



XXV International Chopin & Friends Festival

29 October -18 November 2023

Honorary Patrons:

The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York

Consul General
Adrian Kubicki

Congratulations

***International Chopin & Friends Festival
on completing 25 years!***



***Continuing thanks to its guiding light
and inspiration***

Marian Żak



***Wishing you the best and looking
forward to the next 75 years!***

Krystyna Piórkowska

Sponsor of Classic & Avant-Garde

October 29th

XXV International Chopin & Friends Festival

29 October - 18 November 2023

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. (NYDAI) is the founding sponsor of this popular fall celebration.

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The project is co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York



As President of the Board of Directors of both the Polish and Slavic Center and New York Dance and Arts Innovations, I am honored to promote and preserve Polish culture, art, and heritage. This year, these two outstanding organizations are collaborating to celebrate their anniversaries. The first concert of the XXV International Chopin & Friends Festival at the Kaufman Music Center is the event concluding the 50th anniversary of PSC and the initiation of the celebration of the 25 years of NYDAI.

As we commence our festival, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the founding members of New York Dance & Arts Innovations, Dr. Susanne Walter and Dr. Eric Walter, my family, especially my wife, Malgorzata Zak, and to the artists, board of directors, volunteers, and generous sponsors who help bring our vision to life. Thank you to our devoted patrons who continue to attend our events year after year.

I am both grateful, honored, and proud of our achievements, which have been recognized by numerous awards and proclamations, most recently the silver "Gloria Artis" Medal which was presented to me by Prof. Piotr Glinski, Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland on October 1st, 2023.

In addition, in September of this year, New York Dance & Arts Innovations and the board of directors were recognized at an International Competition "Muzyczne Orły" in Łódź, Poland, where we received Musical Eagles' (Muzyczny Orzeł) award in the category of international musical events.

As we commence this year's festival, it is my hope that our program will allow you to escape from the mundane and often disturbing reality and help you to sense human unity and beauty through the magic of the Arts.

Marian Zak,
Founder and President



Photo: Marian Zak and Malgorzata Zak after the "Musical Eagles Gala" at the Rubinstein Philharmonic in Łódź, September 2023



A culturally rich anniversary year at the PSC Founded in 1972, the Polish and Slavic Center has dedicated the last 18 months to its 50th anniversary. We launched the celebrations in March 2022 with a Grand Gala at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York. The Consulate General of Poland also became an honorary patron of our 50th anniversary events. The PSC received several proclamations and citations from elected officials, including the Presidents of the U.S. and Poland, members of the U.S. Congress, NYS State Assembly, NYS Senate, NYC Mayor, NYC City Council, Brooklyn Borough President, Marshalls of Sejm and Senate of Poland, and more. Another grand Anniversary Gala took place in November 2022 at Chateau Briand in Queens, where we were joined by over 300 PSC friends and honorary guests.

For more than a year, the PSC has celebrated its anniversary with a plethora of cultural events. Their number remarkably exceeded the "50 events for the 50th anniversary" that we originally had planned. Among the many initiatives, the PSC welcomed recitals by musicians from Poland and the U.S., art exhibitions showcasing the works of Polish American artists, performances staged by artists affiliated with the PSC, artists from Poland representing different genres and artistic trends, highly popular Dances with Polish music, as well as events for children, including the Winter Ball, Meeting with Santa, and the celebration of the International Children's Day.

In May 2022, the PSC organized a fundraiser concert for Ukraine, in May 2023 – the First Polish Music Festival, and in September 2023 – the First Rock Festival. In celebrating its anniversary through cultural events, PSC collaborated with other institutions such as the Polish Culture Institute, the Consulate General of Poland, the National Institute of Music and Dance, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Polish Youth Association. As the 50th anniversary gift to PSC, the Brooklyn Borough President invited our organization to the Brooklyn Borough Hall. Our anniversary was also commemorated during the XXIV International Festival Chopin and Friends which brought some of its concerts and art exhibitions to the PSC Gallery.

As a result, the Polish and Slavic Center has entered another decade as a vibrant cultural center guided by its mission of promoting the rich Polish heritage and providing a stage for local artists to connect communities and generations while contributing to the rich diversity of New York City and State.

The Polish and Slavic Center will conclude its anniversary year on October 29, 2023, with a concert at the Merkin Hall "Classic & Avantgarde. With Polish Romantic into the Future", organized in collaboration with the New York Dance & Arts Innovations, Inc. However, the concert, which will feature a globally celebrated bass-baritone, Tomasz Konieczny, will not end the PSC's commitment to the promotion of art. Visit our website: www.polishslaviccenter.org to check our calendar of upcoming cultural events.

Agnieszka Granatowska,
Executive Director
Polish & Slavic Center

Incredibly, this year marks the 25th anniversary of New York Dance & Arts Innovation's and our International Chopin and Friends Festival, which I have been fortunate to direct artistically, over the last few years. To commemorate this milestone, the festival events will take place at three different venues: Merkin Hall - Kaufman Center, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, and the Polish and Slavic Center. In the program we have arranged a variety of exciting events for you to enjoy, prominently featuring the composition of the renowned Polish composer Frederic Chopin, intertwined with the works of modern composers.

This year's theme "Promenades," invites you to immerse yourself in a diverse array of artistic experiences featuring Met opera star Tomasz Konieczny, internationally acclaimed pianist Mateusz Krzyzowski, extraordinary pianist Hao Liu from Peabody University, and numerous other talented artists. Our festival will also showcase unique instruments, including the Theremin, accordion played by Iwo Jedynecki and his wife Karolina Mikołajczyk, and the Koto and Erhu played by Yoko Reikano Kimura and Andy Lin.

To celebrate our 25th anniversary in conjunction with the Polish Slavic Center's 50th anniversary, we will present art exhibitions of Janusz Skowron artworks and Wojciech Kubik's photography of faces from Met Opera. Furthermore, in honor of Nicolaus Copernicus' 500th birthday, there will be a special concert featuring electronic music, as NYDAI strives to highlight both traditional and innovative art forms. This concert will also include the 6th New Vision Composition Competition with a galaxy-themed category specifically for new media electronics music.

You will find the full program of events on the following pages. As always, we deeply appreciate the support of our partners and generous sponsors, as well as all the dedicated Artists who make this festival possible. We hope you enjoy our jubilee festival featuring Chopin's timeless compositions alongside those of his musical peers.

