



XII International Chopin & Friends Festival

November 4 - November 20, 2010

Honorary Patrons:

President Lech Walesa

The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York

Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka

XII International Chopin & Friends Festival

November 4 - November 20, 2010

The International Chopin & Friends Festival in New York showcases innovative artists who emulate Chopin in uniting the traditional and the modern, the young and the mature, the national and the universal, and all the art forms. New York Dance & Arts Innovations, Inc. (NY-DAI) is the founding sponsor of this popular fall celebration.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Brian Manning, Graphic Design
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Karol Mieczysław Partyka, Back Cover Artwork

HONORARY PATRONS:

President Lech Walesa
The Consulate General of the Republic
of Poland

Consul General of the Republic of Poland
in New York
Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka



*President
Lech Walesa*



Eric Walther, Suzanne Walther, Marian Zak, Malgorzata Zak



*Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York, Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk,
Suzanne Walther, Eric Walther*

We welcome you all to the XII International Chopin & Friends Festival organized by New York Dance & Arts Innovations. The festival honors Frederic Chopin, the Polish-born composer whose innovations express his undeniable genius. Like other immortal artists his work creates a community of friends that brings together young enthusiasts and seasoned connoisseurs, performers, colleagues and artists of professional repute.

In Chopin's artistry we find the expressive emotion and exquisite craftsmanship that guarantee his music will forever touch the hearts of audiences and energize aspiring artists. It is fitting that this festival will present a sampling of many genres of art. You will see paintings and graphic art, photography exhibits, dance, music and dramatic Japanese performances. The festival will close with a piano recital in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth.

The final weekend of the festival will be hosted in the majestic halls of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York City. This generous institution has often opened its doors to NYDAI, sponsoring a variety of our arts programs and elegant fundraising events. For me and for my husband Dr. Eric Walther, these halls hold a very special memory, for one year ago, in recognition of our work as founders and supporters of NYDAI we were honored to receive the GOLD CROSS OF MERIT, awarded by the President of Poland, and presented in an impressive ceremony by the Consul General at that time, Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk. This is the highest honor that Poland awards to persons not native to Poland, and we are proud and delighted that the accomplishments of NYDAI have been so widely appreciated and applauded.

As always, the greatest credit for organizing this festival must go to the President of NYDAI, Marian Zak, who has contributed so much to the dissemination of the artistic heritage of Poland in this country. The Directors of NYDAI and our many associates and volunteers most cordially welcome you to the XII International Chopin and Friends Festival, and hope you will attend and enjoy the programs we have scheduled for the next three weeks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Suzanne K. Walther
Vice President of NYDAI

"TRACE"

Edmund Korzeniewski

Opening reception:

Thursday November 4, 2010, 7- 9PM

Regular hours:

Monday – Friday, November 4 - November 18, 2010, 10AM-6PM

Where:

Artes Gallery Nowy Dziennik

333 West 38th Street

(between 8 & 9 Ave.)

New York, NY 10018

www.nowydzienki.com

Admission: FREE

EDMUND KORZENIEWSKI

Born in Poland, lives and works in New York City. Attended The Parsons School of Design, The New School, Manhattan Graphics Center, The Lower East Side Print Shop, Cooper Union and Queens College.

EXHIBITIONS:

Invitee Artist on Fifth Bharat Bhavan International Biennial of Print – Arts – 2001 at Roopankar Muiseum of Fine Arts, Bhart Bhopal, M.P. India.

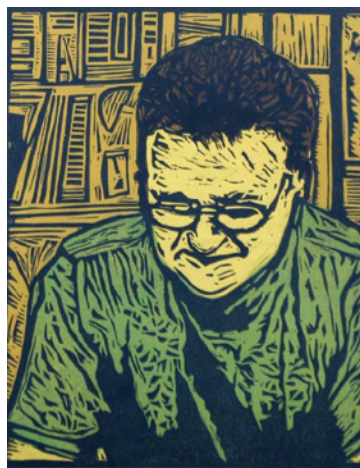
1 exhibition in England; at the Russel – Cotes Museum in Bournemouth, England; 1 exhibition at Delta Gallery in Paris, France;

1 exhibition at The Erlin Gallery in Budapest; 1 exhibition at Majsternia Gallery in Kiev, Ukraine.

