

CHOPIN SOCIETIES IN THE WORLD



The Vancouver Chopin Society (Vancouver / CANADA)

The 23rd season of The Vancouver Chopin Society, in the time of pandemic, was bound to be unusual, and so it was, but in its own richly satisfying and intimate fashion. We all stayed home as five virtual online concerts of outstanding quality – and content – were presented to our subscribers over a period of six months.

In the evening of October 29, 2020, The Fedorova & Takser Duo splendidly performed Debussy's *Petite Suite*, Bach's *Concerto for 4 Keyboards* in A minor (arr. Vivaldi), Kapusta's "Manteca" Paraphrase, Chopin's *Waltz* Op. 64 No. 1, and – thrillingly – their own arrangement of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Pianist Eric Lu arrived on our screens during the evening of November 26 with breathtaking performances of Schubert's *Sonata in A Major* D. 959, and two of Chopin's *Preludes*, no's 4 and 17.

For the first time, a guitar made its mark in one of our Society concerts when guitarist Anna Pietrzak with pianist Carl Petersson appeared on our online concert of December 17. Petersson launched their recital with Chopin's Op. 18 *Waltz*, and later played sparkling, demanding Albeniz, while Pietrzak despatched a lovely cornucopia of short guitar works, the duo's concert closing with the guitar & piano *Scherzo* by Pasieczny.

We patiently waited four months, until April 15, 2021 precisely, to experience Juliusz Zarębski's *Piano Quintet in G minor* Op. 34, scintillatingly performed by an old friend of our Society, pianist Wojciech Switała, with the Silesian String Quartet.

The final concert of our online season arrived only a couple weeks later, April 29, with pianist Anna Geniushene, who revealed her lyricism and stellar touch in Beethoven's Op. 33 *Bagatelles*, Schumann's *Drei*

Fantasiestücke Op. 111, a selection of Chopin's mazurkas, and Tchaikovsky's imposing *Grand Sonata* Op. 37.

In this, our 23rd season, we received financial support from our British Columbia provincial government as well as from corporate and from private sponsors.

For our 24th season, beginning September 21, 2021, we have invited five piano virtuosi to share their art and their music with us: Zbigniew Raubo, Federico Colli, the winner of the 18th Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Rafał Blechacz, and Eric Lu. We look forward to our new season with intense anticipation. The Vancouver Chopin Society functions because of the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers, led by our President, Patrick May, and our Artistic Director, Lee Kum-Sing, and our board of directors.

Henry Ewert
Vice-President
The Vancouver Chopin Society



Wojciech Switała and Silesian String Quartet performing *Piano Quintet in G minor* by Juliusz Zarębski.

Chopin-Gesellschaft in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V. (Darmstadt / GERMANY)

Despite the difficult conditions in the Corona year 2020, the Chopin Society was able to complete its ambitious project of performing Chopin's entire chamber music oeuvre in addition to his complete orchestral works to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020.

The last concert of 2020 took place on October 17th in the Orangerie concert hall on the anniversary of Chopin's death. Sabine Simon (piano) and Romain Garioud (cello) having first performed the "Introduction et Polonaise Brillante op. 3", the "Grand Duo Concertant" and the Sonata in G minor op. 65, were then joined by Kiril Terentiev (Violin) for the Trio in G minor op. 8. With their outstanding technique and expressive powers the artists were able to strike a fine balance between technical sophistication and expressive depth, allowing them to savour Chopin's virtuoso "style brilliant" and celebrate its melodic beauty without slipping into the superficial.

After this concert Corona paralyzed cultural life for the next nine months.

Finally, concerts were again possible in the middle of 2021, when the Chopin Society delighted its members with two concerts. Both the new format "Piano Festival" in June and the piano recital with Hisako Kawamura in July hit the mark.

Piano Festival

On June 26th and 27th, music lovers experienced a very special première in the auditorium of Darmstadt's Literaturhaus. 18 professional musicians, nearly all members of the society, had been invited to take part in this celebration of music. The musicians were each given a 20 minute slot, in which their enthusiasm and joy of performing were palpable. From baroque to modern, all styles were represented, and the age of the participants spanned seven decades.



Saturday: Henning Brand, versatile artist and entrepreneur from Cologne, opened the festival with a waltz, a mazurka and a ballade by Chopin, earning himself a



warm reception from the audience. He was followed by the Argentine Mariana Röhmer-Litzmann, whose performance of a number of preludes by Claude Debussy delighted everyone. Aleksandra Mikulska, the society's president, was next on stage with a wonderful rendering of Mozart and Brahms, while Carmen Piazzini, the most experienced participant of the festival, once again demonstrated her expertise as a Haydn interpreter. Mariko Sudo, accompanied on the cello by Mathieu Jocqué, had chosen two movements from Rachmaninov's G minor sonata for piano and cello which were truly captivating. Boris Bloch ended the first day of the festival with a masterful performance of works by Mozart, Schubert and Chopin.

Sunday: The second day was opened by the Panufnik Trio, consisting of Artur Pacewicz (piano), Pawel Zuzanski (violin) and Lynda Anne Cortis (cello), who gave an admirable performance of excerpts from Schubert's piano trio in E flat major. The mezzo-soprano Alexandra Piperidou next performed songs by Mahler and Brahms, accompanied on the piano by her Greek compatriot Leoni Sklia. Lisa Wellisch and the cellist Tatjana Uhde then brought Schumann's magical "Märchenbilder" to life, which they had only recently recorded on CD.

Sofia Moguillansky, at the age of 13, the youngest participant in the festival and a member of the State Youth Symphony Orchestra Hessen, demonstrated her skills on the violin with a work by the baroque composer Alessandro Tomaso Vitali, accompanied by Sabine Simon, who then as a soloist delighted the audience with transcriptions by Franz Liszt of songs by Schumann, Beethoven, Schubert and Chopin. Laura Sobolewska (piano) and Marta Wryk (mezzo-soprano) concluded the event with a grandiose reminiscence of Pauline Viardot, to mark the bi-centenary of this French singer and composer who had befriended Chopin.