Jakub Polaczyk
Artistic Director

Photo: Gold Diploma at the "Musical Eagles" for
Jakub Polaczyk and his recent CD: "Union Square",
Łódź, September 2023



Photo: Grand Prix Diploma of the "Musical Eagles" Award for programming of the 24.
International Chopin & Friends Festival., Łódź, September 2023

When:

Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 6 PM

*Ticketed

Where:

Merkin Hall

129 W 67th Street

New York, NY 10023

Aleksandra Słabisz & Bartek Szymański, hosts**Program:****Frederic Chopin:** Ballade f minor Op.52**Liu Hao** (piano)**Grażyna Bacewicz** - Toccata from Piano Sonata No.2**Nicholas Kaponyas** - (piano)**Aleksander Nowak** - Dwuwiersze (Couplets) texts by **Bolesław Leśmian** (2023) USA premiere**13. Śmiercie / Deaths****14. Goryl / Gorilla****15. Dookoła klombu / Around the Garden Plot****16. Gad / Reptile****17. Niewidzialni / The Invisibles****Tomasz Konieczny** (bass-baritone), **Lech Napierała** (piano)**Intermission****Vivaldi Antonio:** Concerto No. 3 in F major, Op.8,**"Autumn" (L'autunn) : Adagio molto & Allegro****Iwo Jedynecki** (accordion) **Karolina Mikołajczyk** (violin)**Kin'ichi Nakanoshima:** Mirage Dance**Tien-Hua Liu:** Birds Chirping in the mountain**Polaczyk Jakub:** Callin' Saigdi (2023) (world premiere)**Yoko Reikano Kimura** (koto), **Andy Lin** (erhu)**Ignacy Jan Paderewski:** Legend A Major Op.16**Frederic Chopin:** Ballade g minor Op.23**Mateusz Krzyżowski** (piano)**Charles Ives: Songs****1. Charles Rutlage****2. An Old Flame****3. The Circus Band****4. The Children's Hour****5. He is There****Henryk Czyż: „Dwie Arie Buffo”****1. Do Doktora Pomidora / At the Dr Tomato****2. Tak mi się zdawało / I thought so...****Tomasz Konieczny** (bass-baritone), **Lech Napierała** (piano)**Exclusive sponsor of the performance of Tomasz Konieczny/Krystyna Piórkowska.****The concert is presented in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute New York****„Projekt finansowany ze środków Kancelarii Prezesa Rady Ministrów w ramach konkursu Polonia i Polacy za Granicą 2023”.****“Project supported from funds of the office of the Prime Minister of Poland as the part of the competition “Polonia and Poles Abroad 2023”**

Tomasz Konieczny - The Polish bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny studied acting at the National Film School in his hometown of Łódź. He made his debut in a movie by the Oscar-winning director Andrzej Wajda, and subsequently worked as an actor/director in numerous television, film and theater productions in Poland. Around the same time he began his Vocal Studies programme at the Fryderyk Chopin Academy in Warsaw, which he continued at the Hochschule für Musik in Dresden.

Tomasz Konieczny experienced his international breakthrough at the Vienna State Opera, where he performed numerous and highly acclaimed roles. He still feels a special connection Viennese scene. In addition, Tomasz Konieczny is a regular guest at the most important international opera stages, such as the MET, La Scala, the Bavarian State Opera, the Opéra Bastille, the Zurich Opera House, the Teatro Real Madrid, the Semperoper Dresden and at the Bayreuth and Salzburg Festivals.

Most recently, he appeared as Wotan/Wanderer in the new Zürcher Ring and the Bayreuth Festival, as Holländer at the Met and as Cardillac in Vienna. His future projects include the role of Wotan/Wanderer at the Berlin State Opera and again in Zurich and Bayreuth.

His repertoire contains roles such as Wotan/Wanderer in Wagner's The Ring of the Nibelung, Amfortas in Parsifal, the title roles in The Flying Dutchman, Berg's Wozzeck and in Hindemith's Cardillac, Scarpia in Puccini's Tosca, Jack Rance in La Fanciulla del West, die Vier Villains in Tales of Hoffmann, Mandryka in Arabella, Barak in Frau ohne Schatten, Jochanaan in Strauss' Salome, and Pizarro in Beethoven's Fidelio.

In addition, Tomasz Konieczny is an immensely successful symphonic concert performer. His repertoire includes Bach's St Matthew Passion, the Christmas Oratorio, Handel's Messiah and Mendelssohn's Elijah, the Requiem by Mozart, Verdi and Dvorak, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Dvorak's Stabat Mater, Penderecki's Kosmogonia, St Luke Passion, Seven Gates of Jerusalem and the Messa da Maciejewski's Requiem. He has also performed several recital

programs with songs by Strauss, Rachmaninov, Twardowski, Penderecki, Beethoven, Moniuszko, Schubert, Mahler, Mussorgsky and other important composers with great success in Dresden, Warsaw, Munich, Vienna and Tokyo. He regularly works with renowned conductors such as Adam Fischer, Sir Andrew Davis, Gianandrea Noseda, Yannick Nézet-Seguin and Franz Welser-Möst.

Konieczny has appeared on numerous critically acclaimed recordings, including three different renditions of the Ring Cycle conducted by Marek Janowski, Christian Thielemann and Sir Simon Rattle. His discography also includes two recordings of Winterreise, in the original and Polish version. He recently released an album *From Secession to Distortion* with songs by Richard Strauss, Aleksander Nowak and Henryk Czyż.

Tomasz Konieczny has been an Austrian citizen since 2017 and was appointed Austrian Kammersänger in 2019. In 2022, in his native Poland, he received the country's highest cultural award, the Gloria Artis Gold Medal for Cultural Merit.



Lech Napierata is one of the leading Polish pianists - chamber musicians, specialising in the performance of songs, highly regarded both in Poland and abroad. He regularly performs with world-famous artists, such as Tomasz Konieczny, Paul Schweinester, Małgorzata Walewska, Krzysztof Chorzelski, Aida Garifullina, Cigdem Soyarslan, Monika Bohinec, as well as he is invited to the most prestigious concert halls such as the Vienna Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Vienna Staatsoper, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, philharmonic halls in Warsaw, Berlin, Sofia, Ljubljana, the Polish national Radio Symphony Orchestra, in Katowice, the Polish National Opera in Warsaw, the National Opera in Ljubljana, and many others.

The pianist graduated from the Vienna University of Music with honours in the class of vocal accompaniment with Prof. David Lutz, and previously from the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, where he studied with professors Krzysztof Jabłoński, Andrzej Stefański and Barbara Halska.

His phonographic output includes records released by Dal Segno/Universal, Signum, NIFC, DUX and Anaklasis. Recent records on which Lech Napierata partners Tomasz Konieczny, is a two-CD album featuring two versions of Franz Schubert's *Winterreise* - the original to lyrics by Wilhelm Müller and the Polish version, with lyrics by Stanisław Barańczak. In addition, albums of *Songs and Sonnets* by Romuald Twardowski were released, the album *Between Death & Love* with works by Rachmaninov and Mussorgsky which is a recording of a recital at the National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw in September 2020, as well as the latest album *Apocalypse* with songs by Gustav Mahler and Alexander Nowak.

Lech Napierata is a lecturer at Vienna Music University and the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Kraków. He holds the position of guest professor at the Opera Academy, affiliated with the Polish National Opera in Warsaw, regularly conducting song courses there for vocalists and pianists.