6 exhibitions in Poland (1 solo exhibition: "Slad" Gallery Elk); "Format" gallery, Cracow, Contemporary Art. Center "Solvay" Cracow, "Slad" Gallery Elk and BWA Gallery Sandomierz.

2004-6 "Multiple Encounters": Indo – US Print Exhibition in India, shown at: the Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi (2004); the American Center in New Delhi (2004); the Government College of Art & Department of Fine Art in Chandigarh (2005); and the Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy & Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur (2006).

105 exhibitions in total: 82 in the USA (including 5 solo exhibitions: Consulate General of Republic of Poland, New York City; Galerie des Hamptons, Westhampton Beach, Long Island; PAAS (Polish American Artist Society), New York City; Kurier PlusGallery, Brooklyn, New York City, Shtooka Gallery NYC); Feral Art Gallery, Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York City; Ward – Nasse Gallery, SoHo, New York City; Blondies Contemporary Art, SoHo, New York City; Gubala Fine Art Gallery, 1100 Madison Avenue, New York City; Contemporary Polish Art in America, Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT; Manhattan Graphics Center, SoHo, New York City; KrasdaleGallery, Bronx, New York City; East and Art Gallery, Riverhead, Long Island; The Mountauk Artist Association, Mountauk, Long Island; City Hall, Boston, St. John's University – Chung - Cheng Gallery NY, Grand Gallery of The Art Students League of New York, NYC, Art for Healing Gallery, NYC, Organization of Independent Artists, NYC, Shtooka Gallery NYC, Artes Gallery Artists NYC, New Century Artists Gallery NYC.



Autoportret, kolorowy linoryt



Printmaking - linocut



Together - color linocut



Separation- acrylic on canvas

MINIATURES

paintings and graphics art
Janusz Skowron

Opening reception:

Friday November 5, 2010, 7 - 9PM

Regular hours:

November 5 - November 23, 2010

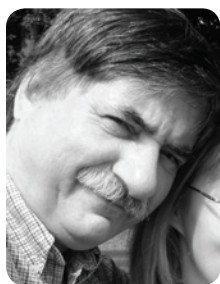
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 10AM - 2:30PM

PIASA's Michael G. Sendzimir Gallery

208 East 30th Street

New York, NY 10016

Admission: Free



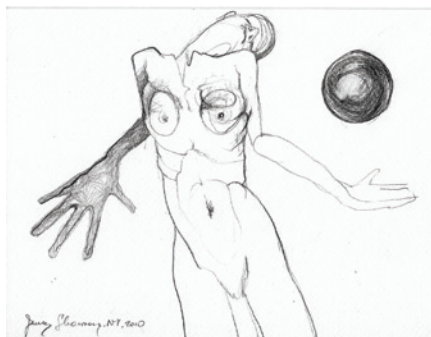
Janusz Skowron

Biography:

Janusz Skowron was born in Poland. He studied Fine Arts at the University of UMCS in Lublin and received a Masters Degree in Lithography in 1983 from Professor D. Kolwzan- Nowicka. Since 1989 Janusz has been living and working in New York City. He is a member of the international multimedia art group "Emotionalism" (since 1999), "The Polish Artists Association", "The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America" (PIASA), and "New Century Artists Gallery" (NYC). He is the co-founder of the "KONT Gallery" (1978) and SHTOOKA Gallery (2006). In 2008 Skowron was a co-organizer and participant in the international exhibit, "Entropy of Art". In his artwork he moves easily between figurative and more abstract themes. His sensibility is constantly in flux between inner and outer realities and this leads his paintings and drawings to an exquisite and evocative psychological tension. His art screams, shouts, and whispers feelings and moods of the moment, which range from anger, pain, and ecstasy to serenity, joy, and intellectual reflection. Each of his works is done in one session; he never goes back to the mood of moment. It wouldn't be genuine, you cannot feel exact emotions twice.

