrong with monumental or impressive gifts, an ideal offering here would be a small piece each composer could take back to his epoch. Bach probably would enjoy Chopin’s Contredanse in G-flat major (B. 17), where the composer’s interest in the music of the past is revealed more literally. Originally an English country dance, the counter-dance (contredanse) was brought to the French court in the 17th century. By the 19th century it was no longer used and became atypical for composers of Chopin’s time.

Much of Chopin’s music is filled with a strong patriotic spirit. The beloved genres that served as vehicles were Polish national dances: mazurkas and polonaises. It is through the Mazurkas that Chopin expressed the love and longing for his motherland. Conversely, his grand and elegant Polonaises radiate national pride. For Bach, the main fiber of his music is centered around religion rather than patriotism. Yet, among his secular works are countless dances. Bach even wrote a couple of Polonaises, which now constitute a part of the Anna Magdalena Notebook, and were to be played by Bach’s pupils and children. Bach’s short Polonaises would make a perfect gift in exchange for Chopin’s Contredanse.

In the Well-Tempered Clavier, Bach proved that music could be played in all keys. He expanded the musical language in a way that allowed more freedom to composers who succeeded him. Chopin continued to build upon that freedom, introducing ever more chromaticism and subtle enharmonic relations. Examples may be found throughout his music, especially in his late works. Many of them musically glance into the future, preparing the ground for music of Wagner and Richard Strauss. In conclusion, it could be argued that Chopin’s musical language, combining artistic freedom with carefully crafted structure, would not have been the same without Bach’s powerful influence.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Polish-born pianist and harpsichordist Magdalena Baczewska holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Manhattan School of Music, along with Bachelor and Master’s Degree from the Mannes College of Music. She is a faculty member at the John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair State University in New Jersey as well as the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York City. She was among the jurors of the International Chopin Competition at Columbia University. She is also a published music critic (New York Concert Review). As an award-winning pianist, Baczewska maintains an active performing career. Her critically acclaimed recordings are available at: www.MagdalenaBaczewska.com
“Chopin’s Heart”
By Dr. Steven Lagerberg

It was a shock for many when in the summer of 2008 news headlines around the world announced that a leading Polish cystic fibrosis expert, a Professor Wojciech Cichy, had made the extraordinary claim that cystic fibrosis and not tuberculosis had been the illness most likely suffered by Chopin. I first heard this news while on my way to Nohant, France, where members of the International Federation of Chopin Societies were about to meet. As a physician and founder of the NW Council of the Chopin Foundation in Seattle, I was eager to visit this historically significant place and have the opportunity to question my colleagues about this novel scientific quest. Although the Polish investigator was obviously eager to proceed with the probing of this near-sacred relic, I was soon to learn that the musical world was not. As I found myself in the unique position of knowing a bit about Frédéric Chopin and then also understanding both the challenges as well as the opportunities of the proposed scientific investigation, I felt it was nearly my duty to tell the untold story of Chopin’s heart. As no one else possessed the inside information about Cichy’s proposed study and its implications for Chopin lovers around the world – a book was born. My book explores Cichy’s claim that Chopin’s official cause of death was bungled from the beginning and then uncritically accepted by his many biographers. The book describes the many hypotheses currently considered for Chopin’s malady and selects the top three for a detailed analysis. It also discusses the scientific, ethical, and religious issues of the investigation and examines the underappreciated effect the composer’s chronic illness had on his highly praised compositional style. “Chopin’s Heart: The Quest to Identify the Mysterious Illness of the World’s Most Beloved Composer” is currently available for sale online at Amazon.com and other channels. It should arrive in major bookstores this spring.

Dr. Steven Lagerberg (stevenlagerberg@gmail.com).

Chopin with Cherries: A Tribute in Verse
by Elisabeth Murawski, edited by Maja Trochimczyk

Elisabeth Murawski is the author of Zorba’s Daughter, which won the 2010 May Swenson Poetry Award, Moon and Mercury, and two chapbooks: Troubled by an Angel and Out-patients. Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals, including The Yale Review, The Virginia Quarterly Review, The Southern Review, and others. She received a Hawthornden fellowship in 2008. A native of Chicago, she currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

From: Chopin with Cherries: A Tribute in Verse by Elisabeth Murawski, edited by Maja Trochimczyk

**Etude**

By: Elisabeth Murawski

**as a boy he slept**

**with bits of wood**

**between his fingers**

**to increase their span**

**now he plays**

**to breathe to last**

**past this country house**

**under the chestnuts**

**taming the keys**

**of Madame Skarbek’s piano**

**pouring notes**

**against the night**

**that is falling**

**eyes destined to close**

**on a ceiling not in Poland**

**whose soul in his hands**

**will flower**

**circumnavigate the globe**
The International Federation of Chopin Societies is an international organization constituted as a federation of associations, established in 1985 in Żelazowa Wola. Since 1989 the Federation has been a member of the UNESCO International Music Council.

The Board of the Federation is elected by the General Assembly for a five-year term.

In 2010 the following Board was elected:

President: Theodor Kanitzer (Austria - Vienna)
Vice-Presidents: Ivan Klansky (Czech - Marianske Laznie) Antoine Paszkiewicz (France - Paris)
General Secretary: Elżbieta Artysz (Poland - Polish Chopin Academy)
Treasurer: Andrzej Merkur (Poland - Duszniki)
Members of the Board: Ilse Schwarz Schiller (Germany - Taunus Oberursel) Sookie Schober (Germany - Hannover) Rosa C. Ferra (Spain - Valdemossa) Horoyuki Takashima (Japan Festival) Kazimierz Gierżod (Poland - TiFC) Jadwiga Gewert (USA - Miami)

WARSAW (AP).- A collection of Frédéric Chopin’s letters telling of the Polish composer’s daily life, from giving lessons to the hot chocolate he drank, have gone on display in Warsaw’s Chopin museum more than six decades after they went missing.