Dr. Andy Lin Taiwanese-American violist and erhuist (Chinese violin) is recognized as one of the most promising and active performers who specialized in both western and eastern instruments. Praised by *The Strad* "The great *Molto adagio*... elicited some of the night's most sensitive work, especially from Andy Lin on viola." and *The New York Times* "Taiwanese-born violist Andy Lin... is also a virtuoso on the erhu, and he gave a brilliant performance." His recent appearances have included an erhu solo collaboration with world renowned pianist Lang Lang and the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Lang Lang's "The Disney Book" live in concert at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City, a Triple Concerto by Paquito D'Rivera at the Festival PAAX GNP in Mexico, as well as a recital at the Metropolitan Museum. Andy is the artistic director and co-founder of the New Asia Chamber Music Society and violist of the Sullivan String Quartet. He is also a member of the Musicians of Lenox Hill and INTERWOVEN Ensemble, and serves as principal violist of the New York Classical Players and Solisti Ensemble.

Andy has won numerous competitions including Taiwan National Viola Competition, the Idyllwild Arts Academy Concerto Competition, First Prize in the 2008 Juilliard Viola Concerto Competition and subsequently made his Lincoln Center solo debut at the Avery Fisher Hall (now David Geffen Hall) with the Juilliard Orchestra. He was also the winner of the 2009 SUNY Stony Brook Concerto Competition. He has also appeared as a viola soloist with orchestras such as Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, Orford Academy Orchestra, Incheon Philharmonic and the New York Classical Players.

In addition to his accomplishments as a western classical musician, he is also an active erhu performer. He has performed the erhu solo part at the U.S. Premiere of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' "Kommilitonen!" with the Juilliard Opera Production, as well as the world premiere of Jeeyoung Kim's *Engraff* for solo erhu and string orchestra with Solisti Ensemble at Carnegie Hall. He also premiered Winnie Lan-In Yang's *Fantasy for Erhu and Strings* with the New York Classical Players, and Kevin Lau's *Between the Earth and Forever* with the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, in which was praised by *Texas Classical Review* "In the hands of soloist Lin, the erhu proved a compelling musical protagonist Saturday. Lin spun out the solo line with nimbleness..." His reputation as an erhu virtuoso who also understands western classical music writing has led him to work with top orchestras such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra of the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago to play the solo erhu part in *Iris dévoilée* by Chen Qi-Gang. He has also appeared as an erhu solo in the U.S. Premiere of Yeow-Kwon Chung's *Red Cliff Piano Concerto* with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. In fall 2017, he performed a *haegeum* concerto *Choosang* on the erhu with Busan Metropolitan Traditional Music Orchestra at the Busan Maru International Music Festival in Korea. In 2018, he performed an erhu concerto *Wild Grass* by Wenjing Guo with the Juilliard Orchestra at its Focus! Festival final concert at Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center in which it was featured on the *New York Times*, this also made him the only person in the Juilliard history who performed concertos twice with the Juilliard Orchestra on both western and eastern instruments. He also performs annually at the Spring Celebration presented by the Chinese Cultural & Arts Institute in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In addition to his solo career, Andy is an avid chamber musician and orchestra leader. He was the co-founder and Artistic Director of New Asia Chamber Music Society. Their debut album *Unforgettable Memories* in Taiwan was nominated in two categories at the Gold Melody Award in Taiwan. Andy was also the founding member of the award winning string quartet, the Amphion String Quartet. The quartet was a winner of the 2011 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition and was on the roster of the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society CMS2 Program from 2013~2016. The quartet has released their debut album with the Nimbus Records in England, in which the album was selected by the New York Times as "The Best 25 Classical Music Recordings of 2015." Andy has also been invited to perform chamber music alongside Itzhak Perlman where The New York Times described "Mr. Perlman, playing first violin... answered in kind by the violist Andy Lin." He has also served as a principal violist of the International Sejong Soloists, and guest principal violist at the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Festival Orchestra, and the Mid-Atlantic Opera and Bergen Symphony. His festival appearances have included OK Mozart, Chamber Music Northwest, Seal Bay Music Festival, and he serves on the faculty at the 4 Strings Music Festival every summer.

Andy plays on a viola made by one of his best friends Jacob Ho. (www.andylin6strings.com)



Liu Hao – An Outstanding Young Blind Pianist

Liu Hao, a renowned young pianist from China, was born in 2001 in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia. Despite permanently losing his vision soon after birth, Hao started playing songs on keyboard at age 4, through which his love of music surfaced. By age 7, his musical talents and versatility thrived with the inspiration of the world-famous Chinese classical pianist Lang Lang. For decades, Hao has been taught by many piano teachers, including Liu Yongxue, Wang Haibo, Zhang Zhiwei, Zhang Jin, Wang Qiu, and Li Huili, followed by Professor Sheng Yuan from the China Central Conservatory of Music for the longest time. In recent years, Hao has been under on-going careful guidance by Professor Jerome Lowenthal, a well-known piano educator of the Juilliard School. Since September 2022, Hao is currently enrolled in the prestigious Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University under the direction of Piano Department Chair, Professor Alexander Shtarkman.

As a blind child who overcame physical disabilities and family economic hardships, Hao has been featured by numerous Chinese national and regional television programs, including CCTV "Lesson 1", "The Genius Stage", "Juvenile China Strong", and "Challenging the Impossible". In 2007, Hao was selected through vigorous screenings to perform with Lang Lang in the "101 Pianist Program." Ten years later in August 2017, he was honored to attend the "Lang Lang Philanthropy Master Class" at the National Center for the Performing Arts. Hao also received an exclusive interview with Lang Lang in the famous program "Luyu You Yue (Chat with Luyu)." In a January 2018 CCTV special program "I Want to Play for the Spring Festival Gala", he played duet of "Colorful Clouds Chasing the Moon" with Lang Lang. In late 2018, Hao was honored the Young Artist title by Si-Yo Music Society Foundation (U.S.). In addition, his influential story has been adapted into two inspirational films "A Blind Piano Boy (2011)" and "Dream Chasing (2016)", in which "A Blind Piano Boy" was starring by himself. Hao was also nominated for the "2012 Beijing Role Model".

Liu Hao has won numerous national and international piano competitions:

- 2019, Liszt International Youth Piano Competition – China Finals, Gold Prize.
- 2016, Vienna City Hall, Austria, Mozart Concerto with the Vienna Haydn Symphony Orchestra, "Life Goes On – the Tara Award".
- 2015, Beijing 7th Steinway National Youth Piano Competition, Amateur Finals, 1st place.
- 2010, Berlin, Germany, Schumann International Youth Piano Competition, International Finals, 3rd place.
- 2009, Schumann International Youth Piano Competition, Beijing Region, 1st place; Asia Pacific Region, 3rd place.

Over the years, Liu Hao is very grateful to receive organizational or personal financial donations from the Beijing Apple Charity Foundation, Zhou Libo & Hu Jie Public Charity Fund, Edifier Musicians Foundation, Si-Yo Music Society Foundation, New York Yellow Crane Club, etc.



Mateusz Krzyzowski - Ambassador of Culture in Tychy. The first Polish artist to win 1st prize at the I. J. Paderewski International Piano Competition that took place in Bydgoszcz (2022). Winner of the W. A. Mozart best performance award of a piano concerto, among extra-statutory prizes in the form of recitals, as well as, concerts with an orchestra in the most prestigious halls in the world.

