Polonaise

Fall 2005

The semi-annual publication of the Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

© 2005 Yamaha Corporation of America

Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

Officers & Directors

Blanka A. Rosenstiel — **Founder & President**
Olga Melin — **Vice President**
Kris Lewicki — **Treasurer**
Adam Aleksander Wegrzynek — **Artistic Advisor**
Jadwiga "Viga" Gewert — **Executive Director**

Directors

Helen Belvin, George Berberian, Mercedes Ferré, Peter Goodrich, Dr. Tomasz A. Grabczak, Dr. William Hipp, Harriet Irsay, Mack McCray, Edmund Sadowski, Jerzy Stryjniak, Stan Zielinski.

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, Marian Filar, Nelson Freire, Bruno Leonardo Gelber, Gary Graffman, Horacio Gutierrez, Leonid Hambro, 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 United States, Inc.
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
Other Contributors: Helen Belvin, Bess Kronowitz, Mack McCray, Walter Beaman, Jerzy Stryjniak, Jan Popis.

Photos: Jadwiga Gewert, Dominik Skurzak, Eldris de la Torre, Charles Allen Smith

Copyright © 2005 Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. All rights reserved.
Printed by Dynacolor Graphics, Inc.

Polonaise

Fall 2005
Volume XIV—Number 2

Table of Contents

Message from the Founder and President	1
Intl. Competition Winners and Finalists	2
2005 Trip to Warsaw	3 - 5
Regional Council Contacts	6
Regional Council Activities	7 - 12
How to Play Chopin?	13
Scholarship Report	14
Scholarship Recipients	15
Scholarship Rules and Application	16 - 17
CD's to Support the Cause	18
Become a Donor	19 - 20

Message from the Founder and President

Blanka A. Rosenstiel

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Chopin Foundation of the U.S.:

It is such a joy to announce to you that the Fifteenth International Chopin Piano Competition was won by Rafal Blechacz, the first Pole to win this competition since Kristian Zimerman in 1975! We all congratulate him sincerely and wish him a wonderfully successful career.

To be among the finalists of that Competition is already a huge achievement for a young pianist who is embarking on a career. Our best wishes to the finalists and to all of the contestants, whose talent and endless hours of practicing deserve great applause! I am sure we will hear about their successes in the near future.

Now, while following the careers of the winners, we start preparations to the celebrations for the 200 anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth in 2010. It will also be the year of the Eighth National Chopin Piano Competition here in Miami and the XVI International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.

"The culmination is simplicity. Having overcome all the difficulties, having played thousands of notes, one arrives at a charming simplicity that is the pinnacle of art. Whoever tries to achieve this immediately will never reach it at all. One cannot start from the end. It is not an easy task; one has to study hard, very hard, to achieve this goal."