Janusz took part in more than a hundred exhibitions, displaying his works in Poland, Hungary, USA, South Korea, China, France, Denmark, and Germany. He does painting, drawing, photography and graphic arts. Since 2001 his illustrations have been published by the New York magazine "Kurier Plus". Janusz was the curator of several exhibitions and is a promoter of Polish Art in America.

E-mail: skowronjanusz08@gmail.com



Janusz Skowron, Girl with Ball, 2010



Music guest: Krzysztof Medyna

...affectingly throaty saxophonist Krzysztof Medyna ensure that none of the music's emotional power is dissipated in their absorbing, respectful yet consistently lively and compelling quintet treatments of the most under-visited items in jazz canon.

The Vortex Jazz, London, UK – April 2007

Medyna plays the sort of blustery, big-toned, brawny tenor saxophone that Komeda himself would have favored back in the day. His soloing throughout Requiem is the sort of expressive, soulful tenor playing that I cannot get enough of!

Dave Wayne –Jazz Reviews – February 2010



Janusz Skowron, Landscape, oil, 2009



Janusz Skowron, Face, oil, 2009

SHADE OF WHITE

Group Exhibit



Artists: Klaudia & Eugeniusz Potapow, Katarzyna Cesarz, Wojciech Trzyzna, Pawel Kin, Piotr Redziniak, Janusz Skowron, Zbigniew Nowosadzki, Jolanta Kuszaj, Jacek Niewieczerzal, Agnieszka Pomykala, Helena Jacyno, Marcin Niziurski, Renata Wota- Cywinska, Barbara Sliwinska-Grzonkowska, Ewa Szczesna- Sienkiel, Marian Figiel, Kamil Taraszka, Jolanta Dymowska, Maria Niedzwiedz-Suchonska, Izabela Wiszniowska, Teresa Gibczynska, Leszek Kuchniak, Jozef Franczak, Zuzanna Kud, Maksymilian Starzec

Curator of exhibit: Janusz Skowron

Music guest: Arthur Skowron



Arthur C. Skowron- musician, poet, photographer, painter and storyteller, Arthur is a member "The Rockaway Artists Alliance Writers Group" and "Emotionalists Art Group" in New York.
E-mail: ArthurS25@aol.com

Opening reception:

Saturday November 6, 2010, 7- 9PM

Regular hours:

Monday – Friday November 6 – November 18, 2010, 10AM – 5PM

Where:

Kurier Plus Gallery
145 Java Street,
Brooklyn, New York 11222

Admission: FREE

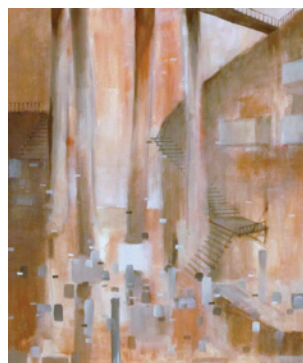
We met in Poland in July during this year's "10th Annual Kolbuszowa Plein-Air 2010". Twenty six artists: painters, printmakers, and sculptors. An idea came about to have a group exhibit of work on paper in New York.



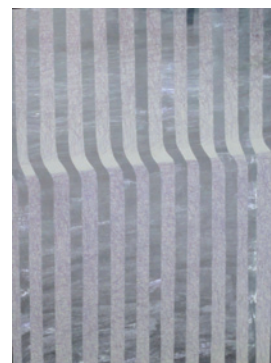
Wojciech Trzyzna- painter, Kolbuszowa, Poland
He studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland



Eugeniusz Potapow- painter, educator, Lvov, Ukraine. E-mail: evgenpotapov@pochta.ru