Mateusz's musical education started in his hometown in the Felix Rybicki Music School Complex in Tychy in the class of Msc. Bożena Furmanska. He continued his education in Karol Szymanowski State General Music School of the 2nd degree in Katowice in the class of MSc Lubow Nawrocka and MSc Sebastian Nawrocki. In 2023 he finished studying at Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in the class of Joanna Lawrynowicz-Just PhD, DSc, ProfTit. The main premise of Mateusz Krzyzowski's interpretation is always based on the composer's intentions. For Mateusz it is crucial to filter these intentions through his own sensitivity, in close contact with the observer of the given musical text in order to create a one-off artistic creation so that the listener will be able to have a unique experiential impressions. In recent years, he has recorded chamber music available on three discs: "Peine et Plaisir" by Opus Series, "Interwar Retrospections" and "The Most Beautiful Songs" published by Sarton Records.

His recent achievements from several competitions include 1st prize in the 12th International Competition for Young Pianists "Arthur Rubinstein in memoriam" in Bydgoszcz (2021). Special award for the best performance of Karol's Szymanowski piece. The Chopin's Prize holder, as well as the award for the best performance of the concerto with the orchestra. He is a laureate of the 2nd prize of the 1st Karol's Szymanowski International Competition in Katowice (2018). He is also the winner of the Paderewski's Center Scholarship Competition in Krasna Dolna (2022). Polish representative in the semi-finals of the 18th Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw (2021).

Moreover, Mateusz is a scholarship holder of the "Young Poland" of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage programme, Jerzy Semkow Foundation, Marshal of the Silesian

Voivodeship National Fund for Children and the "Tychy - Dobre Miejsce" Foundation.

Last but not least, he gave concerts in the following Philharmonics:

National, Silesian, Subcarpathia, Pomeranian, Lodz city, Kielce city, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, The Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra in Lublin, Chamber Philharmonic in Lomza city, Karol Szymanowski Philharmonic in Cracow, "Sinfonia Baltica", Kaunas State Philharmonic.

He was accompanied by orchestras under the direction of, among others, Kai Bumann, Marek Mos, Michał Klauza, Wojciech Rodek, Mirosław Jacek Błaszczak, Alexander Humala, Marek Wroniszewski, Jan Miłosz Zarzycki, Jakub Chrenowicz, Jurek Dybala. His abroad concertos took place in France, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary.

He performed at music festivals in Nohant, Tokyo, Warsaw, Duszniki-Zdroj city, Slupsk city, Antonin city and Wrocław city.



The **Karolina Mikołajczyk & Iwo Jedynecki Duo** is one of the most vibrant and innovative chamber ensembles of the young generation. Recognized by such musical icons as Maxim Vengerov and Krzysztof Penderecki, the Mikołajczyk-Jedynecki Duo are multiple winners of top prizes at international music competitions all across Europe. Their performances in New York's Carnegie Hall, Guangzhou Opera House and Warsaw Philharmonic were all sold out engagements, and they have played a total of more than one hundred recitals in France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Georgia, United States, Cuba, Chile, China, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

Critics uniformly praised the Duo's performances as perfect and mature, yet luminous and filled with youthful vitality. Hailed by Maxim Vengerov as "an ensemble that sounds like one instrument," the Duo brings completely new qualities and original interpretations to classical masterpieces, thanks to Jedynecki's violin and accordion transcriptions. Both artists boldly venture into renowned works of chamber music literature giving them new character and delightfully diverse coloring.

The Duo also collaborates with leading Polish composers, such as Marcin Błazewicz (Double Concerto for Violin, Accordion and Symphony Orchestra dedicated to Mikołajczyk and Jedynecki), Piotr Moss (performance of Opolian Concerto for violin, accordion and orchestra in 2021), and Krzysztof Penderecki (Violin Sonata in the Duo's arrangement received official approval from the composer in 2019). In 2016 the Duo released its debut CD, *Premiere*, featuring works for violin and accordion written by three generations of composers between 1952 and 2015. As the first ever album with new music by a violin-accordion duo, this CD focused mostly on repertoire never before recorded.

In addition to their three successful CD recordings—one of which received a nomination for the coveted Fryderyk Award (Polish equivalent of the American Grammy Award)—the Duo takes a modern approach to promotion through innovative performance videos shared on social media. Their interpretation of Mozart's Violin Sonata has garnered more than a million views and was shared by Classic FM, the most popular online classical music platform. Other crowd-pleasing videos include their impromptu performance of Fritz Kreisler's Chinese Tambourine on the Great Wall of China, as well as their arrangements of Bach's Goldberg Variations and excerpts from the film music-inspired Hollywood Fantasy project. The latter was also presented by the Duo in 2021 at the Cracow Film Music Festival, one of the industry's most important events in the world.

Karolina Mikołajczyk plays a Duke London violin from 1776. Iwo Jedynecki plays a Pigini Sirius Millennium accordion. The purchase of both instruments was financed by Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.



Nicholas Alexander Kaponyas is a Polish-American pianist born in 1999.

At the age of four, he began his piano studies at KOBO Music Studio with Bożena Konkiel. Since that time, Kaponyas studied with exemplary pianists and pedagogues such as Richard Shirk, Martin Labazevitch, and Marcia Eckert. Recently, Kaponyas received his Master's Degree in Piano Performance piano performance from the Mannes School of Music, where he studied with Eteri Andjaparidze. Kaponyas has participated in masterclasses with worldclass professors such as Seymour Bernstein, Andrzej Jasinski, Ewa Poblocka, Anna Gorecka, Wojciech Switala, Jerzy Sterczynski, Anna Malikova, Victor Rosenbaum, and Sofya Gulyak. In November 2016, Nicholas won the Mannes Prep Concerto Competition which allowed him to perform the first movement of Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto with the Mannes Prep Philharmonic in May 2017 with Michael Adelson as conductor. In both 2018 and 2019, Nicholas won second prize in a piano competition at the 22nd and 23rd editions of the International Piano Festival of Naleczow, Poland. Recently, Kaponyas received the Honorable Mention prize in Yamaha's 2022 National Young Performing Artists Competition. Nicholas Kaponyas has performed as a solo artist and collaborative pianist in many prestigious venues such as the Polish Consulate of New York, the Kosciuszko Foundation, the Tenri Cultural Institute, the Polish and Slavic Center, and Steinway Hall. In a fundraising effort for "Misto Dobra," the largest orphanage in Ukraine, Kaponyas was also invited to perform in Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall where he played both as a soloist and as a part of ensemble. Kaponyas also took part in the world premiere of Norbert Palej's "Ave Maria" for violin, voice, and piano. Kaponyas also has performed in the Gallery Inn Cannon Club for the Steinway Society of Puerto Rico in addition to performing in Poland annually.

