



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 12, 2005

The Polish Museum of America in conjunction with the newly formed Paderewski Association have organized a tribute in honor of the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birthday of the remarkable Polish artist, composer and statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Paderewski's personality truly combined the best features of artist and diplomat. He was a man of remarkable talent and intellect who devoted his life to deep-rooted feelings of Polish patriotism.

An inaugural reception will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2005 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of The Polish Museum of America. This affair is the first of a series of planned annual events leading up to the grand celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Maestro's birthday in 2010.

In the majestic Great Hall of the Museum, we will present for those in attendance, a sneak preview of fine art and antiques that will be auctioned at the next event on March 11, 2006 for the benefit of The Polish Museum of America's conservation programs. Proceeds from this event as well as future events will help ensure the preservation of PMA's priceless collections for future generations.

Paderewski dedicated his talents, his intellect and his life to elevating Poland, her people and their culture. In honoring his legacy The Paderewski Association and The Polish Museum of America have joined to form a new initiative to promote Polish culture, artists, craftsmen, businesses and institutions to a greater level of appreciation. It is our wish to preserve the work that Ignacy Jan Paderewski has already done and to continue his efforts by bringing prestige to the Polish community.

For ticket information regarding the 145<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration and other upcoming Paderewski Association/Polish Museum of America events, please contact 773-782-2605.

Individuals, companies, artists, craftsmen and institutions that specialize in art, antiques, decorations and interior design (in the U.S., Poland and elsewhere) are invited and encouraged to participate in the Auction taking place on March 11, 2006 by donating a piece of their work.

The items included in the Auction will go on display for public viewing in the Great Hall of the Museum two weeks before the Auction. Donations to the Auction are tax deductible. Auction items will be promoted on the Paderewski Association's website and contributors will additionally have the unique opportunity to be acknowledged by showcasing their work in an interactive multimedia presentation which will accompany the Auction items on display.

For further information regarding making contributions to the "Luxuries Befitting a Maestro" Auction please contact 312-243-5669.