Everyone present, whether in the audience or on stage, experienced this extraordinary project as an all-round success to be repeated as soon as possible.

Hisako Kawamura: An unforgettable evening

The concert with our first prizewinner of 1999, Hisako Kawamura, which finally took place on July 17th 2021 in the Orangerie, had been postponed twice owing to the Corona pandemic. In retrospect, this was serendipitous, because at the third attempt the event was fortunate enough to be included in the canon of nationwide celebrations for the 160th anniversary of the German-Japanese friendship treaty. The presence of Shinichi Asazuma, Consul General of Japan in Frankfurt, and Vice Consul Mariko Yano as well as other dignitaries gave the concert a festive note.



Around 100 music fans – Corona restrictions would only allow the Orangerie to be filled to a quarter of its capacity - experienced in Hisako Kawamura a world-class pianist who not only played with virtuosity, but also knew how to chat charmingly with the audience between the works. There was probably no one in the hall whom she had not charmed with her skills and her unpretentious personality.

“The pianist exhibited true world class with the range of her virtuoso skills! Colourfully detailed Debussy, powerfully lyrical Beethoven and soulfully elegant Chopin thrilled the audience. In addition, the presentation of two Japanese composers, Dai Fujikura and Akio Yashiro († 1976) who are little known in this country with demanding works including twelve-tone music, were highly appreciated by the auditorium. A programme compilation that reflects the competence and many years of experience of the organizers.” (Dr. Christoph Heil)

The next day there was the opportunity to experience Hisako Kawamura again, this time conducting a short public masterclass in the Literaturhaus with four students from the local music academy.

Charles Richard-Hamelin: A young maestro

At the time of writing, Charles Richard-Hamelin, silver medalist at the Warsaw Chopin Competition 2015, has just finished conducting the society’s XXVI. International Masterclass for Pianists, which he opened with an outstanding all-Chopin recital in the Orangerie on September 21st, 2021. The concert was attended by the Lord Mayor



of Darmstadt, Jochen Partsch, the Consul General of the Ukraine, the Consul General of Montenegro (both based in Frankfurt) as well as the Consul General and Vice Consul of Poland, based in Cologne.



Works performed included the G minor ballade, Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante and in the second half of the recital Chopin’s 24 Preludes, whose varied and exciting interpretation was thrilling, one member of the audience calling it a “real fireworks display”. With Richard-Hamelin every phrase and sometimes every chord or even note has its own special meaning. The expressive powers and tonal colours of this young maestro seem almost limitless. Over the next four days he endeavoured to communicate these skills to the ten international participants of the masterclass either by describing in words or by demonstrating his ideas at the piano. “Richard-Hamelin is remarkably good at analyzing weak points” wrote Johannes Breckner in the „Darmstädter Echo“. Creating awareness of what doesn’t sound good, questioning why the students play it the way they do, heightening their sensibility for what the composer is trying to communicate, putting things into a larger context, all these aspects were treated in a very detailed and friendly manner by Richard-Hamelin. Not only the students, but also the audience learned a great deal more about music over these four days from Richard-Hamelin, whose love of teaching was very apparent. It was his first visit to Darmstadt, but we will make sure it wasn’t his last!

Jill Rabenau, Vice President

Chopin-Gesellschaft Hannover e.V. (Hannover / GERMANY)

Our **2020** activities started on January 24th, 2020 at HDI Versicherung with chamber music presented by two outstanding artists: *Claire Huangci*, piano, and *Tristan Cornut*, violoncello. They performance of Mozart, Chopin, Brahms and Schumann was of highest sensibility and subtleness. The audience was enchanted.

The next concert was held on February 23rd, 2020 at Schillerschule, Hannover-Kleefeld. The *Junges Sinfonieorchester Hannover* was conducted by *Tobias Rokahr* presenting the Piano Concert No. 1 in B flat minor Op. 23 by Peter Tschaikowsky; soloist was *Emanuel Roch* from Munich, auspicious First Prize and Prize of the Audience winner of our 2019 international competition. Furthermore, he played pieces by Beethoven, Ravel and Chopin. Although it was pouring cats and dogs the auditorium was fully packed and the audience was absolutely in trance with this performance.

At that time no one could see the upcoming COVID-19 pandemic. In the following months we ultimately had to cancel all the following concerts we had planned for 2020; in addition, we were unable to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Society. An enormous disappointment, not only for our members but also for all the young musicians who could not appear in public and therefore predictably run into financial problems. The managing board of our Society therefore decided to support all the artists of the six concerts canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic by paying their fee. Furthermore, we purchased 400 CDs from these young artists to send them out

to our member families. This was gratefully acknowledged by all the musicians sending us grateful letters.

Our activities were on hold for almost one and a half year. However, on July 18th, **2021** we started again! Our traditional (40th) „Summer Matinée Concert and Picnic“ took place at Untergut Lenthe attended by more than 200 happy members of the Hannover Chopin Society and their families. This first event following a long time of cultural abstinence was a great success due to the beautiful park, the sunny weather and particularly due to the artists. In an old and restored sheep shelter *Emanuel Roch*, well known to us from former concerts, played pieces by Mozart, Chopin and Brahms; baritone *Jan Bukowski* accompanied by *April Xi Yuan Foo* (piano) featured songs by Mozart, Donizetti, Strauss and Wagner. Highlight of his presentation were Chopin's Polish Songs Op. 74. The concert was followed by a wonderful picnic in the greens.

With regard to our Society itself, the number of member families is staying more or less stable in 2020 (about 400); the challenge for the future will be to acquire member families of the younger generation. The managing board is chaired by Mrs Sookie Schober since 2005 and is glad to contribute to keep alive the interest in young promising pianists and in piano music as well as in our patron Frédéric Chopin.

György Ferenczy Foundation (Budapest / HUNGARY)

In the concert season 2020/2021, the **BUDAPEST CHOPIN FESTIVAL 2020** continued with the planned programs, but also with programs not planned in advance, but added at the request of the willing them. There were three lectures by Izabella Darska Havasi. Two of them: **Further training courses for the piano teachers of Budapest and close-to-Budapest music schools** took place in Budapest and opened the 2020/2021 activity season. Due to the quantitative pandemic limitations, the participants applying were divided into two groups. Both lectures were two-day, 2 x 5 hours, the topics were the same.