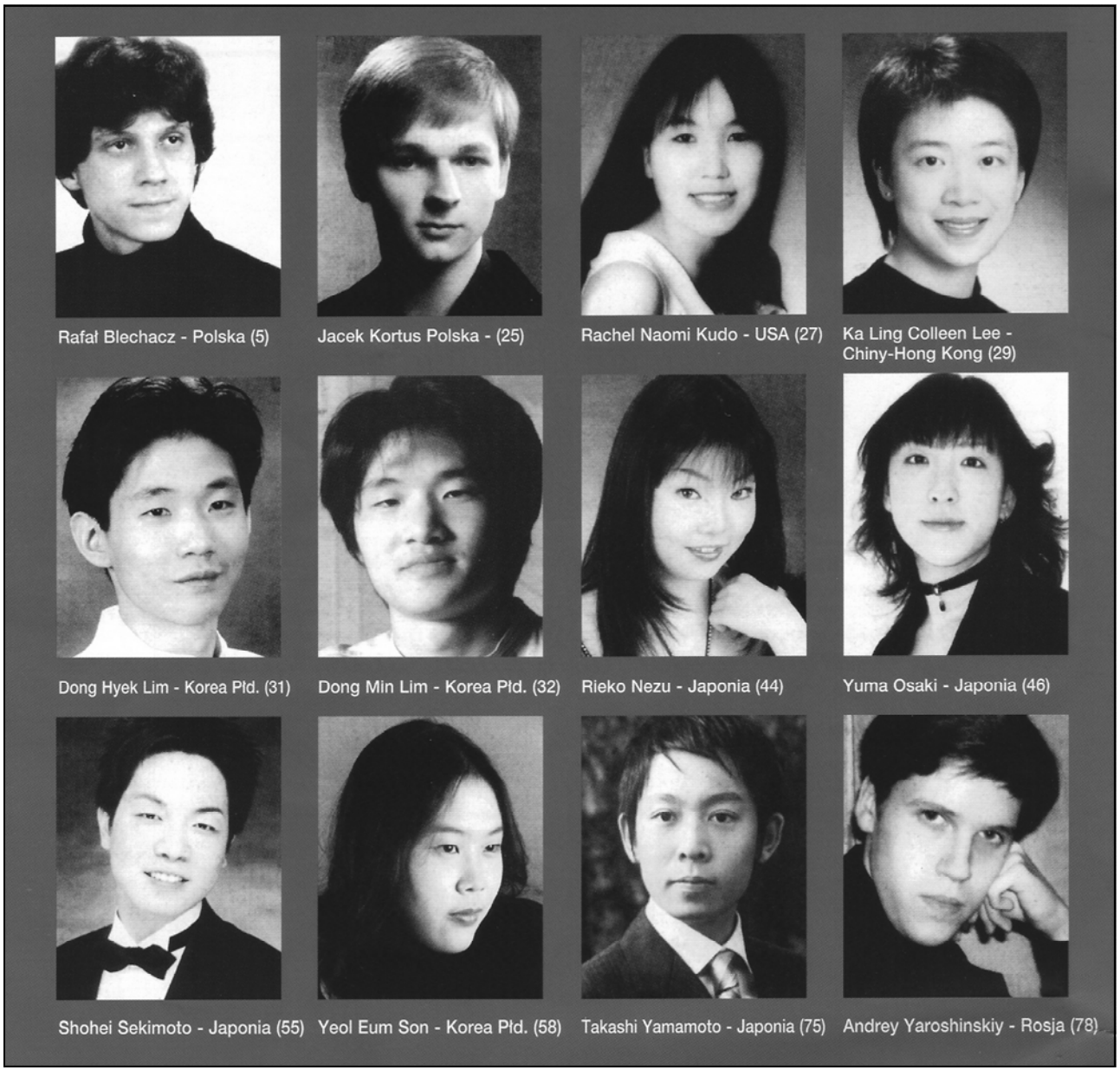
Frederic Chopin

In the meantime, of course, the Chopin Foundation will continue its mission of helping young talented American pianists in their career growth. The Scholarship program will be continued, the concert series featuring young pianists will be going on, as well.

Our Regional Councils have undergone some personal changes lately. There are new Presidents in three of them: in New York – Jerzy Stryjniak, in Seattle – Helen Belvin, and in San Francisco – Mack McCray. Their enthusiasm and dedication – with the assistance of their Boards of Directors – will certainly push the Councils activities to new dimensions. The Chopin Foundation's Board and I appreciate your commitment and thank you for taking on this responsibility. I am sure that together we will prepare spectacular festivities celebrating the 200 anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth. His music will sound all over the United States.

I hope all of our old and new friends and supporters will stay with us for the years to come and will continue helping us in our work by attending our events and supporting us financially.

2005 International Chopin Piano Competition Finalists and Winners



1st Prize
Mr Rafał Blechacz
Poland

2nd Prize Not awarded

3rd Prize
Mr Dong Hyek Lim
South Korea
Mr Dong Min Lim
South Korea

4th Prize
Mr Shohei Sekimoto
Japan
Mr Takashi Yamamoto
Japan

5th Prize Not awarded

6th Prize
Ms Ka Ling Colleen Lee
China-Hong Kong

and six equivalent mentions
Mr Jacek Kortus - Poland
Ms Rachel Naomi Kudo - USA
Ms Rieko Nezu - Japan
Ms Yuma Osaki - Japan
Ms Yeol Eum Son - South Korea
Mr Andrey Yaroshinskiy - Russia

Special Prizes have been awarded
for the best performance of polonaise:
Mr Rafał Blechacz – Poland

for the best performance of mazurkas:
Mr Rafał Blechacz – Poland

for the best performance of a concerto:
Mr Rafał Blechacz – Poland

The 2005 Trip To Warsaw

Message from the Executive Director

Jadwiga Gewert

"That Chopin guy is the tricky one – whenever I try to catch him, he escapes ..."

Sviatoslav Richter

Almost 300 young talented pianists from around the world arrived in Warsaw in September for the live auditions to the Fifteenth International Chopin Piano Competition, to get selected as contestants. Eighty made it to the first round – then there were thirty-two … and then only twelve in the finals. From among those lucky twelve, jurors selected medalists and prize winners.

As at every competition, the jury decision evokes discussions, especially among those who didn't make it. But the jury decision is final. We have a winner!

Rafal Blechacz receives his gold medal from President of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski

A very humble, 20-year old Pole, Rafal Blechacz, performed beautifully and poetically, getting closest of all to that unique Chopin spirit. He is the first Polish pianist to win this competition since Krystian Zimerman's victory in 1975.

Blechacz impressed the judges so much that they also gave him special prizes for the best performances in all three musical categories of the competition: mazurka, polonaise and concerto. All world concert halls are open for him, and a great career is waiting! We wish him the best!

We are very happy for Rachel Naomi Kudo, Second Prize Winner at the American National Chopin Piano Competition last March, who was the only American making it to finals of the International Chopin Competition. Congratulations Rachel!

Every five years a group of American followers of the American Competition's winners go to Warsaw to enjoy the special atmosphere which pervades that city during the Competition. Seventeen music lovers joined me this year on that trip.

And we all had a wonderful time! Even the weather cooperated. The sun shone warmly on the splendid golden rug of leaves in numerous enchanting parks of Warsaw, where the sunny breeze brought that special aroma of autumn. Everything in Warsaw benefited from this unique golden shine: the Lazienki Park, where the most famous Chopin monument towers over the field of red roses singing for him his beloved mazurkas; the Old Town, which charms visitors with its narrow streets shielded by the centuries-old fairy-tale-like houses; and the view of the Vistula River with its broad inviting boulevards. We visited Zelazowa Wola, Chopin's birthplace, the apartment where Chopin's family lived before he left Poland, Holy Cross Church, where his heart is buried, and where the Mozart Requiem is performed every October 17. And on our way we took photos of the monuments of great sons of Poland, such as Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Adam Mickiewicz and Nicolas Copernicus.