Pawel Kin- painter, graphic artists, Rzeszow Poland, E-mail: pkin@wp.pl



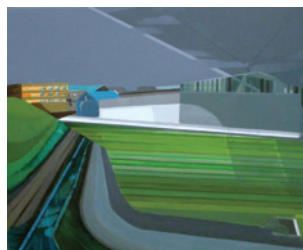
Piotr Redziniak- multimedia artist, Rzeszow, Poland He studied at Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz, Poland E-mail: piotr@bwa.rzeszow.pl



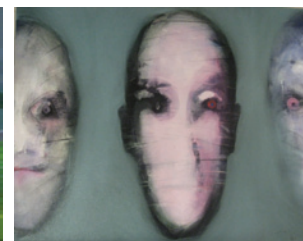
Agnieszka Pomykala- painter, Rzeszow, Poland. She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, Poland



Zbigniew Nowosadzki- painter, Warsaw, Poland He studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland E-mail: zbigniewnowosadzki@poczta.onet.pl



Jolanta Kuszaj- graphic artists, painter, Torun, Poland. She studied at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland E-mail: joli-22@tlen.pl



Janusz Skowron- graphic artist, painter, New York, USA He studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland E-mail: skowronjanusz08@gmail.com



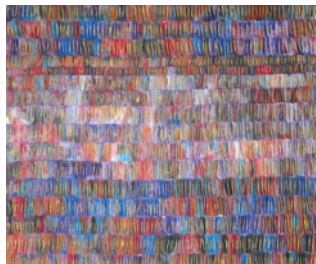
Helena Jacyno- painter, graphic artist, Przemyśl, Poland



Klaudia Potapow- painter, Lvov, Ukraine E-mail: evgenpotapov@pochta.ru



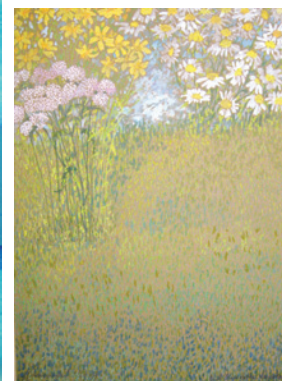
Marcin Niziurski – painter, graphic artist, writer, poet, Izabelin, Poland. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland. E-mail: mniziurski@wp.pl



Renata Wota-Cywinska – painter, objects and visual actions artist, Przemysl, Poland. E-mail: rena.wota@gmail.com



Izabela Wiszniowska – painter, Warsaw, Poland. She studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. E-mail: izawisz@neostrada.pl



Barbara Sliwinska-Grzonkowska – painter, Wrocław, Poland. She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław, Poland.



Teresa Gibczynska – painter, Cracow, Poland. She studied at the AGH University of Science and Technology, Cracow, Poland. E-mail: terkar@poczta.onet.pl



Ewa Szczesna-Sienkiel – painter, Lublin, Poland. She studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. E-mail: esienkiel@o2.pl



Leszek Kuchniak – sculptor, painter, educator, Rzeszow, Poland. He studied at the Academy of Fine Art in Cracow, Poland.



Jozef Franczak – painter, Strzyzow, Poland. He studied at the Secondary Art School in Jaroslaw, Poland. E-mail: j.franczak@interia.pl



Marian Figiel – painter, illustrator, performance artist, Krakow, Poland. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, Poland. E-mail: sela34@tlen.pl



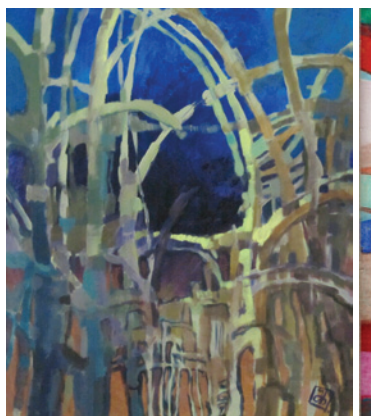
Kamil Taraszka – sculptor, Mielec, Poland. He studied at the Rzeszow University, Rzeszow, Poland.