29 – 30 September 2020 – the 1st group

10 – 11 October 2020 – the 2nd group

„Polish national dances and their folk origin“ and „Dance-miniatures and dance-poems in Chopin's lifework“.

4 October 2020:

Tribute program to the memory of György Ferenczy, the name-giver of the Foundation, and the postgraduate piano teacher of the Foundation establisher. Being the eye of the

teacher-student chain: *Liszt–Thomán–Dohnányi–Ferenczy–Cziffra*, György Ferenczy can be regarded as a “professional grandson” of Ferenc Liszt. Prof. Ferenczy was recognized as the best performer of Chopin pieces in Hungary of his time. His recordings, photos, biographical information and reviews were used in the program.

The Award Survey belonging to the program turned out to be very popular. The fifth-question game for children and youth were answered by 24 pupils and students. Well-worded, exhaustive responses came from 5 countries. Of course, the prizes were not missed - according to the age of the participants and the language of their answer - all respondents really deserved a reward.

19 October 2020.

„Polish national dances and their folk origin“ – **on-line lecture.**

The third lecture by Izabella Darska Havasi was held for the teachers of the Kodály Zoltán Primary and Secondary Music School in Debrecen. The lecturer has already hold this lecture in the above-mentioned school, but - at the request of its teachers - as a very helpful and extremely



informative topic - it has been repeated, in addition, in an unprecedented form - as a Zoom conference. Pandemic restrictions prevented strangers from entering the school premises, the teachers divided into groups of several people were provided with monitors in separate rooms, and those in quarantine had the opportunity to join the conference from their homes.

15 November 2020.

The festive final concert of the Budapest Chopin Festival 2020 : **PIOTR PALECZNY – CHOPIN PIANO CONCERTO IN E-MINOR** performed in the building of the Polish Parliament (Sejm) in the year 2010, was broadcasted in honour of Polish Independence Day (11th November). The renewal of this memorable, archival recording was preceded by the festive foreword of H. E. Ambassador of Republic of Poland in Hungary – Jerzy Sнопек.

The year 2021 is the anniversary year of several composers - including Ferenc Liszt, who was born one year after Chopin and was his friend but also rival. For the Foundation operating in Hungary, but dealing mainly with Chopin's music, it was a brilliant opportunity to combine the two names within the framework of one program – the **BUDAPEST CHOPIN-LISZT FESTIVAL 2021**.

Remembering the excitement and difficulties associated with the beginning of last year's festival, and taking into account the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, we decided the Festival 2021 to be organized fully online. Concert programs and educational programs were planned about both composers, courses as far as possible, and for November - **POLISH PIANO MUSIC COMPETITION organized jointly with the PWM Edition in Krakow, in the framework of the 10th GYÖRGY FERENCZY PIANO COMPETITION, International Chopin Piano Competition**. The Foundation also offered special prizes in various international piano competitions for the best performances of Chopin's works.

28th February 2021:

Inaugural concert of the **Budapest Chopin-Liszt Festival 2021**, commemorating the anniversary of

Chopin's birth – was performed by **GERGELY KOVÁCS (HU)**, *ex aequo* winner of our 9th International Chopin piano Competition in Budapest, 2018.

22 – 28 March 2021.

Representing her Foundation, Izabella Darska Havasi worked in the jury of the *International Polish Piano Music Competition-Festival dedicated to F. Chopin* in Vilnius, and offered special prizes for the best performances of Chopin's works. The competition was organized online. Later, a promotional online concert was broadcasted with the Chopin-awarded pieces.

11th April 2021:

„**THE LIFE OF LISZT**” – the first, Liszt themed educational program, based on the composer's biography, richly illustrated with his photos, pictures of people and places associated with him, as well as recordings of his works.

The series included 5 educational programs about Liszt as a person, as a musician, and as a teacher - including the Hungarian heirs of his traditions, the chain of his students until the 21st century. It is very important that each section mentions Liszt-Chopin relations, but the last section titled „Liszt and Chopin - Friends and Rivals” dealt with this topic in detail.

3rd May 2021:

Concert by **PIOTR PAWLAK (PL)** broadcasted in honour of the Polish Constitution Day. Piotr Pawlak is also *ex aequo* winner of our 9th International Chopin Piano Competition in Budapest (together with Gergely Kovács). In the program, pieces from his prize winner performance at the 1st Stanisław Moniuszko Polish Music Competition in Rzeszów 2019 were used.

6 – 8 May 2021:

On behalf of her Foundation, Izabella Darska Havasi juried at the *Shopenivska Vesna International Piano Competition* in Lutsk (UKR), and offered special prizes for the best performances of Chopin's works. The competition was organized online.



12 – 16 May 2021:

Izabella Darska Havasi was a jury member at the 28th *International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth in Szafarnia*, and offered special prizes for the best performances of Chopin Mazurkas. Later, the promotional concert was broadcasted, using the whole competition repertoire of two Mazurka-prizes' winners, The competition was organized in a hybrid way – online recordings were heard by personally present jury.

13th June 2021:

“**LISZT – THE MAN**” – educational program dealing with Liszt's personality as a private person and as a musician. Like the previous program about Liszt – was richly illustrated with his photos, pictures of people and places associated with him, as well as recordings of his works.

4th July 2021:

Promotional concert by **MIKOŁAJ KRZYSZTOF SEROKA (PL)** broadcasted as the part of the series “*Chopin performed by young pianists around the world*”. His prize winner performance at the Kościuszko Foundation Online Chopin Competition for Young Pianists, Washington 2020 was used in the program.

1st August 2021:

Promotional concert by the Chopin special prize winners at the International Polish Piano Music Competition-Festival dedicated to F. Chopin in Vilnius was broadcasted as the part of the series “*Chopin performed by young pianists around the world*”. The awarded pieces were used in the program.