Ruth Slenczynska-Kerr before the Chopin Memorial

We were lucky to attend the Warsaw premier of Andrea Chenier, presented by the artistic director of the National Opera House, Mariusz Trelinski, who first staged it in Washington, DC, with Placido Domingo.

Americans arrive at the National Opera House

Before the performance, in the elegant foyer of the National Opera House, we saw a special exhibit of works by the late Polish painter, Jerzy Duda-Gracz, a tribute to the music of Chopin. It consists of 295 pictures and is the largest original series in the history of Polish paintings. The exhibit is divided into 15 series. Each features paintings interpreting the great composer's individual works: ballades, etudes, mazurkas and concertos.

I would like to thank the Cultural Attaché of the USA Embassy for arranging a welcome dinner for the winners of the American National Chopin Piano Competition when they arrived for the Preliminary Round, and the Ambassador of the United States to Warsaw, His Excellency Victor Ashe, who found a moment in his busy schedule to meet with us at the National Philharmonic. It was a very nice meeting and we all appreciate that very much.

We all look forward to going to Warsaw again in 2010 and celebrating the 200th anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth with the best young pianists from all over the world.

Photos from Warsaw

His Excellency Ambassador of the US in Poland, Victor Ashe (standing center), with the 'American Group'

Ewa Rubinstein, Prof. Andrzej Jasinski, Chair of the Jury, Gus and Carol Anievas

Rosarita Gonzalez, Emma Monplaisir, Eldris de la Torre at the Philharmonic

Don and Betty Gant and Helen and Antonio Dajer at the Philharmonic Hall

Gera van der Weijden, Don and Betty Gant , Ruth Slenczynska-Kerr visit I.J. Paderewski's monument in Ujazdowski Park

Mei-Ting Sun with Jadwiga and Katherine Gewert

Yamaha's Director of Artist Services, Stan Zielinski and wife Haline with Ambassador Victor Ashe

The Regional Councils

For more information on the activities, membership and sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Regional Councils of the Chopin Foundation of the Unites States directly.

Florida Chopin Council
George Berberian
President
1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117
Miami, FL 33141
305-868-0624
305-865-5150
info@chopin.org

San Francisco Chopin Council
Mack McCray
President
2123 26th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
415-753-5334

ChopinSF@aol.com

New York Chopin Council
Jerzy Stryjniak
President
c/o New York Conservatory of Music
321 East 69th Street
New York, NY 10021
212-717-9590
nycm@verizon.net

Northwest Chopin Council
Helen Belvin, President
Ivona Kaminska, Secretary
Northwest Chopin Festival
4957 Lakemont Blvd. SE, Suite C-4, #259
Bellevue, WA 98006
425-829-1229
ivona@chopinacademy.com

Florida Chopin Council

The Chopin Council of Florida presented its Spring Membership Musicale on Sunday May 22, 2005 at the Hotel Alexander on Miami Beach in Florida.

Alan Gampel, pianist, was our artist and our audience was looking forward to hearing him.

He chose to present a one-and-a-half hour program of Chopin and Brahms. His performance was beautiful. He makes such beautiful music - his technique is flawless. His sense of proportion and phrasing brings out the best in all the music he plays, whether a delicate waltz or a large sonata. Needless to say, the audience loved the concert and his commentary. We all look forward to hearing him again soon.

A note about our membership musicales: over the years we have developed a very friendly and musically interested membership.

In time, members frequently invite their friends to our musicales and those friends invite their friends, etc.

Our recitals are held in the ballroom of the Alexander Hotel, and the audience is seated at round tables. The program generally lasts from one-and-a-half hours to one-and-three-quarters hours. When the concert is over the audience is invited to move to the adjacent room to help themselves to a delicious buffet supper, and bring their food back to their concert tables to enjoy with their friends.

This format seems to please and attract our members and their friends.

Bess Kronowitz
For the Florida Chopin Council

Annual Chopin Gala

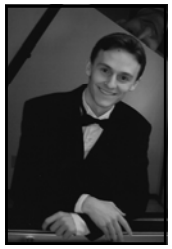
Saturday, March 11, 2006
Featuring a special concert by

Ning An

1st Prize Winner of the 6th National Chopin Piano Competition
(Not included in the series)
Hotel Inter-Continental

Membership Musicales

Season 2005-2006



Igor Lovchinsky
Sunday, November 20, 2005
at 4:00 PM

Howard Na
Sunday, January 22, 2006
at 4:00 PM

Sean Kennard
Sunday, May 21, 2006
at 4:00 PM

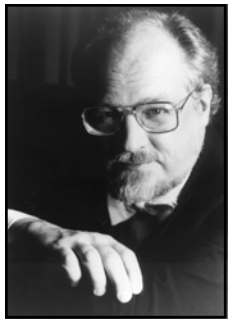
Events are FREE for members of the Chopin Council of Florida,

$45.00 per concert for non-members.

All concerts include an elegant post-concert reception with the artists.

For more information call (305) 868-0624 or e-mail info@chopin.org

San Francisco Chopin Council



Dear Members and Friends,

It is with sadness that I report that Gosia Kossakowski has resigned after a long and successful tenure as our president, and it is with hope and humility that I report that I have been elected to succeed her and to fill those amazing shoes. My optimism springs from the fact that we have a healthy and spirited Board of Directors, full of new blood, new talent and great enthusiasm. Our membership is growing, our council is becoming healthier, both organizationally and financially, and we are looking forward to an exciting and successful year.