The six letters written by Chopin to his parents and sisters back home in Warsaw in 1845-1848 are the centerpiece of an exhibit that opened Thursday. It will run for one month after which they will be made available to researchers.

The collection also includes letters from the piano composer’s Scottish pupil Jane Stirling to Chopin’s sister, as well as other items, such as a ticket for a rehearsal concert on July 26, 1840.

Although the contents of the letters were known to researchers, the originals were believed to have been lost or destroyed during World War II.

“This is a great day for us. This is an invaluable collection that we have acquired,” museum curator Alicja Knast told a news conference. He said that until 1939 the collection was in the hands of Laura Ciechomska, a grandniece of Chopin’s.

Word emerged in 2003 that the letters existed and that a Polish emigre art dealer living in Mexico, Marek Keller, was to buy them. He then donated them to the museum.

Museum authorities refused to disclose the name of the collector who had them or the fate of the items since 1939, honoring the collector’s request to remain anonymous. Knast said all the items were confirmed as authentic before they were bought for an undisclosed sum of money.

Chopin was born in Poland in 1810 to a French father and a Polish mother, and spent the first half of his life in Poland. During the second half he lived in France, where he won fame with his compositions, mostly for the piano, and his popular concerts.

He died in Paris in 1849.

Copyright 2011 The Associated Press.
Scholarship Program for Young American Pianists

Up to ten (10) renewable scholarships of $1,000 are awarded each year on a competitive basis to outstanding young American pianists who demonstrate a special affinity for the interpretation of Chopin’s music.

Purpose

Through this unique renewal process the pianist is supported and encouraged throughout the four years of preparation to be ready for the National Chopin Piano Competition held in Miami, Florida, every five years. Besides receiving substantial cash prizes, the top four winners of this competition are fully sponsored to participate in the Preliminary Round auditions for the prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition in Poland.

Eligibility

The Scholarship Program is open to any qualified American pianists (citizens or legal residents) not younger than 14 and not older than 17 years on the application deadline, whose field of study is music and whose major is piano. If applicant is already 17 years old, he/she may only be accepted if currently in the Scholarship Program. Enrollment at the secondary or undergraduate school level as a full-time student is required.

More information and an application form available at www.chopin.org.

Application deadline is April 15. The scholarships will be granted by June 15.

New “Chopin Prizes” Announced

Partnership of the Chopin Foundation with the Music Teachers National Association

The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. will award a “Chopin Prize” for the best performance of a Chopin work to a finalist in each of the three age groups of the Music Teachers National Association’s Piano Performance Competitions. The winners will be selected by the piano competitions adjudicators at the MTNA Competitions Finals and announced at the appropriate Winners Announcement ceremony. Piano competition entrants are not required to perform a work by Chopin as part of their competition program; however, the Chopin Prizes are limited to those finalists who do.

The Chopin Prizes are as follows:

MTNA Junior Piano Competition: $500 in cash
MTNA Senior Piano Competition: $1,000 first year scholarship in the Chopin Foundation’s Scholarship Program for Young American Pianists
MTNA Young Artist Piano Competition: $1,500 honorarium for two-performance recital in South Florida

The prizes will be awarded for the first time at the MTNA National Conference in March 2012 in New York.
Support Young American Pianists

In appreciation of your tax deductible donation to our Scholarship Fund, we will send you a gift of your choice from the recordings listed below.

You may also make a donation online at www.chopin.org

**Suggested donation for a single DVD is $35 and up**

- DVD, Pianists – Defining Chopin
- DVD, Documentaries of the Six or Seventh National Chopin Competitions
- DVD, Andrzej Wasowski, How to Play Mazurkas

**Suggested donation for a single CD is $20 and up**

- CD, Kazimierz Brzozowski, Music by Chopin and Szymanowski
- CD, Jan Gorbaty, Music of Chopin

**Suggested donation for the six-disc set is $50 and up**

- DVD, Chronicle of the 2010 National Chopin Competition set of six discs
- CD, John Nakamatsu, 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition
- CD, Ning An, Piano Poet – Selections from Chopin
The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the support of talented young American musicians. Since its inception in 1977, the Foundation has provided young pianists with performance opportunities, exchange programs, and special scholarships and awards. The Foundation also offers the pianists a chance to compete in the National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States held every five years in Miami. The Chopin Foundation is committed to making classical music available to the community by offering a free concert series in two locations in South Florida. The Chopin Foundation’s mission is carried out nationally and locally by regional councils in San Francisco and Seattle. The Chopin Foundation is a member of the National Music Council and the International Federation of Chopin Societies.

With your support, young talented American artists will receive the encouragement they need and the recognition they deserve. Thanks to your generosity, the music of Frédéric Chopin will be kept alive, enriching our lives and preparing new generations of classical music lovers.

Chopin Foundation’s Activities:

- National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States
- Chopin for All free concert series in South Florida
- Scholarship Program for Young American Pianists, renewable for up to four years
- Winners Exchange Program
- Semi-annual Polonaise magazine, sent to all major music schools and music teachers in the United States, and to Chopin Societies around the world
- Regional activities of the Chopin Foundation’s Councils

You can now donate online at www.chopin.org

YES, I want to help.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of $ ________________

Please contact me about:

☐ In-kind contribution  ☐ Planned Giving

☐ Estate Planning Opportunity

Apply my donation to:

☐ General Programming  ☐ Endowment Fund

☐ Competition Fund  ☐ Scholarship Fund

Donations to the Chopin Foundation of the United States are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Foundation is a non-profit corporation qualified under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Chopin Foundation of the United States
1440 79th Street Cswy, Suite 117; Miami, FL 33141