Zuzanna Katarzyna Kud – painter, illustrator, poet, jeweler, Rzeszow, Poland. She studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. E-mail: zula.kud@gmail.com



Maria Niedzwiedz-Suchonska – painter, designer, Warsaw, Poland. She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz, Poland. E-mail: marys@badibadi.com



Jolanta Aleksandra Dymowska – painter, graphic artists, photographer, Rossosz, Poland. She studied at the Podlaska Academy, Siedlce, Poland. E-mail: ikona07@wp.pl



Maksymilian Starzec – painter, Kolbuszowa, Poland. He studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. E-mail: jamstarce@poczta.onet.pl



Jacek Niewieczeral – painter, Belchatow, Poland. He studied at the M. Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. E-mail: jacek.muzeum@wp.pl



Katarzyna C. Cesarz – multimedia artist, Werynia, Poland. She studied at the Fine Art Institute in Zielona Gora, Poland. E-mail: kkesar@wp.pl

IMAGES OF CHOPIN

INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN AND FRIENDS FESTIVAL POSTERS (1999-2006)

By Jan Sawka and Mariusz Stawarski

Exhibit curator: Janusz Skowron

Opening Reception:

Friday, November 12, 2010, 7PM-9PM

Regular hours:

Monday-Sunday November 4-21, 2010, 8AM-9PM

Where:

Starbucks Coffee

910 Manhattan Avenue

Brooklyn, 11222

Biography:

Jan Sawka was born in 1946, to an architect father and linguist mother, Jan and Maria Sawka, in the Silesian city of Zabrze. His childhood was overshadowed by his father's Stalin-era political imprisonment. Sawka completed two Masters degrees; in painting and print-making from the Wroclaw Fine Arts Academy and in Architectural Engineering from the Institute of Technology in Wroclaw. By his late 20's, Sawka was a star of the famed Polish Poster School and a leading artist of the counter-culture. His oppositionist activities lead to his exile in 1976. Since 1977, he has resided in New York and is part of the American cultural mainstream. He has made editorial drawings for the NY Times, numerous galleries have exhibited his paintings and prints, and he has designed for such theaters as the Harold Clurman, Jean Cocteau Repertory and Samuel Beckett Theater. Sawka's works are in over 60 museums around the world and he has had over 70 solo shows at international museums and galleries. His awards have included the 1975 Oscar de la Peinture in Cagnes-Sur-Mer, France for painting and the Gold Medal at the 1978 Warsaw Poster Biennial. In 1981, when Martial Law was imposed in Poland, the AFL-CIO led a bipartisan fundraiser that sold Sawka's Solidarity Poster in the millions to provide immediate support to the besieged Solidarity movement. In 1989, Sawka designed a 10-story tall set for the Grateful Dead's 25th Anniversary in Tour. In 1993, he created his first full multi-media spectacle, "The Eyes" in Japan. This was the beginning of his collaboration with Japanese technology studios and corporations, which includes the creation of high-tech interactive sculptures and monumental installations. Currently, he is developing "The Voyage," a full-length multimedia spectacle that won the Gold Medal in Multi-Media at the 2003 Florence Contemporary Art Biennial. Sawka has designed "The Tower of Light Cultural Complex" for Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., initially presented to the Royal Family in 1996. He is represented by landmark gallery ACA Galleries in New York's Chelsea arts district.

Mariusz Stawarski was born in 1961. He graduated from The Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk, majoring in architecture and industrial design. In the 1980's he participated in international caricature competitions in places like Poland, Belgium, and Turkey. He was a recipient of many titles and prizes. Between 1996-1999 he collaborated as an illustrator with the weekly magazine "Wprost". In 2006 he signed a contract with the New York illustrators' agency "Lindgren & Smith".