We hope that you will attend our concerts and become more involved in our activities. The mission of the Chopin Foundation is noble and fulfilling. It can also be great fun: what more could you want than Chopin's music, great performers, exciting young pianists, remarkable and interesting people, and the knowledge that we are all working to preserve a great heritage and a rich cultural tradition? Please check the above schedule, mark your calendar, give us a call or write an e-mail.

-- Mack McCray, President
on behalf of the Board of Directors of the
Chopin Council of San Francisco

The Tenth Annual San Francisco Chopin Competition for Young Pianists took place on June 4, 2005 at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. We are happy to note that thirty-nine pianists through age 15 competed in the three age categories. The Winners' Concert was held the next day, June 5, also at the Conservatory. The results of the competition were as follows:

First Age Category (through 9)

First Prize and $50	Daniel Hsu, 7
Second Prize and $35	Celia Henderson, 9
Third Prize and $25	Andrea Lim, 9

Second Age Category (10-12)

First Prize and $250	Rieko Tsuchida, 10
Second Peize and $150	Jillian Kim, 10
Third Prize and $75	Ido Akov, 11
Honorable Mention	Yiren Lu, 12
Honorable Mention	Ji-Yong Seung, 12

Third Age Category (13-15)

First Prize and $500	Mayumi Tsuchida, 13
Second Prize and $250	Catherine Fu, 13
Third Prize and $125	Nancy Xie, 13
Honorable Mention	Katherine G. Chen, 13
Honorable Mention	Tiffany Yu, 15

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 4, 2005, Sunday, 4 p.m.
The Chopin Christmas Concert with the winners of the 2005 San Francisco Competition and invited guests. Queen Anne Hotel, 1590 Sutter Street, San Francisco. 415-474-2626 or 415-753-5334.

February 26, 2005, Sunday, 4 p.m.
Balazs Szokolay, distinguished Hungarian pianist, visits San Francisco to appear in the annual Chopin Birthday Concert.
Old First Concerts (Old First Church), 1751 Sacramento Street (at Van Ness), San Francisco. 415-474-1608

May 27-28, 2005, Saturday all day and Sunday, 4 p.m.
The Tenth Annual San Francisco Chopin Competition for Young Pianists, at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 1201 Ortega Street (at 19th Avenue), San Francisco. The competition (for three age categories) will begin on Saturday at 9:30 a.m., and the Winners' Concert will take place on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Upcoming Concerts of the Chopin Foundation

2005-2006 Chopin Festival

Adam Golka
Winner of the 2nd China Shanghai
International Piano Competition
November 12, 2005 at 7:00 pm, Ft. Lauderdale
November 13, 2005 at 3:00 pm, Coral Gables
FREE

Melody Fader, pianist, and cellist, **Emilio Colon.**
December 3, 2005 at 7:00 pm, Ft. Lauderdale
December 4, 2005 at 3:00 pm, Coral Gables
FREE

Paul Posnak
Concert / Lecture: Chopin and his influences
January 28, 2006 at 7:00 pm, Ft. Lauderdale
January 28, 2006 at 3:00 pm, Coral Gables
FREE

Esther Park
4th Prize Winner of the
7th National Chopin Piano Competition
February 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm, Ft. Lauderdale
February 26, 2006 at 3:00 pm, Coral Gables
FREE

Young Pianists Concert
March 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm, Ft. Lauderdale
March 26, 2006 at 3:00 pm, Coral Gables
FREE

Finalist of the
2005 International Chopin Piano Competition
April 29, 2006 at 7:00 pm, Ft. Lauderdale
April 30, 2006 at 3:00 pm, Coral Gables
FREE

Ft. Lauderdale Concerts:
Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Avenue

Coral Gables Concerts:
Granada Presbyterian Church, 950 University Drive

Adam Golka

Fader / Colon

Paul Posnak

Esther Park

Young Pianists

Other South Florida Concerts
Chopin Foundation Recommends

Mei-Ting Sun

December 18, 2005
with Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia
FAU/University Theater, (561) 488-5681

April 9, 2006 at 4 PM
Miami Civic Music Association
University of Miami Gusman Concert Hall, (305) 271-8449

Stanislaw Drzewiecki

March 4, 2006, 4:00 PM
Polish American Club of Sarasota
Sarasota, Florida, (941) 924-0899

March 12, 2006, 4:00 PM
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Key West, Florida, (305) 295-7158

March 13, 2006, 7:30 PM
San Pablo Catholic Church
Marathon, Florida, (305) 743-4687

For more information call the Chopin Foundation at (305) 868-0624
Email: info@chopin.org or visit www.chopin.org

To Those Who Care

The Chopin Foundation could not operate without the involvement and commitment of many devoted volunteers associated with our regional councils and the financial assistance of a number of foundations, corporations and generous individuals supporting our cause.

New York Chopin Council

Jerzy Stryjniak
NY Council President

The New York Chopin Council has had a busy and fruitful 2005 since Mr. Jerzy Stryjniak took the helm this past spring. We have established a distinguished panel of directors and are currently conducting a membership drive.

Our inaugural event took place in April and was a great success. It was our distinct pleasure to have renowned pianists and teachers, Andrzej Jasinski and Lidia Grychtolowna join Jerzy Stryjniak for a series of recitals and master classes in New York City and at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. The concerts were brilliant and the audiences raved over the fantastic music created by these three artists. The master classes were particularly insightful; the classes in New York took place at Yamaha Artist Services and were attended by several young American and Canadian pianists, many of whom were preparing to compete in the 15th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.