12th September 2021:

Concert by **ERYK KOSZELA (PL)** and **YIMING SUN (CN)**, the *Chopin Mazurka special prize* winners at the 28th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth in Szafarnia, 2021, broadcasted as the part of the series “*Chopin performed by young pianists around the world*”. The whole competition repertoire of the Mazurka-prize awarded participants was used in the program.

18 September 2021:

Informed about organizing the 2nd Stanisław Moniuszko Polish Music Competition in Rzeszów, Izabella Darska Havasi offered special prize for the most successful Polish participant. Being present at the competition award ceremony, personally handed over the invitation for a concert to **Michał Karol Szymanowski**. The concert is planned for 7 November 2021, during the closing ceremony of the 10th Ferenczy György International Piano Competition in Budapest. In the case the pandemic prevents the organization of the competition in live, the special prize will be realized as an online concert, using the competition repertoire.

Planned continuation of the Festival:

3 October 2021:

“**LISZT – THE TEACHER**”.

Educational program dealing with Liszt's methodology and pedagogical practice, as well as with continuators of his artistic achievements – the teacher-student chain *Liszt-Thomán-Dohnányi-Ferenczy-Cziffra*.

24 October 2021:

“**CHOPIN AND LISZT – FRIENDS AND RIVALS**”

– including the award-survey on the relationship between the two musicians.

5 – 7 November 2021:

POLISH PIANO MUSIC COMPETITION organized jointly with the PWM Edition in Krakow, in the framework of the 10th **GYÖRGY FERENCZY PIANO COMPETITION**, International Chopin Piano Competition.

Hereby, we would like to thank the events' organizers and recordings' owners for the permission to broadcast the concerts on the Foundation website.

Izabella Darska Havasi

Associazione Culturale „Fryderyk Chopin” (Rome / ITALY)

The activity of the Chopin Association has resumed with enthusiasm both from a concert and didactic point of view.

The Magisterium Course of Piano Deepening organized by the Chopin Association in collaboration with the Rotary Club Roma Ovest and held by Marcella Crudeli, began in April with the entrance exams of the six very valid pianists from all over Italy who, at the end of the course, will hold a recital of one hour each and a concert with the accompaniment of the ICNT Orchestra – I Concerti nel Tempio.

On 6 May Marcella Crudeli gave a recital at the prestigious Museo delle Civiltà in Rome, in the splendid Salone delle Scienze, organized in collaboration with the Francesco Vivona high school, on the occasion of the European Day, in front of a large audience including many associates of the Chopin Association who have bestowed favorable awards on the artist.

The Chopin Association has also taken over the “Salotti di Marcella Crudeli”, which this year will be traveling in the beautiful fifteenth-century Cloister of San Giovanni Battista de ‘Genovesi, already home to the selections of the International Piano Competition ROME. The first two events were held on May 15th and June 19th. These events were attended by great personalities from the institutional, musical, literary world, personalities of great cultural depth. In the first appointment, in addition to valiant young emerging singers and pianists, Marcella Crudeli herself presented and performed works by the beloved composer Fryderyk Chopin, interspersed with poems by Giacomo Leopardi, declaimed by the actor Angelo Filippo Jannoni Sebastianini. The musical duo of Alessandro Fratta on flute and Luca Margoni on guitar performed music of exotic beauty from far South America.

In the second appointment, illustrious personalities participated including Avv. Prof. Tito Lucrezio Rizzo, former Chief Counselor in the Service of the Presidency of the

Republic with a very interesting conference entitled “From the dialogue between Christians and Muslims the foundations for the new Europe”, Liliana Gallo Montarsolo, widow of the famous bass Paolo Montarsolo, who spoke to us with such dedication about the prestigious career of the artist, who honored Italy in the world and Luciano Giuliani, former first horn of the RAI Orchestra of the Foro Italico and of the Santa Cecilia Orchestra, who he performed music by Weber, Rossini and Morricone together with other talented musicians of his students. A short essay by Felix Mendelssohn was performed

on the piano by Marcella Crudeli and by one of her talented students of the Magisterium.

Also in the beautiful setting of the Cloister of San Giovanni Battista de ‘Genovesi, the Chopin Association organized two concerts that were a great success with the public. The first in honor of the celebrations of the Patron Saint attended by talented emerging singers and pianists and Marcella Crudeli played Chopin’s music. Finally, the CAI Choir - Italian Alpine Club, closed the concert with some beautiful popular songs; the second in collaboration with CRAL SACE, which was attended by a duo of



Marcella Crudeli



talented students of Marcella Crudeli, winners of three prizes at the Rome International Piano Competition: in 2004 the Calligaris Prize, in 2005 the First Prize in the Two Pianos Section and in the 2006 First Prize in the Four Hands Piano Duo Section.

On 12 June Marcella Crudeli and some talented students of the Magisterium held a concert in the beautiful castle of Montecchio Emilia as part of the June Music Festival, playing, in addition to the classics, music by composer Andrea Talmelli.

On 1 July Marcella Crudeli inaugurated a Festival dedicated to her within the Festival of Nations organized by the Chopin Association in collaboration with the Cultural Association "Il Tempietto" with 17 concerts by her students and former students, dedicated to her seventy years of artistic career and the honor of Grand Officer of the Italian Republic, the highest office a civilian can receive in Italy, which she was awarded on June 3, 2021.

On July 28th she was invited to collect the "Sorrento Classica 2021 Award", for the meritorious of the Art, and to hold a recital as part of the "Sorrento Classica Festival" - XIV edition 2021".

On July 31st she gave a concert in the Municipal Theater of Campobasso

together with some students of the Magisterium.

On October 14th she was invited to give a recital in Galatina, in the XXI concert season "The concerts of the cloister"

The ROMA 2021 International Piano Competition will be held from 4 to 16 November with selections at the Cloister of San Giovanni Battista de 'Genovesi and will culminate with the concert of the Winners, accompanied by the Roma Tre Orchestra, at the Palladium Theater on 16 November.

On December 18th Marcella Crudeli will play in the splendid setting of Villa Torlonia in Rome, all in the name of the great composer Fryderyk Chopin.