Jan Sawka



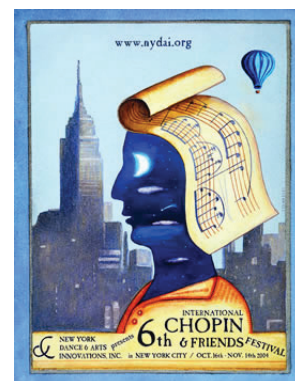
Jan Sawka



Jan Sawka



Jan Sawka



Mariusz Stawarski



Mariusz Stawarski

JAPAN ARTS MATSURI / JAM 2010

Presented by AD JaNet

Co-presented by Faune Dance Troupe and New York Dance & Arts Innovations
Supported by Consulate General of Japan in New York, Asian Society of Arts, Asahi Beer USA, JFC INTERNATIONAL INC, Polish Slavic Center

When:

Saturday November 13th at 6:00PM, (Door open at 5PM)
Sunday November 14th at 3:00PM, (Door open at 2PM)

Where:

Polish Slavic Center
176 Java Street
(bet McGuinness Blvd & Manhattan Ave)
Brooklyn, New York 11222

Tickets:

General Admission / \$25
Advanced Admission / \$20
Ticketing Services by SmartTix www.smarttix.com / (212) 868-4444
Ticket Information:
Tel: 917-689-1899
e-mail jam@faunedance.com
www.faunedance.com

Description:

New York Dance & Arts Innovations is proud to co-present Japan Arts Matsuri / Jam 2010, a Japanese Art Festival produced by AD JaNet in cooperation with Faune Dance Troup. Year after year this event brings together Japanese artists from different genres and forms under one umbrella to create an incredibly rich display of the Japanese culture and art. The goal of the Japan Arts Matsuri is to support Japanese art, culture and tradition through producing live performances and exhibitions. The Japan Arts Matsuri in a festive spirit radiates across cultures providing the audience with a diverse showcase of talent presenting both traditional and modern Japanese art forms.



Photo by Daigo Otake



Photo by Kenji Mori



Photo by Kenji Mori



Talent Night

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF CHOPIN

Recital by Neal Larrabee

“a strong, dynamic pianist with a sense of purpose”

— Los Angeles Times

Photo Exhibit by Eva Rubinstein

Curator of Exhibit Janusz Skowron

When:

Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 3PM

Where:

Polish Consulate in New York

233 Madison Ave. (37 Street)

New York, NY 10016

Admission: Free

Reservations are required

e-mail: zak@nydai.org

call: (646) 344-0094

Program:

Fryderyk Chopin

Impromptu in F-sharp major, Op.36

Four Mazurkas, Op. 24

No. 1 in G minor

No. 1 in C major

No. 3 in A-flat major

No. 4 in B-flat minor

Fantasy in F minor, Op. 49

Scherzo in B-flat minor, Op. 31

~Intermission~

Sonata in B-flat minor, Op. 35

Grave-Doppio movimento

Scherzo

Marche funebre

Finale: Presto

Andante spianato and Grand Polonaise brillante in E-flat major, Op. 22



Neal Larrabee

Biography:

Neal Larrabee, pianist, has performed in major music centers including New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Berlin, Warsaw, Moscow and St. Petersburg. His appearances as recitalist and as soloist with orchestras have won critical acclaim. He has toured extensively in Germany, Russia, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and in Argentina. In Poland, Larrabee has become a well-known favorite of the concert-going public. There, his highly regarded interpretations of Chopin have led to recordings, national broadcasts on television and radio, and engagements in virtually every major concert hall. In Moscow, he performed solo recitals at the Moscow Conservatory's Rachmaninoff Hall, the Moscow State University, the Scriabin Museum and for the concert series presented at the U.S. Ambassador's Spaso House.

Awarded a Fulbright grant for study at the Moscow Conservatory under Stanislav Neuhaus, Larrabee became the first American pianist to study in the former Soviet Union under official government sponsorship. He also studied with Eugene List at the Eastman School of Music and with Rosina Lhevinne at the Juilliard School, where he was awarded the Josef Lhevinne Scholarship. He earned his doctorate from the State University of New York at Stony Brook under Martin Canin.