Kaponyas takes great pride in being involved with the Polish-American community and performs at numerous events that the community holds including the centennial gala celebrating the hundredth year of Poland's regained independence at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C. In September of 2021, Kaponyas performed for the Polish First Lady, Mrs. Agata Kornhauser-Duda, for the second time, in The Polish Consulate of New York where he presented a solo program for all in attendance. In October 2021, Kaponyas was asked to

play music to accompany the silent movie titled "Z Wycieczki Stow. Weteranów Do Polski" by the Polish Institute of National Remembrance, which was a movie constructed from recovered footage dated back to 1927.



Yoko Reikano Kimura is one of the most captivating artistic voices of Japanese koto and shamisen, consistently praised by critics for her musical elegance and versatile repertoire. The New York Times described her playing and singing as "superb." Based in New York and Japan, Kimura has concertized around the world, including prestigious venues such as the Warsaw Autumn Festival, Israel Festival, The University of Cambridge, John F. Kennedy Center, Kabuki-za and various World Heritage Sites. Kimura has worked with renowned artists such as Heiner Goebbel, Toshi Ichianagi, and Basil Twist. Highlights of her soloist performances include Daron Hagen's Koto Concerto: Genji with the Wintergreen Music Festival Orchestra conducted by Mei-Ann Chen, Kin'ichi Nakanoshima's Shamisen Concerto at the National Olympic Memorial Center, and Alexandra Vrebalov's Four Ethereal Pieces with the Novi Sad Academy of Arts Symphony Orchestra. In 2024-2026, Kimura will give the world premiere performance of Daron Hagen's Aviary: Concert for Koto, Cello, and Orchestra with Hikaru Tamaki. Along with her solo performances, Kimura has appeared in many opera and theater works presented by The Metropolitan Museum of Arts, American Symphony Orchestra, Park Avenue Armory, and New York Live Arts. As an enthusiastic supporter of contemporary music, Kimura founded Duo YUMENO with cellist Hikaru Tamaki. The highlights of the duo's performances include the Chamber Music America National Conference, the National Cherry Blossom Festival and its 10th Anniversary Recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. The duo's new album, Heike Quinto will be released by Naxos in 2024. Kimura is the first Yamada-school performer to receive the First prize at the prestigious 10th Kenjun Memorial National Koto Competition in 2003. Following her studies at the Tokyo University of the Arts, she studied at Institute of Traditional Japanese Music, an affiliate of Senzoku Gakuen College of Music, where she was a faculty member until 2010. A recipient of scholarship from the Agency of Cultural Affairs of Japan, Kimura has studied with Kono Kameyama, who is considered the preeminent pupil of Kin'ichi Nakanoshima, Senko Yamabiko (Living National Treasure) and Akiko Nishigata. In 2022, Kimura served as the consultant (Japanese koto) for the Carnegie Hall's educational program.



"Couplets" Bolesław Leśmian 1877 - 1937 / Aleksander Nowak 1979

Deaths

Deaths are walking hand by hand,
Stomping on the sunny side.

Which one from the flock will you chose,
To guide you to the cemetery grounds?

He didn't choose the first one, she was too small,
A proud grave quickly covers with nettle.

He didn't choose the second one, she was too golden,
There can be no silence with such glitter around.

He chose the third, which, though meagre,
Spread its quiet all around.

Who are you, why do I like you so,
In your godly-like earthly contour?

I am saddened by the bird, who flew away,
I could give my life for you, and for my earthly regrets.

You are as pale as the winter sun -
What is your name? Where do you come from?

My house stands on the edge of earth,
I have no name, but my eyes.

They are utterly empty, but for one eve,
I was sure of being chosen by you.

While one may choose his death,
The other will be chosen by it.

While you chose me, not knowing for whom,
I will remain in your memory and heart.

I am the death of your mother,
Which awaits you, smiling, in your hut.

Gorilla

A hairy gorilla peeks out of the tree bushes,
Eyeing the distance ahead.

He imitated the wounded eagle,
dragging his worthless body on the ground.

He imitated the lion in its den,
threatening the fearful God with his fangs.

And he mocked eternity's face,
as its blues faded in the valley's depths.

Finally death, wrapped in grey cloth,
Stood before him, to the gorilla's dread!

He wanted to imitate it, but couldn't -
He wanted to understand it - but couldn't.

He fell to its knees, not knowing why,
and - not knowing - whimpered like a dog.

Death stood silent, like a grave,
and graciously stomped its food on his chest.

Unemulated, unmocked,
She looked at him, like a groom, choking his horse.

Around the garden plot

When the noon's death silences the day's heat,
Turmoil and invisibility surround my garden plot!

Carts racket, horses rattle, hooves ring,
The shiny dust pointlessly rises up to the sun!

Always round and round...Always on the same path!...
One can hear everything and everyone - but see nothing!

Pacing loudly with a thousand mad forests,
Shouting out names of stars and skies!

They lack space! Crowded in their sleep! While the skies darken!
Is it - being, or is it - nothingness, that is crowding here?

There is nothing but hurry! Where have their bodies gone?
And does this happen all the time?

I begin to feel their hurry in my ears and temples
And I feel I am flying with them, if it is - Them!...

And as the rattling finally passes, and silence spreads,
I feel I have reached the end of my path...

Reptile

She walked through the green orchard, her breast full of milk,
when a reptile crossed her path in the alder patch.

It choked her, twisting and grabbing,
pleasured and poisoned her, from head to toe.

He taught her to swoon into a coma-state,
and stroke her breast with its head,

And to writhe and hiss of pleasure,
which is stronger than death,

As you know my amorous habits,
allow me to speak like a king would.

I will grant you the riches of the sea's depths,

Life will resume - and the dream will end!

Don't shed your skin, don't change anything!
I don't need anything, and don't lack a thing.

I like when you touch my brows with your sting,
And suck the excess blood from my lips,

And when you twist and writhe along my legs,
hitting your head on the edge of the bed.

I lower my breast, like a jug of milk!
I want no riches, don't crave any changes.

I just want your reptile sweetness -
Poison me and pleasure me!

The invisibles

The invisible beings' crowds surround us everywhere.
Who will see whom first? Who will become
whose spirit?

They wander among us, day and night -
And don't know of living together, in union.

They know of us, but we of them - hardly anything.
We know of sudden sunsets and of certain moments...

My boat was waiting at shore - above the river's depths -
And the water, which dreamt of itself - is its grave and home.

And there is someone who rocks the boat with force -
Though I saw only green and silence around me...

But it's them, that rock the boat, deep in sleep and fear -
And want to float away, but they can't...

They have enough force to wander in the death-soaked fog,
but lack the force to row the boat away...

And I wish that my boat budged, when they approached it,
And that their careless hand remained in mine...