The Fryderyk Chopin Society in Warsaw (Warszawa / POLAND)

2021 is the second year of Covid-19 restrictions. Despite the difficult circumstances, the Chopin Society did its best to implement the projects it had planned to implement, although some in a different form. The Society's flagship project, *Chopin Concerts in the Royal Łazienki Park*, was carried out online for the second time. Piano recitals were recorded in the Palace on the Isle, to be broadcast on the Chopin Society's and Stołeczna Estrada's Facebook and YouTube channels on all successive Sundays, from mid-May till the end of September. Loudspeakers were placed along the park's main alleys to broadcast the recitals. The pianists were: Kevin Kenner (USA), Łukasz Byrdy, Aleksandra Hortensja Dąbek, Mateusz Tomica, Viet Trung Nguyen (Vietnam/Poland), Maciej Wota, Edward Wolanin, Mateusz Krzyżowski, Nikolay Khozyainov (Russia), Ewa Pobłocka, Jakub Kuszlik, Petar Milič (Slovenia), Marcin Wieczorek, Julia Łozowska, Eryk Parchański, Yukino Hayashi (Japan), Tomasz Marut, Joanna Goranko, Tymoteusz Bies, Dina Yoffe (Latvia). As in the previous years, the co-organisers of the concerts were Stołeczna Estrada and Muzeum Łazienki Królewskie.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Chopin Society organised and held live concerts in Powsin and Brochów. The jubilee 25th International Piano Festival *Music Floralia – Music in Flowers* in the Botanical Gardens in Powsin had an exceptionally attractive offer. Listeners heard recitals performed by Maria Gabryś-Heyke, Lidia Grychtołówna, Rinko Kobayashi (Japan) and Antonio Di Cristofano (Italy). The Young Pianists' Stage included recitals played by Jakub Kuszlik, Trung Viet Nguyen (Vietnam/Poland), Yukino Hayashi (Japan), Marcin Wieczorek, Martyna Kubik, Joanna Goranko, and the winners of the Harasiewicz Piano Competition in Rzeszów. The concerts were held on all Sundays in June. Polska Akademia Nauk Ogród Botaniczny co-organised the Festival.



Kevin Kenner, Royal Łazienki Park, Warsaw 2021



Dina Yoffe, Royal Łazienki Park, Warsaw 2021



Marcin Wieczorek, Piano Festival in Powsin, 2021

The Society's project *Summer Chopin Concerts at the Basilica of St John the Baptist in Brochów* celebrated its 14th edition in 2021. The concerts featured works by a wide range of composers. Soloists, duos and chamber ensembles performed Chopin's music, both its original versions and transcriptions for other instruments. Among the artists was the piano duo Krzysztof Książek and Agnieszka Zahaczewska-Książek, the guitar duo Mateusz Kowalski and Tomasz Radziszewski, and the duo Maria Gabryś-Heyke (piano) and Jolanta Sosnowska (violin). The project has received financial support from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. As usual, the concerts were held on every Sunday in July and August, and were well attended.

In April the Society joined Rotary Club Warsaw's action aimed at helping homeless persons. The Society organised a charity recital which was broadcast live. Pianist Weronika Chodakowska played works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Fryderyk Chopin, Karol Mikuli and Alexander Scriabin. The Hotel Chopin Boutique B&B



**Krzysztof Książek and Agnieszka Zahaczewska-Książek,
Basilica of St John the Baptist in Brochów, 2021**



**Celebration marking 40 years of Chopin Concerts in Sanniki. Gabriel Wiczorek, Monika Patrowicz, Aleksandra Głowacka,
Ewa Sławińska-Dahlig, Sanniki 2021**

made available its Chopin Salon for that event. A massive organisation established in 1905 in Chicago, Rotary has millions of members in more than 200 countries, affiliated in local clubs, whose motto is 'Service Above Self'.

The Chopin Society arranged for Russian pianist Nikolay Khozyainov to play a Chopin recital in the Staszic Palace (May 27th). Another event which the Society organised in the palace, together with the Pro Juventus Foundation, was a music-and-poetry concert *Maria Szymanowska in Memoriam*, to mark the 190th anniversary of the death of this renowned Polish pianist and composer (July 25th). Young pianists appeared in the concert.

Preparations are under way to publish the next volume of the *Rocznik Chopinowski*. It will contain articles provided by Krzysztof Bilica, Krzysztof Dorcz, Lyubov Kyyanovska, Piotr Mysłakowski, Włodzimierz Pięta, Joanna Żurowska. The editor-in-chief is Ewa Sławińska-Dahlig.

The publication of the 29th volume is possible due to the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport.

The Society's local groups carried out several concert projects. The Gdańsk group held a series of concerts *Young Chopin Performers and their Masters* in the Old Town Hall (May 27th, June 9th, September 3rd) and the 15th *Chopin Days in Pomerania* in Waplewo Wielkie (June 11th-12th); the Supraśl group organised a festival *Between the Lines* (July); the Ostrów Wielkopolski group held several concerts in Antonin; the Sanniki group held its annual cycle of music-and-poetry concerts (February-October), and on August 22nd Sanniki celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Chopin Concerts. Janusz Olejniczak's recital was the highlight of the celebrations. All above projects received support from the Society.

Polish Chopin Academy (Warsaw / POLAND)

General Meeting of members of the Polish Chopin Academy

On 19 June 2021, a General Meeting of members of the Polish Chopin Academy was held at the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw. Those present accepted the periodic report and gave the board a vote of approval. A new board was elected, comprising Prof. Irena Poniatowska (president), Grzegorz Michalski (vice-president), Marita Albán Juárez (treasurer), Marcin Wąsowski (secretary) and Paweł Urbański (member). At the first meeting of the new board, it was decided that one of the forthcoming projects realised by the Polish Chopin Academy would be to organise a Chopinological conference in 2022.

Chopin Foundation of the United States (Miami / USA)

It is remarkable that an entire year has gone by since my last *Chopin in the World* report. The worldwide pandemic has had a way of disrupting so many things, including our perspective on how time passes. Fortunately, in the world of classical music, we see the genre in terms of centuries and understand that this beautiful art form has survived through many world upheavals - and will outlive us all!