Larrabee won honors in the Fifth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Ninth International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, and was the first pianist to receive the special Artur Rubinstein prize as winner of the Young Musician's Foundation Competition in Los Angeles.

A member of the performance faculty of the University of Connecticut since 1982, Larrabee is a respected pedagogue and gives master classes nationally and internationally.



Eva Rubinstein

Biography:

Eva Rubinstein (Photographer)

Born 1933 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as mother, née Aniela Mlynarska, was accompanying husband Arthur Rubinstein on South American tour. When not traveling, family lived mainly in Paris until outbreak of World War II, then emigrated to the United States. Attended Scripps College and the Theatre Department of the University of California at Los Angeles. Trained in ballet from age

of five in Paris, later in New York and California. Danced and acted on and off Broadway, and on tour in Europe. Opened and played in original New York company of “The Diary of Anne Frank” on Broadway. Began photographing in 1967 with the help of Sean Kernan, later studied briefly with Lisette Model, Ken Heyman, Jim Hughes, and Diane Arbus. Since 1968 has been based in New York doing freelance, editorial, documentary work, as well as portraits. In private work included portraits, nudes, interiors, traveling and teaching workshops and seminars in the U.S. and abroad. Work has appeared in many books, major magazines and photographic publications in the U.S, Europe and South America. Numerous one-person and group shows in U.S. and abroad.



van Gogh's cell, 1984.



Violet Trefusis.



Two women, Aracena, Spain 1971



Miss Sally Brown, S. Carolina 1972

FOLLOW THIS MAN



A Music Tribute to Jan Karski (1914-2000)
The Man Who Tried to Stop the Holocaust
Concert by Kinga Karska and Michael Pilafian
Photo Exhibit by Eva Rubinstein

Jan Karski

When:

November 20, 2010 at 8PM

Where:

Polish Consulate in New York
233 Madison Ave. (37 Street)
New York, NY 10016

Admission: Free

Reservations are required
e-mail: zak@nydai.org
call: (646) 344-0094

Program:

L. Bernstein: *Simply song*
F. Schubert: *Lied der Mignon* op. 62 nr 4
F. Schubert: *Gretchen am Spinnrade* op. 2
A. Feska: *Das Zigeunermädchen* op. 37
A. Berg: *Die Nachtigal*

Ch. W. Gluck: rec. i aria Eurydyki z op. *Orfeusz i Eurydyka*
W. A. Mozart: rec. i aria Donny Elwiry z II aktu op. *Don Giovanni*
G. Donizetti: aria Anny z I aktu op. *Anna Bolena*
F. Cilea: aria Adrian z op. *Adriana Lecouwreur*
St. Moniuszko: aria Hrabiny z I aktu op. *Hrabina*
L. Różycki: Walc Caton z op. *Casanova*



Kinga Karska

Biography:

Kinga Karska (Soprano)
Since 2005 she studied vocal at Conservatoire of Music in Neuchatel in Switzerland. Currently she is student at Nowowiejski's Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz. In 1999 she finished cello studies at Wiechowicz's School of Music in Cracow. After she studied bassoon and vocal at Żelenski's High School of Music in Cracow. She holds bachelor of Musicology from Jagiellonian University in Cracow. She participated in Singing Masterclass with Marcin Habela in Niepołomice (Poland) and Musical Masterclass with Markus Müller in Neuchatel (Switzerland). She is laureate of special prize for perform of Mozart's air of Royal Singing Festival in Wilanów (2008) and laureate of statuette Golden Nightingale of Singing Festival Belcanto in Nałęczów (2008). In January 2009 she participated in International Music Festival in Brzesk in Byelorussia.



Michael Pilafian

Michael Pilafian (Pianist)

He has performed concerts with opera-singers throughout the United States and in Europe, Asia, and Africa. With New York's Center for Contemporary Opera he played the role of pianist/actor in Jack Beeson's "Practice in the Art of Elocution" and recently traveled to Austria to play in a production of Morton Feldman's "Neither" at the Vienna Konzerthaus. Currently he works for the Center for Contemporary Opera, the New York Grand Opera, Taconic Opera, Opera on the Hudson, New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera, and Gateway Classical Music Society. He is on the staff of the Juilliard School of Music.