Translation: Weronika Fay

Dwie arie buffo na głos z fortepianem / Two arias buffo for voice and piano. Muzyka i słowa/Music and words Henryk Czyż (1923-2003)

At the Dr Tomato

*To the Dr. Tomato came the sickly cabbage once.
"Please let the heal me, because I am hurt by various things. I'm all shy," she said
And tomato - "Please sit! I will be going to study you soon. For the study of course, please remove all these leaves."
The grandson of the cabbages was taken entirely into the kayana. He had to examine it thoroughly / looked very nice
What's it? Who's it?
Ah, that's the bad kitchen lady and the cabbage - cap! into a pot,
And the tomato drops and leaves it in the salad room!
Such morals come from here: The sad fate of vegetables is
Cabbage and salads. I know these frequent accidents.*

I thought so

*I thought that was -
And I realized I had to know you
But for that, that thou hast taken my heart and soul.
Just meet you - that's not enough.
à so i thought*

*Then I felt strange chills in the cross,
And I wanted to get thy flesh
But even when you stop talking, "more!"
I was still not enough
à so i though
...
And then I have hoped for thy soul
i wanted to enter the secrets of the heart in the most secret
And if you had a holy thing in this soul, then.
I would probably be - blasphemy!
...
Today, I was struck by a thought that was intrusive
As if someone had a rod on my head
I thought you were - indifferent
I got you quite, i don't think so much
...
And I thought: In the very things that happened here?
Unless I loved you like it, maybe only..
à so i though?
Pardon!*

Translation: Bartek Kokot

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When:

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 7 PM

Where:

Polish and Slavic Center
177 Kent Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222

Wojciech Kubik : Polish Faces at the Metropolitan Opera

Exhibition reveals the collections of photos by photographer Wojciech Kubik over the ages.



Wojtek has lived in the United States since 1981. Graduate of the New York Institute of Photography, and a member of the International Press Association, he cooperates with many Polish magazines in Poland and United States examples include: Gazeta Wyborcza, Nowy Dziennik, Kurier Plus, and Super Express. His photographs are published by prestigious American, German, and

British magazines such as Boxing News Magazine, Fight News, Gala, International Boxing Digest, Jazz Forum, and String Down Beat. He photographs sports events, including the US Open, Wimbledon, World Cup Soccer, Good Will Olympic Games, and the NBA. Wojtek is also a photographer for music events such as JVC, Jazz Festival, and Woodstock '94. Since 2006, he has been regularly documenting performances of Polish artists at the Metropolitan Opera in New York furthermore he was invited as a special guest at the first Baltic Opera Festival in Sopot. During Baltic Festival, an exhibition of Wojtek's work at Metropolitan Opera was organized. The extraordinary display consisted of 30 photographs of Polish artists performing during the fabulous productions of the Metropolitan Opera. The exhibition drew a great amount of interest among opera admirers.

In the years 1999-2002 he was the secretary, then the president, and now an honorary member of the Polish American Photography Club in New York. For many years he was involved in the activities of the artistic group The Emotionalists, founded by Lubomir Tomaszewski. In 2008, he was awarded the honorary badge "Merit for Polish Culture".

BOLAG PROJECT is represented by Fijewski Gallery in Warsaw www.Fijewski.com

BOLAG PRESENTS ARCHIVIBES:

A premiere screening of BOLAG's works.

Video collages blending the natural world into psychedelic geometric shapes, partnered with an eclectic collection of good old music: Rosa Balistreri, CAN, Astor Piazzolla, Tito Puente, Louie Ramirez, & Frank Zappa.

BOLAG is an artistic duo in the fields of photography, digital collage & music video.

BOLEK Rzyński - sculptor, photographer, movie maker.

OLGA Szulc - painter, graphic designer, movie maker.

Music:

F. Liszt: Mephisto Waltz No.1 S.514

Piano: **Katarzyna Vernet** (bio p. 31)



After COVID-19 pandemics ended, Les Chalimon aka Leszek Chalimoniuk polish musicians living in New York City for over 40 years, started his new band **NY BLUES ROCKETS**, based on his NY blues music scene connections. Les, has his very rich artistic/music resume achievements in Poland, as well as here in the United States. Les, was a member of a legendary band **PORTER BAND** lead by British musician John Porter. In 1979, after arriving in Poland, John Porter starts the band with some of well known polish musicians: Alek Mrozek guitar, Kazimierz Cwynar bass and Leszek Chalimoniuk drums. Shortly after enthusiastic reception by polish audiences = Arena's and TV performances, **PORTER BAND** is recording their first album title 'Helicopters', LP was quickly sold over one million copies. The band was considered as one of the most influential on the Polish music scene at the time. Soon, the album 'Helicopters' received the Gold Record. Les has also some achievements during his musical intensive activity on American music stage. In 2003, Les, has recorded in Chicago his first CD with some of the legendary blues musicians, John Primer and others. The record title "**LES CHALIMON & Friends**" featuring John Primer and Emery Williams Detroit Jr. had a great review in the Polish Blues Magazine 'Twoj Blues'. The other recordings are done here by Les's collaboration with New York musicians results recording with his former band **MANHATTAN BLUES CONNECTION**, title 'Cadillac Blues' in 2013. The entire material is available to review it on <http://www.SoundCloud.com> by writing band's name there, you can listening free. The M.B.C. members: Andy Story R.I.P. guitar/vocal, Billy Blend keys, Darius Reza bass and Les Chalimon drums. Manhattan Blues Connection played at B.B.King's Blues Club for over 4 years till closing door in 2018.

Les's brand new band NY Blues Rockets members are as follow:

Seth Okrend, Native New Yorker well known on the NY blues scene musician. Seth performed at many clubs nation wide, concerts, casino's etc. Worked with: The Platters, The Drifters, Martha & The Vandellas, Buddy Guy, Shemeika Copeland, Johnny Dollar, Johnny Christian, Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater, Musical Director for the Crystals, Performed with pit bands for theatrical productions **HAIR**, **Homeboy** and many more.

Marc Lindahl, pianist, keyboardist Producer. Started Bowery Records in 2000 (Bowery.com). Co-Produced **LET IT OUT**, went to 108 R&B charts in 1996, you can see the video Let it Out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAHH9-KfaQo> Co-Produced **NGA style** <https://www.discogs.com/release/7347764-Skoota-Ngstyle> Wrote and produced Hip Hop and R&B Artists <http://www.bowery.com/hiphop> . Was keyboardist at Poppa J's AI and Otis Review. Played at B.B.Kings blues club NYC. Also worked in Poppa J's Kaya Reggae cover band playing at Resorts World Casino, Queens, NY. Was keyboardist and back-up singer at The Original Famous Rays Blues Band.

Keiji Yoshino, bassist, originally from Nagoya, Japan. His first musical experience, started playing saxophone in the school band, then jumped to guitar and bass. Study guitar with Legendary guitarist Sunao Wada and Toshisha Morita, played blues, jazz and Pop and reggae with several bands. After residing permanently in NYC 2005, worked in Harlem with Legendary Organists, Jimmy Preacher Robbins, and also cooperated with french singer Pascalito.