Programs Presented Online

Just days before the pandemic lockdown, the Chopin Foundation of the U.S. miraculously concluded the 10th National Chopin Piano Competition on March 1, 2020 – one of Chopin's birthdays. Consequently, the Foundation amassed a treasure trove of professionally recorded material by 25 of today's top young American pianists. These videos that were prepared from the Competition livestream recordings have been judiciously disseminated through curated programs that include artist interviews and interesting stories. The Foundation has shared the Chopin Salons @ Home each month since April 2020. The online episodes reside on the Foundation's website (<https://www.chopin.org/news>) and the 22 episodes produced thus far have been viewed over 12,000 times.

The *Chopin for All* concerts have also been presented online monthly in collaboration with the main Fort Lauderdale, Florida Library. From November 2020 through July 2021, the events which included a live interview and Q & A with the artists, have become one of the Library's most successful online events.



Kevin Kenner
– Interviewed for the January 17, 2021 special recording

Special Project with Kevin Kenner

With the support of the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, the Chopin Foundation had the pleasure of working with **Kevin Kenner** on a very special recording project. Using the school's beautiful new Hamburg Steinway, we captured Kevin's performance of several of Chopin's early works including Nocturne in E minor, Op. 72, 3 Polonaises, 3 Mazurkas, and Variations on Mozart's "La ci darem la mano", Op. 2 – all composed prior to 1830. In an online review, Jonathan Sutherland wrote:

Kenner brings out the nuanced nostalgia of these early Chopin works with commendable sensitivity and exceptional clarity of articulation. The deceptively simple opus 72 E Minor Nocturne

was particularly impressive in its poignant and delicate cantilena. Kenner's lightness of touch and minimal pedalling in the three Mazurkas op. 68 had rhythmic punch deftly balancing the inherent lyricism of these precocious gems. The "La ci darem la mano" variations (which caused Robert Schumann to make his immortal appraisal: "Hats off, gentlemen, a genius") was played without the original orchestration but was arguably even more impressive in the solo piano form. The virtuoso runs and ornamentations, especially in the 'veloce, ma accuratamente' 2nd variation, were spectacularly crisp and technically faultless in execution. Kenner also managed to add pianistic Puck-ian humour to balance the more dramatic passages of the work making this a fitting conclusion to an especially impressive recital. 'Hats off' once again. Jonathan Sutherland.

The Frost Chopin Academy & Festival

Rules and restrictions necessitated that the 3rd edition of the Frost Chopin Academy and Festival be held online during the months of June and July, 2021. With masterclasses, lessons and lectures by outstanding artists and Chopin specialists, **Kevin Kenner** organized a wonderful program that was attended by over 20 aspiring young pianists. Guest artists included **Marina Frolova-Walker, Professor John Rink, Robert McDonald, Zlata Chochieva, Margarita Shevchenko, and Edward Auer** as well as Artistic Director, Kevin Kenner. All of the performances and lectures were made available online and the project even included fascinating behind the scenes moments as the young pianists learned from the great masters.

Scholarships

The Chopin Foundation once again received a record number of applications to the Scholarship Program for Young Pianists. The Scholarship Committee which included the fine pianists Mack McCray (San Francisco Conservatory of Music and President of the San Francisco Chopin Council), Peter Miyamoto (University of Missouri) and Tian Ying (University of Miami) selected 28 outstanding young pianists to receive awards for the 2021-22 school year. Pianists can enter the program at age 14 and over the course of the 4-year program, they have the opportunity to learn the repertoire required for the National (and International) Chopin Piano Competition.



Avery Gagliano – Steinway CD

Winner's Concert Tour

Avery Gagliano, the first prize winner of the 2020 National Chopin Piano Competition, was scheduled to embark on an extensive concert tour leading up to the 2020 International Chopin Piano Competition. These plans were all put on hold – until recently! The Chopin Foundation organized a wonderful recital for Avery in collaboration with the University of Miami on September 11, 2021. The program's highlight was a stunning performance of the Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, Op. 22, arrangement for piano and string quintet by **Kevin Kenner** assisted by Krzysztof Dombek. Avery was joined by faculty members of the Frost School of Music. This was the Foundation's first live performance in Miami since the beginning of the pandemic. Avery is now on her way to Warsaw to represent the US at the International Chopin Competition. When she returns, she will make her Carnegie Hall debut on November 30, 2021 which immediately follows her CD release on the Steinway Label. We wish her a world of success.

Barbara Muze,
Executive Director of the Chopin Foundation of the US



Avery Gagliano – Performs with Frost School of Music Faculty

Société Frédéric Chopin Genève (Genève / SWITZERLAND)

L'année 2020 restera pour toujours dans la mémoire de l'humanité. Le Covid-19 a bouleversé notre quotidien. Le confinement a obligé la Musique à se taire pendant plusieurs mois.

Malgré une situation incertaine, nous avons gardé espoir jusqu'au bout pour pouvoir réaliser notre beau Festival. Et la chance, si fortement espérée, nous a souri. Suite aux assouplissements temporaires, le Festival Chopin 2020 et sa Masterclass programmé du 4 au 11 octobre s'est déroulé comme prévu.

Ainsi la 23^{ème} édition du Festival Chopin a poursuivi sa forme itinérante à travers Genève. Les concerts ont eu lieu au Studio Ernest-Ansermet, la Salle Willy-Buard à Collonge-Bellerive, la Salle des Nations de l'Hôtel des Bergues de Genève ou encore la Salle de récital de l'Institut Jaques-Dalcroze.

La brillante ouverture du Festival Chopin a eu lieu le dimanche 4 octobre 2020 au Studio Ernest-Ansermet. François Dumont, pianiste français et lauréat du Concours « Reine Elisabeth » en 2007 et Concours « Chopin » à Varsovie en 2010, que nous avons tant apprécié lors de l'édition du Festival Chopin 2019, est revenu avec un programme très original selon notre souhait de marier composition pianistique et musique de chambre. Suite à une magnifique première partie au piano seul, il a ensuite dialogué avec la soprano irlandaise Helen Kearns puis avec le Quintette Ephémère.