Lech Walesa
Gdansk, October 4th, 2010

To the participants and patrons of the International Cultural Festival Chopin and Friends.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you my greetings on the occasion of the ongoing Festival, which falls in the year of our great Compatriot's 200th birthday.

It is also of huge symbolic importance that it coincides with the 30th anniversary of the great freedom movement - Solidarity. Like the music of Chopin was bound by no borders, so the values of Solidarity were carried all over the world. They also reached the other side of the ocean.

There is no need to explain to anyone how much the music of Chopin did for the Polish culture, especially for its preservation and care in the most difficult times of our history. Also today, after so many years, we see how this Chopin inspired spiritual union of our nation and our Friends helped us carry to the World the message of Solidarity. We found out what that union was about during the time of our struggle with communism. You were with us in this struggle! The Polish community of America, the American People and Friends scattered all over the World were with us.

Undisputable is the historic scale of our victory over communism, of conquering it peacefully and with our own hands, with the full support of the democratic world. Without the openness and help of the World, without the support of the Polish community abroad and many other nations we would not have stood a chance of such a victory. But today we cannot forget that the collapse of the cold war system has in no way freed the international and democratic community from continuing to work for others in the name of Solidarity!

I believe that we can shape the world in such a way so that the next generations will be able to call today's times the new Age of Solidarity and Democracy. I wish you all unforgettable artistic experiences and many positive inspirations arising out of this grandiose music!

Lech Wałęsa

Gdańsk, 4 października 2010 roku

Do Uczestników
Międzynarodowego Festiwalu Kulturalnego
„Chopin i Przyjaciele”

Szanowni Państwo,
Przyjaciele,

pragnę tą drogą przekazać słowa pozdrowień z okazji odbywającego się Festiwalu, który przypada na rok dwusetnej rocznicy urodzin naszego wielkiego Rodaka.

Jest też szczególnie symboliczne, że jest to także czas 30. rocznicy powstania wielkiego ruchu wolnościowego Solidarności. Tak jak muzyka Chopina nie znała i nie zna granic, tak i posłanie naszej Solidarności takich granic nie znało. Docierało także za ocean.

Jak wiele dla polskości, a zwłaszcza jej utrzymywania i pielęgnowania w najtrudniejszych chwilach zawdzięczamy Chopinowi, nie trzeba nikomu tłumaczyć. Można też dziś po latach dostrzec, jak ta Chopinowska wspólnota ducha naszego narodu i naszych Przyjaciół w wielu innych państwach, pomogła nam nieść w świat to posłanie Solidarności. Na czym ta wspólnota polega przekonaliśmy się właśnie w czasach walki z komunizmem. Wy byliście z nami w tej walce! Była z nami Polonia Amerykańska, był Naród Amerykański i Przyjaciele rozsiani po całym świecie.

Niepodważalna pozostaje dziejowa skala naszego zwycięstwa, pokonania komunizmu własnymi siłami i w sposób pokojowy, przy solidarnym wsparciu demokratycznego świata. Bez otwartości i pomocy ze świata, bez pomocy Polonii i wielu narodów, nie mielibyśmy szans na takie zwycięstwo. Dziś nie możemy jednak zapominać, że upadek zimnowojennego układu wcale nie zwolnił wspólnoty międzynarodowej i demokratycznej z dalszej pracy na rzecz innych w imię Solidarności!

Wierzę w to, że jesteśmy w stanie zbudować taki kształt świata, aby kolejne pokolenia mogły obecną epokę nazwać nową Epoką Solidarności i Demokracji. Życzę niezapomnianych artystycznych wrażeń i płynących w tej wielkiej muzyki wielu dobrych inspiracji do działania!

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