Our most recent event was a recital of duets for Violin and Piano. We had the pleasure of hearing Polish violinist, Ludmila Worobec-Witek and Polish pianist, Artur Jaron interpret music of Glier, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Paderewski, Prokofiev-Borisowski, and Szymanowski-Kochanski. The first concert was on October 23 at The Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, NJ and the second concert was on October 25 at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Both events were heavily attended and the audience applauded for encores in appreciation of the wonderful music!

We are now busy working on fundraising efforts, increasing our membership, and securing artists for the 2006 season. We are very excited about the musicians we are targeting; we will make a prompt announcement as soon as all is finalized.

Prof. Andrzej Jasinski, Jerzy Stryjniak, and Prof. Lidia Grychtolowna after the concert

Two fantastic upcoming events will portray the music of Jerzy Stryjniak:
First, on November 11, 2005 Mr. Stryjniak will perform at the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City during The International Chopin & Friends Festival: Four Fridays with David Dubal. Mr. Dubal's program, modeled on a 19th century salon, will be devoted to Chopin, George Sand, and their circle of friends and includes live performances by a gallery of New York's finest pianists. Second, Mr. Stryjniak's piano playing will appear on David Dubal's series, Reflections from the Keyboard: The Piano in Comparative Performance on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 10:00 pm. The weekly program centers on selections from the piano repertoire performed by several artists, each of whom offers a different interpretation. Tune-in to WQXR 96.3 FM, The Classical Station of The New York Times, or online at www.wqxr.com to hear which of Mr. Stryjniak's recordings is selected for a comparative performance!

It is a pleasure to be part of this musical voyage; we invite you to join us as we embark on our mission to promote Chopin's music and the music that led up to and flowed from this remarkable composer. If you find yourself in the New York area, please contact us at 212-717-9590 or email us at nycm@verizon.net.

Warmly,
The Board of Directors of the New York Chopin Council

Northwest Chopin Council

Helen Belvin

NW Council President

The Chopin Foundation, Northwest Chapter has changed its name to the Northwest Council of the Chopin Foundation of the United States. A new executive board has been elected and a new Board of Directors formed. We would like to introduce them below:

It was voted that the primary focus of the Northwest Chapter this year would be to continue the Chopin Festival in Seattle for the benefit of young, developing Northwest artists. We look forward to this event. It will take place on February 4th, 2006 at the downtown Seattle Sherman Clay and Mayflower Hotel locations. The winners' concert will take place at the Polish Home on February 11.

Board of Directors

Helen Belvin
Dr. Christopher Bowlby
Dr. Ivona Kaminska-Bowlby
Dr. Mary Chandler
Judy Baker
Dr. Andrew Biles –
Concert Venue Coordinator
Krzystof Poraj-Kuczewski –
Polish Home Coordinator
Alison Bell
Jim Miles

Advisors

Dr. Steven Lagerberg
Jennifer Bowman –
Artistic Advisor
Dr. George Halverson Fiore
Karin McCullough

Executive Board

President – Helen Belvin
Vice President –
Dr. Christopher Bowlby
Secretary –
Dr. Ivona Kaminska-Bowlby
Treasurer –
Dr. Mary Chandler
Prog. Developer –
Judy Baker.

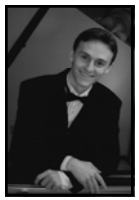
The Seventh National Chopin Piano Competition Prize Winners In Concert

Mei-Ting Sun

Premier Series — November 13, 2005
Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 940-9945

Animato Recital — November 19, 2005
Salle Cortot, Paris, France

Ashlawn Opera Festival Midwinter Eve — January 14, 2006
Charlottesville, Virginia, (434) 293-4500



Igor Lovchinsky

The Concerto Takes Manhattan — November 17, 2005
Faust Harrison Pianos, 205 W 58th St, New York, NY (631) 473-5220

CityMusic Concert Series — January 8, 2006
Capital University - Mees Hall, Columbus, Ohio, (614) 236-6011

Sean Kennard

Indiana History Center Basile Theater — January 15, 2006
Indianapolis, Indiana, (317) 940-9945

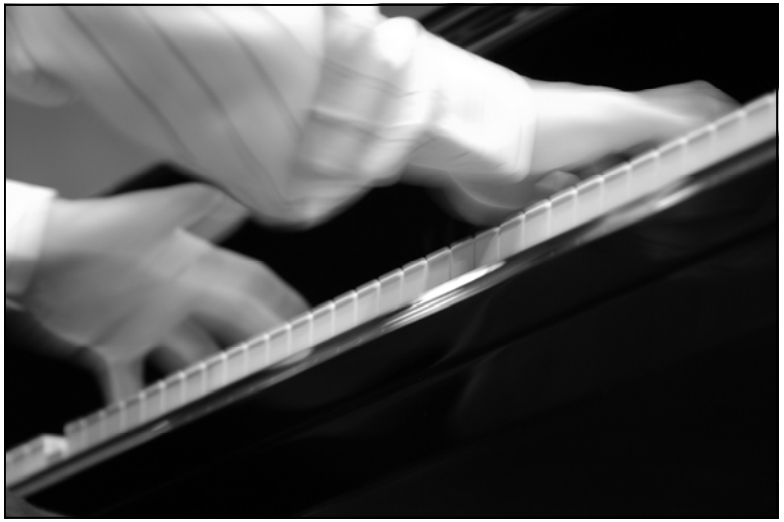
HOW TO PLAY CHOPIN?