Le critique musical Paul-Andrée Demierre, a eu ces propos très élogieux à notre sujet dans l'article paru dans le magazine francophone européen *Crescendo* :

« Dans son interprétation le *Nocturne en fa dièse mineur op. 48 N°2* a révélé un cantabile d'une extrême liberté, la narration tragique de la *Polonaise en fa dièse mineur op. 44*, redoutable d'exécution, est emportée par un souffle héroïque, les trois *Mélodies op. 74 : Un fleuve triste, Ma douce chérie et Chanson lituanienne* ont fait valoir le timbre fruité de soprano lyrique de Helen Kearns.

Ensuite vient la *Barcarolle en fa dièse majeur op. 60* avec son balancement rythmique, deux *Mazurkas op.*

63 n.2 et 3 imprégnées d'une inefable poésie, et enfin la page la plus fascinante du programme : la *Grande Fantaisie sur des airs polonais op. 13*. La partie orchestrale a été réduite à celle d'un quintette à cordes par la violoniste Olivia Jacobson qui s'est inspirée de ce que Chopin lui-même aurait fait en mars 1830 pour une première exécution en famille à Varsovie.

Le Quintette Ephémère, fondé par Olivia Jacobson, et pour cette fois constitué d'Elsa-Camille Sapin au violon, Giuseppe Russo Rossi à l'alto, Florestan Darbellay au violoncelle et Massimo Pinca à la contrebasse, s'est chargé du canevas instrumental en lui prêtant un intimisme chambriste de bon aloi, alors que le soliste a égrené les passages épineux de la chanson polonaise *La lune est déjà descendue*, puis a élaboré de tout aussi volubiles variations sur une *Krakowiak* et a terminé par une *Kujawiak* aussi énergique que virtuose. Face à l'enthousiasme du public, proposé sous la même forme à titre de bis, l'*Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise en mi bémol majeur op. 22*, a conclu en beauté cette brillante ouverture de Festival ».

Puis du 5 au 7 octobre, pendant trois jours consécutifs, François Dumont a tenu la Chopin Masterclass. Les cours d'interprétation ont été enrichis par la projection du film de Piotr Szalsza « Le cœur de Chopin » racontant les détails peu connus du dernier testament du compositeur. La Masterclass s'est terminée par son traditionnel concert des participants.

Tous les participants ont reçu en cadeau : soit les partitions de Chopin, soit le double CD d'enregistrement de l'intégrale des Nocturnes par François Dumont. Le « Prix Mireille Klemm » a été décerné au meilleur participant de la Masterclass.

A l'occasion du deuxième concert du festival, le 6 octobre dans la Salle Willy Buard de la Mairie de Collonge-Bellerive, nous avons eu l'immense plaisir d'apprécier le talent et la personnalité de Jansen Ryser, jeune pianiste

suisse, déjà bien présent sur la scène suisse et internationale.

Dans le passé, Jansen Ryser a bénéficié de l'enseignement de Jeffrey Swann, Krzysztof Jablonski et Jean-Marc Luisada durant nos Chopin Masterclass. Nous sommes très heureux et fiers que notre engagement pédagogique porte ses fruits.

Le vendredi 9 octobre, dans l'ambiance de la somptueuse Salle des Nations de l'Hôtel des Bergues au plafond cintré avec ce piano trônant au centre de la salle, entouré par son public, comme à l'époque dans les grands salons parisiens du XIXe, Alberto Nosè a tenu un fascinant récital. Lauréat du Concours Chopin de Varsovie en 2000, Prix Vendôme de Paris la même année, Prix du World Piano Competition de Londres en 2002, Alberto Nosè, pianiste italien, reste fidèle depuis de nombreuses années au Festival Chopin à notre plus grand bonheur.

Fougueux, lyric, émouvant, mélancolique, rêveur, enchanteur...

Bref, ce fut un récital trop bref, on aurait tant aimé que la magie de la musique de Chopin continue encore et encore...

Le concert de clôture a eu lieu au Studio Ernest-Ansermet le dimanche 11 octobre.

À l'instar du concert d'ouverture, l'élaboration du programme musicale de la soirée consistait au mélange de l'incroyable répertoire pianistique de Chopin avec celui de sa musique de chambre. Les Nocturnes pour piano seul ont donc laissé place à la Sonate pour piano et violoncelle op. 65 puis au Trio en sol mineur op. 8 pour piano, violon et violoncelle.

Les trois artistes de la soirée, Christian Chamorel au piano, Olivia Jacobson au violon et Estelle Revaz au violoncelle, ont clôturé en beauté une exceptionnelle semaine chopinienne grâce à leurs remarquable interprétation.

Tous les concerts ont remporté un vif succès ! Le public enthousiaste, même masqué, fut présent, chaque soir, au rendez-vous. Nous sommes particulièrement heureux d'avoir réussi à organiser le Festival Chopin 2020 dans le contexte si difficile du moment.

Frederick Chopin Society in Ukraine (Dnepropetrovsk / UKRAINE)

30th anniversary of the Chopin society in Ukraine

In the last time, there were lots of bright events with the Chopin society in Ukraine. In 2020 our Society celebrated its 30th anniversary. On this occasion we held big events on March 2nd and 3rd in the Concert-Hall of the Glinka Music Academy Dnipro.

They were attended by many officials, colleges and creative organizations which our Society cooperates with very tight. Our big pleasure was the congratulation of the Guest of Honor, his excellence Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Kharkov Mr. Janusz Jablonski. He addressed warmly the President of the Society Mrs. Nataliia Vorobiova and presented a priceless gift - 2 portraits of F. Chopin. They will make a jewel of our future F. Chopin Salon-Museum. As part of the anniversary celebrations, concerts of laureates of past international Chopin competitions in Ukraine were held with great success. The culmination of the celebrations, thanks to the assistance of the Polish Institute in Kiev, was a concert by a young Polish pianist Kamil Paholec. We were captivated with the poetry and masculinity of his Chopin performance. The subtlest pianissimo, restrained passion and exquisite embodiment of the author's intention left an unforgettable impression on the audience. This year, this talented pianist will take part in the XVIII International F. Chopin Competition in Warsaw. We wish him inspiration, good luck and victory! Ukraine will root for him.

