



Contact:

Izabela Roman: 847.609.5539
izabelaroman1@yahoo.com

Diana Bernacki: 312.208.4043
diana@conservation-design.com

Urszula Lukaszuk: 312.208.4045
urszula@conservation-design.com

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CHOPIN & PADEREWSKI 2010

An Evening of Music and Reflection

On **Friday, November 12, 2010**, Chopin & Paderewski 2010 presents a rich program of music and reflection on Fryderyk Chopin and Ignacy Jan Paderewski in the elegant surroundings of the historic Newberry Library in Chicago to honor the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski and the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin.

Organized by The Paderewski Association and the Organizing Committee Chopin & Paderewski 2010 and held at The Newberry Library, the special evening features the **Chicago recital debut** of the young pianist, **Jan Milosz Lisiecki**, an extraordinary talent hailed by critics worldwide for his mature playing which reflects remarkable intuitive interpretation. The renowned American music critic Richard Dyer, will give an intriguing lecture on Ignacy Jan Paderewski. A major highlight of the event will be the unique opportunity to view the original score handwritten by Chopin in the mid-1840s of the Nocturne in B major, Op. 62, nr. 1.

The program commences at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 12, in Ruggles Hall of The Newberry Library, 60 East Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois, and will conclude with a celebratory Champagne Reception.

Donations are **\$100** per person and **\$50 for students. Advance reservations are required.**

Born in 1995, Canadian pianist **Jan Lisiecki** made his orchestral debut with the Calgary Civic Symphony at the age of 9 and has performed as a soloist more than 50 times with orchestras internationally. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, Warsaw Philharmonic Concert Hall, Seoul Arts Centre, and Salle Cortot, Paris, and has shared the stage with Yo-Yo Ma, Pinchas Zukerman, James Ehnes, and Emanuel Ax. First-place winner at the National Finals of the Canadian Music Competition for four consecutive years, Lisiecki was named the 2008 RBC Stockey Young Artist; the same year he was appointed a National Youth Representative by UNICEF Canada.

On January 1, 2010, Lisiecki had the honor of opening the 200th Birthday celebrations for Chopin at the composer's birthplace, Żelazowa Wola, Poland. Represented by IMG Artists and signed to a 5-record

agreement with Deutsche Grammophon, the 15-year-old Lisiecki recently returned from a tour of Europe and Japan. The November 12 performance marks Lisiecki's Chicago recital debut.

The Calgary-based piano sensation will perform works by Chopin (Waltz Opus 64, No. 2 in C-sharp minor; Nocturne No. 20 in C sharp minor; Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22) and by Paderewski (Minuet Op. 14, No. 1; Nocturne in B-flat Major, Op. 16 No. 4).

Richard Dyer will present a lecture on Ignacy Jan Paderewski titled *Some Call it Hair...* The title cites a quote by the American pianist and composer, Edward Alexander MacDowell (1860-1908) referring to Paderewski. The quote, "Some call it hair; I call it piano playing" references the remarkable feature of his appearance, a superb red aureole of hair around his head. Nationally renowned, Dyer was chief music critic for the Boston Globe for thirty-three years and is a two-time recipient of the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for distinguished music criticism. A former Briggs-Copeland Lecturer at Harvard University, Mr. Dyer's work appears in the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, the *Metropolitan Opera Encyclopedia of Opera*, and the *Encyclopedia Americana*. He was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by the New England Conservatory and served three times on the jury of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

A highlight of the evening is the rare opportunity to view an original manuscript in Chopin's hand. Chopin manuscripts were not easy to come by in the 20th century, yet, in 1946, The Newberry Library had the good fortune and prescience to acquire this exquisite score, handwritten by the composer. **Nocturne in B major, Opus 62 No. 1**, which was published in 1846, shows the characteristic crossing-out and rewriting that marked all Chopin's compositions. The spidery deletions enhance the score, adding a visual poetry to the romanticism of the melody. For this occasion, The Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw has just published a facsimile edition of the Nocturne, part of the ongoing series of facsimile editions of all the available Chopin music manuscripts. An international academic publishing project on a grand scale, the volumes offer commentaries by Chopin scholars in six languages: Polish, English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese. This volume was written by the music scholar and author, Professor Jeffrey Kallberg, and will be on display.