Look at those trees: the wind plays in the leaves and brings them to life but the tree remains a tree. This is Chopin's rubato.
Franz Liszt

How to play Chopin? The question has lost none of its aptness since the very beginning, during Chopin's lifetime. The next to try his hand at Chopin style was the great Franz Liszt. Chopin, despite certain impatience with the expansive manner of the author of Hungarian Rhapsodies, appreciated the way the latter performed his compositions. "Liszt plays my Etudes and transports me beyond the range of reasonable thought. I would like to steal his way of performing my own compositions", Chopin wrote in a letter.
"Under his fingers, every musical thought sounded like singing and was so enunciated that each note marked a syllable, each measure a word, each phrase an idea. It was recitation, but without pompousness, both modest and grand." (Karol Mikuli / Raul Koczalski)

How to play, to interpret Chopin's works today to win the Competition? This is always a mystery. A revelation has to take place: this is the moment we are anticipating. Is there then one simple answer to that fascinating question: How to play Chopin? Fortunately, not, since there are no absolute truths in the art. Thanks to that, all generations of pianists and musicologists are able to offer their own answers to that question, drawing on the tradition and in keeping with the spirit of their times. In her book about the interpretation of Chopin's works*, in the chapter concerning the sound quality, Prof. Regina Smendzianka writes:

> Chopin's sound differs from that of other composers from the era of Romanticism, for example Schubert and Liszt. Chopin, as a pianist and teacher, attached great weight to the sound, its quality, how it was produced and shaped. [...]



> The oft used epithet "beautiful sound," even if imprecise, signifies a noble quality achieved with concrete technical means. With regard to Chopin, that refers to soft, vibrating sound, melodious throughout the dynamic scale (the piano bel canto), over a rather small range in contrast, for exam ple, with the piano music of Brahms, but allowing for per fect legato.

Prepared by Jan Popis

- Regina Smendzianka, "Jak grac Chopina - Proba odpowiedzi" (How to Play Chopin -an Attempt to Provide an Answer); Frederic Chopin International Foundation, Warsaw 2000

Reprinted with permission of the 2005 International Chopin Piano Competition 'Gazeta' No. 1.

Chopin Scholarship Report 2004

By Dr. Kamilla Szklarska, Chairman

Scholarship Committee (left to right):
Dr. Kamilla Szklarska, Chairman
Dr. Hanna Cyba
Jadwiga Gewert

Report 2005 by Dr. Kamilla Szklarska, Adjunct Professor at Florida International University, Miami, Florida.

The Chopin Foundation of the United States reviewed seven candidates for the scholarship for the year 2005. The Committee awarded scholarships to all: only one for the first year, two for the second year, three for the third year and one for the last, fourth year.

The year 2005 has been very important for the Chopin Foundation. Four of current recipients in the scholarship program participated in the preliminary stages of the Seventh National Miami Chopin Competition in March 5-13, 2005. The Scholarship's four year consecutive winner, Rachel Kudo was awarded a second place in the Miami Chopin Competition. She is sponsored by the Chopin Foundation on her journey to Poland and during her rounds in the prestigious International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Poland in October 2005.

The Chopin Foundation is very proud that its grants help young talented American pianists in their musical development and career.

The second year candidates presented a very strong and brilliant piano technique in all required Chopin's works. The Preludes stroke with energy and fire, well-proportioned dynamics contrasts and finesse melodic phrases. A graceful character of Waltzes and its grand ballroom character were very well conveyed by the pianists. Through inspired harmonies of Ballades, its expressive melodies and drama the pianists revealed their maturity and understanding of the Chopin's music.

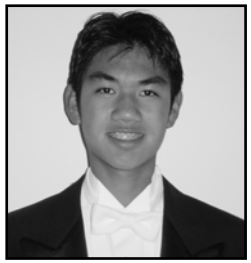
Both Sonatas in B-flat minor Op. 35 and in B minor Op. 58, Polonaise-Fantasie in A-flat Major, Op. 61, and Andante spianato and grand polonaise in E flat Major Op. 22 presented a great challenge for the performers. The Sonatas required from the pianists a magnificent technical fluency, maturity, understanding of changes in tempi and moods in the movements of the form as well effective pianistic figures and Chopin's singing cantilena. The performance of the Polonaise-Fantasie and Grand Polonaise brillante showed a creative imagination, profound expression and virtuoso approach among young performers.

The fourth year scholarship winner performed the Concerto in F minor Op. 21 beautifully. Her expressive cantilena phrases in each movement of the Concerto, subtlety of tempo rubato, a delicate piano and vivid fast passages deserve a high recognition.

The Committee offers best wishes to all scholarship winners.

The Committee congratulates the 2005-2006 scholarship winners on their pianistic achievements and encourages them to continue to study Chopin's music.

2005 Scholarship Recipients

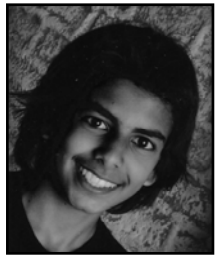


Sean Y. Chen, 17,
(Third year)
Oakland Park, CA
Oak Park High
School

Rachel Naomi Kudo, 18,
(Fourth year)
Northbrook, IL
Juilliard School of Music

Philip Jung, 16,
(Second year)
San Jose, CA
Piedmont Hills
High School

Christopher E. Schmitt, 18,
(Third year)
Fairfax Station, VA
New England Conservatory
of Music



Vijay Venkatesh, 15,
(First year)
Niguel, CA
Niguel Hills Middle
School

Christopher Armstrong, 19,
(Third year)
Miami, FL
Home Schooled

Josh James Wright, 17,
(Second year) Sandy, UT
Waterford School

The Scholarship Program for Young 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 Warsaw, 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 this Scholarship Program.