Another outstanding event was the **V International F. Chopin Competition for Young Pianists**, which traditionally takes place in Ukraine once every 5 years. It was attended by young performers aged 10 to 25 years from 10 countries of the world: Ukraine, Poland, Slovenia, China, USA, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Israel, Lithuania.

The competition impressed by a large number of outstanding performers, whose playing harmoniously combined technical skill with subtle lyricism and poetry. The high

performing level of the competition was confirmed by prizes as well as Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, which were awarded to laureates from Georgia, Slovenia, China, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine. Winners of the first prize and Gold medals were participants from Slovenia (Bogdan Koval – senior category), Georgia (Soso Ninikelashvili - middle category) and Ukraine (Ann Niebaba - junior category). Second prizes and Silver medals were awarded to participants from China (Siu Czisun), Georgia (Salomi Chitaia), Ukraine (Nikola Miroshnichenko), third prize and Bronze medals went to Poland (Tian Cziki), Belarus (Veronika Kunichkina) and Ukraine (Aleksander Shyrbu).

Famous musicians-performers, professors of prestigious music academies were invited to work on the jury of the competition: Katarzyna Rise (Poland), Nataliia Vorobiova Boris Fedorov (Ukraine), Nataliia Gromova (Belarus), Dzaj She (China), Manana Goperidze (Georgia), Stanislav Khristenko Христенко (USA). A feature of this competition was that the jury members from USA and China were Grand Prix laureates of past international F. Chopin competitions in Ukraine. The concerts of these young musicians, who have already gained wide popularity, are held with great success on all continents, in the best concert halls of the world.

In 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic quarantine, the **XXV All-Ukrainian Children's F. Chopin Festival-Competition of Ukrainian and Polish Music** had to be held online. It was an interesting experience that provided a lot of material for the analysis of the current situation and allowed not to stop the musical life of the country. However, this forced saving option still lacked the atmosphere of a live concert performance.

At the moment, the Society is working on the creation of the unique multi-functional "**F. Chopin Salon-Museum**", where, in addition to purely museal, also informational and educational functions can be realized. Its placement in the building of the M. Glinka Academy of Music Dnipro will significantly expand the audience and the possibilities of creative implementation.

Taking this opportunity, the F. Chopin Society in Ukraine expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Polish Institute in Kyiv and the General Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Kharkiv for the constant support of our educational activities to popularize the work of F. Chopin and significant assistance in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Society.

Nataliia Vorobiova
President of the F. Chopin Society
in Ukraine



Chopin International Academy of TOVAK Foundation (Istanbul / TURKEY)

“Chopin in Turkey – Chopin for Everyone”

This year Turkey witnessed something new, the Chopin 1st International Piano Competition for Children and Young Pianists. It took place online over the days 24-30 April 2021 in Istanbul. The organizers and sponsors were able to reward many excellent young pianists from Turkey and abroad as part of the project “Chopin in Turkey - Chopin for Everyone”.

The competition was made possible by the Chopin International Academy of TOVAK (the Turkish Community Services Foundation), established in 2015 by TOVAK and the Polish pianist Dr. Irena Ülkü, who is resident in Turkey. The Academy is a member of the International Federation of Chopin Societies (IFCS).

There were two age categories for pianists, firstly thirteen and younger, and secondly fourteen to seventeen years old. In the 14-17 years category, the 1st prize was won by Józef Domżał, of Poland. The second prize was shared by Sonia Schwabe and Maciej Smolağ, both from Poland. The third prize was shared between Tuna Tüney, Efe Şen, and İdil Küner, all from Turkey. Józef Domżał's remarkable playing was also rewarded with three Special Prizes: for the best J.S. Bach interpretation, the Prelude from the English Suite in G Minor BWV 808; the best F. Chopin interpretation, the Barcarolle in F Sharp Major, op. 60, National Edition; and the best interpretation of piano music of the composer belonging to the country of the participant, K. Szymanowski's Variations in B Flat Minor, op. 3.

In the age category for young pianists of thirteen years and younger, the first prize was shared by İlyun Bürkeç, of Turkey, and Jakub Staniszewski, of Poland. The second prize was not awarded, and the jury decided to share the prize of the Chopin International Academy of TOVAK Foundation



Józef Domżał



Sonia Schwabe



Maciej Smolağ



Tuna Tüney

in Turkey between İlyun Bürkeç and Jakub Staniszewski. The third prize was awarded to the young Turkish pianist İdil Naz Alıcı. Also in this category three Special Prizes were awarded: to Jakub Staniszewski for the best J.S. Bach interpretation, the Prelude and Fugue in B Flat Major, BWV 866; to İlyun Bürkeç for the best F. Chopin interpretation, the Fantasie Impromptu C Sharp Minor op. 66 by Henle Verlag; and again to İlyun Bürkeç for the best interpretation of piano music of the composer belonging to the country of the participant, Ahmed Adnan Saygun's Étude No. 1 op. 38 (also known as Aksak Tartılar Üzerine 10 Etüd).

After the competition the Chopin International Academy of TOVAK, including Dr. Irena Ülkü and its president, Mr Ali Vuslat Turan, congratulated the participants, their professors and teachers, parents and helpers. It also thanked the members of the jury, made up of experts from Turkey and Poland, the General Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Istanbul, and Maltepe University in Istanbul, especially the Rector Prof. Dr. Şahin Karasar and Prof. Dr. Çiğdem İyicil, Chairman of the Competition Organization Committee and Director of the Maltepe University Conservatory. It is important to mention that the first prizes were provided by the rector of Maltepe University.

In this way the Chopin International Academy of TOVAK was able to extend the benefits of Chopin and piano playing in Turkey and in the world. The Academy looks forward to continuing the competition, and to other projects soon to be announced.



Efe Şen



İdil Küner,



İdil Naz Alıcı



İlyun Bürkeç



Jakub Staniszewski