Leszek Chalimoniuk, also known as **Les Chalimon** - Polish-American drummer. Member of the Wrocław bands: Pakt, Muzyczna Spółka Akcyjna 1111, Spisek and Romuald & Roman. In 1979, he co-founded the Porter Band with which he recorded the album Helicopters (1980). In 1980 he emigrated to the United States, where he lives to this day. In 1990, he founded the blues band Manhattan Blues Connection, with which he recorded an album in 2013 entitled Cadillac Blues. In 2003, he recorded an album titled Les Chalimon & Friends. New York Blues Session 2003



Pawel Ignatowicz, born in Zywiec, Poland in 1980, is an internationally renowned artist, a distinguished guitarist, composer, and music producer based in New York City. Introduced to music through a rich family heritage that spanned folk to jazz, Pawel discovered his true calling with the guitar at age 10. He further refined his craft at the University of Silesia, graduating with a Masters in Music. Ignatowicz's compositions blend diverse inspirations, from Freddie Mercury to John Coltrane, defying genre boundaries. He's collaborated with global music luminaries and released notable works, including his 2016 album "Here and Now", a fusion of jazz tradition and contemporary influences. More of his work can be explored on his website.

About Repertoire

Pawel Ignatowicz Quartet presents compositions from the recent album "Here and Now." Drawing influences from acoustic, electric, drum and bass, Latin, Indian, and minimal music, the music beautifully marries contemporary sounds with the deep-seated traditions of jazz. His work is both conceptual and melodic, echoing the authentic roots of jazz while introducing fresh and diverse acoustics.

When:

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7 PM

*Reservation required,

e-mail address:

new.york.dance.and.innovations@gmail.com

Weronika Woźniak, host

Program:

Classical Promenade 1:

Roberto Piana (b. 1971): from 25 Preludi Pittorici

- No. 25, *Yachting in the Mediterranean* (Julius Le Blanc)
- No. 20, *Sadko* (Il'ya Repin)
- No. 14, *Phaethon* (Gustave Moreau)
- No. 6, *The Tambourine Girl* (John William Godward)
- No. 18, *Dinamismo di un cane al guinzaglio* (Giacomo Balla)

Frédéric Chopin: Scherzo b-minor, Op.20 No.1

Pianist: **Sandro Russo**

Electronic Promenade:

Jakub Polaczyk (b.1983) *Urainy@* for electronics (world premiere) (2023)

Marcin Pączkowski (b.1983)- "Here comes a candle to light you to bed"
interactive gloves - Marcin Pączkowski

Jakub Ciupinski (b.1980) - Improvisations on galaxies on theremin
theremin - Jakub Ciupinski

Announcement results of the 6th International "New Vision Composition Competition"

Leah Reid (b.1985) - *Reverie* for electronics (2019)

First Prize in the 6th International New Vision Composition Competition "Galaxies" in memory of Nicolaus Copernicus

Jazz Promenade:

Jazz impressions on Chopin by **Stanisław Stowiński and Andrea Domenici**

Stanisław Stowiński: "Night"

Frédéric Chopin: Nocturne e minor Op. post (arr. S. Stowiński)

Stanisław Stowiński - violin

Andrea Domenici - piano

Classical Promenade 2:

Frédéric Chopin: Barcarolle in F# Major Op.60

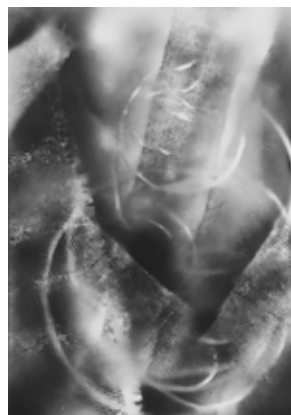
Pianist : **Katarzyna Vernet**

Where:

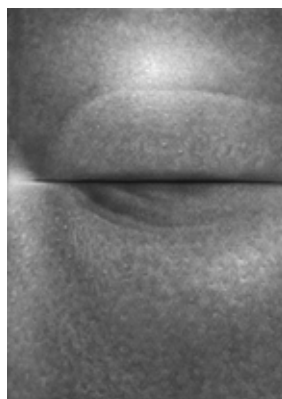
Consulate General of the Republic of Poland

233 Madison Avenue (Jan Karski corner)

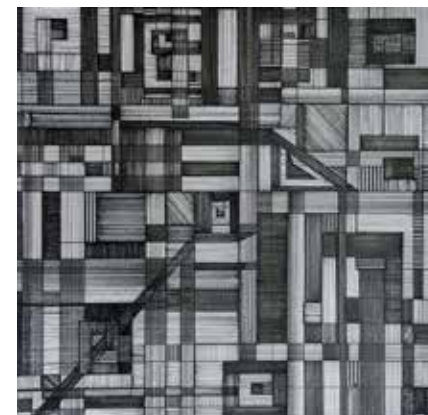
New York, NY 10016



Adam Panek, *IMPRESSION I*, mixed media, 70 x 50 cm., 2021



Łukasz Gielak, *INCISION*, charcoal, 70 x 50 cm., 2020



Amadeusz Popek, *DIAGRAMS*, ink, 25 x 25 cm., 2009



Zbigniew Strzyżyński, *NO TITLE*, mixed media, 30x30 cm., 2021

INTERNATIONAL ANDRIOLLI DRAWING COMPETITION NAŁĘCZÓW 2021

Time woven from thousands of lines

"The last time made us a sort of „outsiders” remaining on the edges of the world of things and, simultaneously at the same time, perhaps even more than at any time before – the „insiders” withdrawn into the subtle spaces of their own psyches. Forced to move on the passe-partout of the real, thrown into limitlessly vast parenthesis of virtuality, more often talking on-line than in a circle of friends, we are longing to meet the face (le visage) of another human being, of which Lévinas wrote so beautifully..."

- dr hab. Małgorzata Stępnik

Artists

Beata Cedrzyńska

Anna Panek

Stanisław Cholewa

Tomasz Wiktor

Łukasz Gielak

Fryderyk Rudziński

Andrzej Markiewicz

Amadeusz Popek

Adam Panek

Zbigniew Strzyżyński

Artur Popek

Janusz Skowron

Curator Of Exhibit: Janusz Skowron



Sandro Russo – Acclaimed for his profound sense of poetry and distinctive style, Sandro Russo has been in demand as a soloist in many venues around the world. He unanimously receives accolades for his sparkling virtuosity and his playing has often been referred to as a throwback to the grand tradition of elegant pianism and beautiful sound. Abbey Simon has praised him as “an artist to his fingertips...musical, intuitive, and a master of the instrument.” Lowell Liebermann has called him “a musician’s musician, and a pianist’s pianist. There is no technical challenge too great for him, but it is his musicianship that ultimately makes the greatest impression. His interpretations reveal a unique and profound artist at work.” Born in San Giovanni Gemini, Italy, Mr. Russo displayed exceptional musical talent from an early age. After entering the V. Bellini Conservatory, from where he graduated summa cum laude, he went on to earn the Pianoforte Performing Diploma from the Royal College of Music in London, with honors. While still a student, he won top prize awards in numerous national and international competitions, including Senigallia and the Ibla Grand Prize. During that time, he performed in some of the country’s most reputable concert halls.