Renewal

The awards are renewable up to four years as long as the recipient continues to study piano, maintains satisfactory academic progress, and each year submits an audiocassette of unedited performances of Chopin's works for evaluation as follows:

Year 1: 2 Etudes, 2 Nocturnes, 1 of ballads, or Barcarole in F sharp major Op. 60, or Fantasia in F minor Op. 49

Year 2: 6 Preludes, 2 Waltzes, 2 Mazurkas,

Year 3: 1 Sonata, 1 of the following polonaises: Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise in E flat major Op. 22, Polonaise in F sharp minor Op. 44 or Polonaise - Fantasie in A flat major Op. 61

Year 4: at least one movement of the Concerto

An applicant, who was not awarded the scholarship, may re-apply the following year submitting a new recording of the music of his/her choice from the same requirement. Reapplication is allowed only once while in the Scholarship Program.

Procedures:

Applicants must submit a formal application, along with:

- a statement of career goals,
- a minimum of two references from piano teachers or performers
- proof of music school enrollment,
- an audio tape of 20-30 minutes of Chopin's works as listed above. Each piece must be an unedited performance and the audio tape of good quality. The tape must be clearly labeled, including applicant's name, address and works performed.

The formal application, audio tape, statement of career goals, references, and $25.00 registration fee must be received by February 15. The scholarships will be granted by May 15.

Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.,
1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141
Tel. (305)868-0624 FAX.(305)865-5150
www.chopin.org
Email: info@chopin.org

Chopin Foundation of the United States Scholarship Program for Young Pianists Application Form

Name:_____
(first) (middle) (last)

Address:_____
(street) (city) (state, zip code)

Telephone numbers: (_____)_____(_____)_____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth _____/_____/_____
month / day / year

American Citizen: ____/____ **Resident Alien :** _____/_____ **since** _____
yes / no yes / no date

School _____
(name)

_____
(address)

(_____)_____ _____
(phone no.) (year of study)

Music Teachers:

Present_____ **phone no. (_____)**_____ **E-mail** _____
(name)

_____
(address)

Previous_____**phone no. (_____)**_____ **E-mail** _____
(name)

_____
(address)

_____ _____
(date) (applicant's signature)

Enclosures:

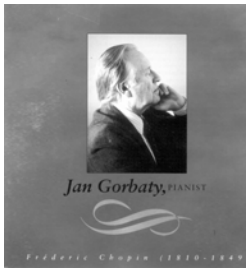
- audiocassette (unedited, labeled)
- two references from piano teachers/performers
- a statement of career goals
- school enrollment proof
- check/money order for $25.00

Send this application to:
Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc., Attn. Scholarship Committee
1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141

Important!
Attach additional page to list all significant repertoire studied. Place asterisk (*) by works performed in public. Attach copies of programs/reviews.

Support Young American Pianists!

For a donation of $20 (and more) to our Scholarship Fund you may receive a video-documentary from The Sixth or Seventh American National Chopin Piano Competition or <u>one</u> of the following CDs with an unforgettable interpretation of Chopin's music!



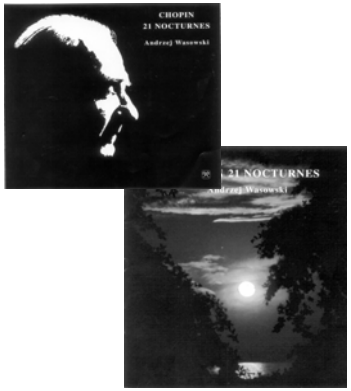
By Jan Gorbaty:
1. Sonata in B-flat Minor, Op.35
2. Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op.27, No 2
3. Ballade in G Minor, Op.23
4. Mazurka in F Minor, Op.63, No 2
5. Mazurka in B-flat Minor, Op.24, No. 4
6. Mazurka in D-flat Major, Op.30, No. 3
7. Mazurka in C-sharp Minor, Op.30, No. 4
8. Mazurka in C-sharp Minor, Op.50, No. 3

By Ning An, the 6thAmerican National Chopin Piano Competition winner:

Selections from Chopin
Sonata No.3 in b minor Op.58
Impromptu in F-sharp Major op.36
Mazurkas Op.30, No.1, 2, 3, 4
Nocturne No.2 in E-flat Major Op.55
Rondo in E-flat Major Op.16

2000 Warsaw Competition
Ballade in G minor Op.23
Etude Op.10 Nr 1
Etude Op.25 Nr 5
Nocturne in E flat Major op.55 Nr 2
Mazurkas Op. 30 No. 1, 2, 3, 4
Scherzo b flat minor Op.31
Rondo in E-flat Major Op.16
Sonata No. 3 in b minor, Op. 58

By Andrzej Wasowski:



21 Nocturnes (2 disc set)

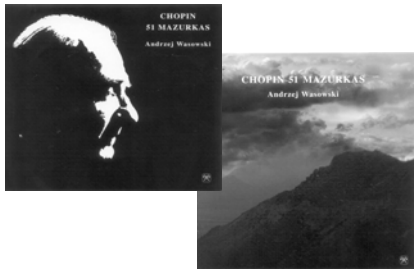
Disc one:

1. Nocturne in C minor (Posthumous)
2. Nocturne in C – sharp minor (Posthumous)
3. Nocturne in E minor (Posthumous, Op. 72, No.1)
4. Three Nocturnes, Op.9
5. Three Nocturnes, Op. 15
6. Two Nocturnes, Op. 27

Disc two:

1. Two Nocturnes, Op. 32
2. Two Nocturnes, Op. 37
3. Two Nocturnes, Op. 48
4. Two Nocturnes Op. 55
5. Two Nocturnes, Op.62

51 Mazurkas (2 disc set)

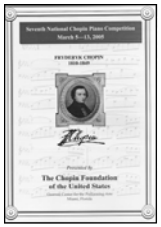


Disc one:

1. Four Mazurkas, Op. 6
2. Five Mazurkas, Op. 7
3. Four Mazurkas, Op. 17
4. Four Mazurkas, Op. 24
5. Four Mazurkas, Op. 30
6. Four Mazurkas, Op. 33
7. Four Mazurkas, Op. 41

Disc two:

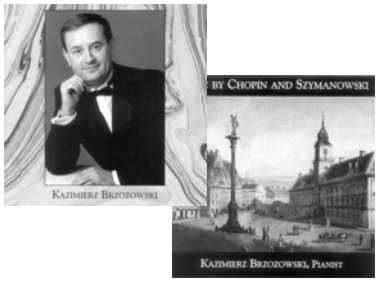
1. Four Mazurkas, Op. 41 (Numbers 3 and 4)
2. Three Mazurkas, Op. 50
3. Three Mazurkas, Op. 56
4. Three Mazurkas, Op. 59
5. Three Mazurkas, Op. 63
6. Four Mazurkas, Op. 67 (Posthumous)
7. Four Mazurkas, Op. 68 (Posthumous)
8. Mazurka in A minor ("Gaillard"; Posthumous)
9. Mazurka in A minor (Posthumous)



Videos:
1) "How to play Mazurka" by Andrzej Wasowski – VHS
2) 2005 National Chopin Piano Competition DVD

Suggested donation $35

Music by Chopin and Szymanowski
Kazimierz Brzozowski, pianist:



Fryderyk Chopin
1. Polonaise – Fantaisie in A-flat major, Op. 61
2. Mazurka in G Minor, Op. 24, No.1
3. Mazurka in C Major, Op. 24 No.2
4. Mazurka in A-flat Major, Op.24, No.3
5. Mazurka in B-flat Minor, Op.24, No.4
6. Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op.55, No.2
7. Nocturne in B Major, Op.62, No.1
8. Waltz in A-flat Major, Op.34, No.1
9. Ballade in F Minor, Op.52

Karol Szymanowski
10. Etude in B-flat Minor, Op.4, No.3
11. Mazurka, Op.50, No.1
12. Mazurka, Op.50, No.2
13. Mazurka, Op.50, No.3
14. Mazurka, Op. 50, No.4

Send your donation to the Chopin Foundation of the United States; 1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141

For more information call 305-868-0624 or send email info@chopin.org

The Chopin Foundation Needs Your Help!

Please see the donation form below and send your tax-deductible contribution today.

Consider remembering us in your will.

The Chopin Foundation of the United States was founded by Mrs. Blanka A. Rosenstiel in 1977. The Foundation is a national non-profit organization which stemmed from the 1975 First National Chopin Piano Competition then held under the auspices of The American Institute of Polish Culture. For over 27 years the Foundation has been active nationally through The National Chopin Piano Competition, and locally in South Florida, New York, San Francisco and Seattle, through the activities of its Regional Councils.

The mission of the Foundation is to assist young American pianists in their struggle for career recognition. Thanks to the generosity of many Foundation patrons, and through grants and other forms of financial support from government agencies, foundations and corporations, the Foundation is able to implement its objectives. However, the number of young talented people is increasing, and so our expenses.
The Foundation appreciates any kind of support which will help us to continue our activities, not only for the growth and career development of young talented American pianists, but to make classical music popular among the general public, especially among young audiences.

Chopin Foundation activities:

- **Quinquennial American National Chopin Piano Competition** (see pages 5-13)
- **Annual Chopin Festival** — a series of free-to-the public concerts (see page 18)
- **Scholarship Program for Young American Pianists** renewable for up to four years (see pages 19, 20)
- Semi-annual issue of the **Polonaise magazine** sent to all music schools in the U.S. and to Chopin Societies around the world.
- **Activities of the Regional Councils of the Chopin Foundation**

Be generous and join us in fulfilling our mission!

A few of the Future Master Pianists of the world nurtured by the Chopin Foundation of the United States.

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 Frederic Chopin will be kept alive, enriching our lives and preparing new generations of classical music lovers.

YES, I want to help! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:
$_____

□ Individual □ Corporate □ Foundation □ Other

_____

Please contact me regarding: □ In-kind contributions □ Planned Giving / Estate Planning Opportunity

Apply my donation to: □ Endowment Fund □ Scholarship Fund □ Competition Fund □ General Program Support Fund

Name _____
(please print)
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____)_____ E-mail _____

Donations to the Chopin Foundation of the Unites States, Inc. 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.

Please detach this form and mail with your donation to: The Chopin Foundation of the U.S., 1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117, Miami, FL 33141

Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.
1440 79th Street Causeway, Suite 117
Miami, Florida 33141
305-868-0624
info@chopin.org • www.chopin.org