Alongside the exhibition of the manuscript, documents drawn from the Newberry Collections will illustrate Paderewski's connection to Chicago through the prism of his cordial and close relationship with Theodore Thomas, the founder of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and his wife, Rose Fay Thomas. A seldom seen autograph book kept by Mrs. Thomas will be opened to the page on which Paderewski inscribed an elaborate dedication, incorporating several bars of music written in his hand.

Enhancing the exceptional presentations of the evening is the launch of a bilingual children's book about Paderewski, with the author and artist **Anna Mycek-Wodecki** in attendance. Ingeniously illustrated, *IGNAŚ Chłopiec z kolorową głową/ The Boy with the Colorful Head*, written in Polish and English, recounts stories from the composer's childhood based on his recollections, *The Paderewski Memoirs*, published in 1938.

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin (1810-1849) is among the greatest—and most inimitable—of composers for the piano, the instrument for which he wrote almost exclusively. A musical prodigy, at age 7 he was already the author of two polonaises (in G minor and B-flat major). Chopin's music for the piano combined a unique rhythmic sense, particularly in his use of rubato and chromatic inflections. As a

performer, he developed a distinctive piano technique. Chopin regarded the Romantic Movement with indifference, if not distaste, and rarely associated himself with it directly. Even so, today Chopin's music is considered to be the embodiment of the Romantic style. All of his works, without exception, involve the piano. They are predominantly for solo piano but a number of compositions include a second piano, violin, cello, voice, and orchestra.

Composer and pianist **Ignacy Jan Paderewski** (1860-1941) was called a “Modern Immortal.” While Chopin performed in public perhaps only 30 times, Paderewski thrilled crowds of thousands internationally with his recitals spanning over 50 years. His renown was worldwide in a time when public solo recitals were a new form of artistic expression. Paderewski gave more than 1500 concerts in 200 American cities, playing in 48 states in a musical career that spanned six decades and covered every continent. He was above all a masterful interpreter of Chopin and is recognized for producing a definitive edition of Chopin’s complete works.

Featuring composers, musicians, scholars, authors, and critics, this event celebrates the vibrant heritage and ongoing music culture of Poland.

The evening at The Newberry Library is under the Honorary Patronage of **General Edward L. Rowny**, retired U.S. Army lieutenant general, former ambassador, and chief U.S. arms control advisor to five presidents. General Rowny is a dedicated promulgator and admirer of Paderewski’s legacy.

The event is presented by **The Paderewski Association** and the **Organizing Committee Chopin & Paderewski 2010**.

The Paderewski Association promotes the multi-faceted achievements of Ignacy Jan Paderewski and endeavors to secure his legacy in America. This event is to benefit The Paderewski Association, a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization. Website: www.paderewskiassociation.org.

The Organizing Committee Chopin & Paderewski 2010 develops, coordinates, and promotes events honoring the 200th anniversary of Chopin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of Paderewski’s birth. Website: www.chopin-paderewski.org.

Founded in 1887, **The Newberry Library** houses a world-class collection of books, manuscripts, and maps. Their holdings, spanning many centuries, feature a wide range of materials, from illuminated medieval manuscripts to genealogical resources, and from early printed books to the personal papers of Midwest authors, as well as archives of local organizations. Website: www.newberry.org.

more

**The 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin
and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ignacy Jan Paderewski**

Honorary Event Patron General Edward L. Rowny

Friday, November 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

COCKTAIL ATTIRE

The Newberry Library
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610

A minimum donation of **\$100 per person** and **\$50 for students**, benefits The Paderewski Association's causes and special events. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; call 312.208.4045.**
The invitation/RSVP can be downloaded from www.chopin-paderewski.org.

For more information visit **www.chopin-paderewski.org**, call **312.208.4045** or email **info@conservation-design.com**

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