Soon after Mr. Russo moved to the United States in 2000, he won the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto Competition, which led to a performance of the Liszt A major Concerto at the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, NJ. Shortly thereafter, he gave an acclaimed Chopin recital at the prestigious Politeama Theatre in Palermo, Italy, and later appeared at the Nuove Carriere Music Festival, an international showcase for the world’s most promising young musicians.

Mr. Russo has also gained attention for an extensive repertoire that is comprised not only of well-known masterpieces from all periods but also of rarities of the piano literature. His virtuoso performances of works by Cziffra, Sorabji, Marc-André Hamelin and other composer-pianists have enthralled music lovers from around the world. He has also premiered compositions by Lowell Liebermann, Paul Moravec and Mr. Hamelin.

Mr. Russo has performed in such eminent concert halls as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Konzerthaus Berlin, Salle Cortot in Paris, Teatro Politeama in Palermo, Weill and Zankel halls at Carnegie Hall and Nagasaki Brick Hall in Japan. His recitals include performances for The Rachmaninoff Society, the Dame Myra Hess series in Chicago, Concerts Grand in Santa Rosa (CA), the American Liszt Society, the Houston International Piano Festival, the Husum Festival of Piano Rarities in Germany and the Chetham’s International Piano Festival in Manchester (U.K.), among others. In November 2010 the Italian Academy Foundation presented Mr. Russo in a sold-out Chopin & Schumann anniversary concert at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Russo has appeared as a soloist with the Slovak Philharmonic in Bratislava, The Jacksonville Symphony in Florida and The Brussels Chamber Orchestra in an opening gala of The Music Festival of the Hamptons. He also has toured with the Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana for performances of the Rachmaninoff 3rd Piano Concerto and was the featured soloist with the New York Asian Symphony on tour in Japan.

At the invitation of Bechstein-America, Mr. Russo had the privilege of recording a DVD on the historical 1862 Bechstein piano (#576), originally owned by Franz Liszt. Additionally, he had the opportunity to record a DVD on Horowitz’s CD-75 Steinway piano; this represented the first recording made on this legendary instrument following Horowitz’s death.

Mr. Russo’s performances have aired on major radio stations in the US and abroad. The latter, released to critical acclaim in October 2018 on the Steinway & Sons label, was chosen “Disc of the Month” by Italy’s Classic Voice magazine and was also featured in Gramophone’s “Sounds of America.” On October 4, 2019, Steinway & Sons released Mr. Russo’s newest recording, Chopin – Late Masterpieces. Sandro Russo is a Steinway Artist.



Jakub Polaczyk (born in 1983 in Poland) is a Polish-American composer, pianist, and pedagogue. He graduated from the Penderecki Music Academy, Jagiellonian University and Carnegie Mellon University. He studied with: Marcel Chyrzyński, Krzysztof Penderecki, Marek Chotoniowski, Reza Vali and Jan van Landeghem. He resides in New York City and is an advocate for contemporary music. As the director of the International Chopin and Friends Festival, Polaczyk has launched a new music competition. As a radio broadcaster, he presents contemporary and classical music side by side to audiences in New York City and Chicago. As a member of the faculty at the New York Conservatory of Music, he teaches composition, music theory and piano performance. Polaczyk’s works have won numerous top awards and recognitions, including Golden Diploma on the Musical Eagles in Poland (2023), Silver Medal on the Global Music Awards in USA (2023) a recent commission by Composers Guild of New Jersey (2022), American Prize in Composition (2020), SIMC International Compositional Competition for Harpsichord in Milan (2019), and the Iron Composer First Prize in Cleveland, Ohio (2013), Orion Orchestral Composition Competition in London (2010). His compositions have been performed around the world. In the United States, Polaczyk’s works have been performed at composer conferences and music festivals in 23 states and have been premiered at the Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Additionally, his works have been performed in most European countries. A few of the ensembles that performed his music include: Avanti, Slee Sinfonietta, NeoQuartet, Argus Quartet, Cracow Duo, NED, Polanski Duo, Blow Up Percussion, Cracow Golden Woodwind Quintet, Four Corners, Avanti Ensemble, Bulgaria National Orchestra, Hanoi Philharmonics National Orchestra, Brazil National Orchestra, Janacek Symphony Orchestra, Tacoma Wind Ensemble, Coro Volante, and the Carnegie Contemporary Ensemble. Jakub Polaczyk is a Steinway & Sons partner and his music is published by Donemus, PWM and Babel scores. As a pianist collaborated with: Christine Walevska, Pein Wen, Nadia Rodriguez, Kofi Hayford, Justyna Giermola, Sarah Lucero, Beata Halska, Roberto Vasquez, Marta Płomińska, Ivan Ivanov, Wioletta Strączek, Piotr Lato, Wojtek Komsta, Anna Wilk, Agnieszka Świgut, Renata Guzik and many others singers, instrumentalists and ballet companies in NYC metropolitan area and National Opera of Krakow. Documentary about life of Jakub Polaczyk directed by Dennis Woytek “Conversation With Jakub Polaczyk” won bronze on the Telly Awards in New York (2023). In 2023 awarded The Gloria Artis Bronze Medal for Merit to Culture of Poland (2023) For more details, please visit <https://www.jakub.polaczyk.com>.

Urainy@ (2023) is a short piece for electronics written for the 25th International Chopin and Friends Festival, inspired by the NASA sounds from space transformed by electronic tools into a few short miniatures – my own dialogues (whistles, noises) and explorations of space in memory of Polish Astronomer Nicolas Copernicus (1473 – 1543).



Marcin Pączkowski (pronounced `marr-cheen pawnch-`koav-skee) is a composer, conductor, digital artist, and performer, working with both traditional and electronic media. As a composer, he is focused on developing new ways of creating and performing computer music. His pieces involving real-time gestural control using accelerometers have been performed worldwide, including International Computer Music Conference in Daegu, Korea, Music of Today concert series in Seattle, Washington, Northwest Percussion Festival in Ashland, Oregon, Toronto International Electroacoustic Symposium in Toronto, Canada, and the Audio Art festival in Kraków, Poland.

As the Music Director of Evergreen Community Orchestra, he presents concerts of diverse repertoire to local communities. He is also involved in performing new music and has led premieres of numerous works in Poland and the United States. His conducting performances with Inverted Space ensemble include *Anahit* by Giacinto Scelsi, featuring Luke Fitzpatrick on violin, *Flurries* by Brian Ferneyhough, and *Hermetic Definition* by Joël-François Durand. He is also active in the Seattle-area improvised music community performing on various instruments.

He received grants and commissions from Seattle Symphony, eScience Institute, Adam Mickiewicz Institute, and from Polish Institute of Music and Dance. He received his Ph.D. in Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS) from the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. He also holds Masters' degrees from the Academy of Music in Kraków, Poland, and from the University of Washington.

The title of the piece comes from a nursery rhyme referenced in George Orwell's book "1984". Throughout the book the main character struggles to remember the poem's ending, which is revealed to him at the key moment, right before he is captured: "Here comes a candle to light you to bed, here comes a chopper to chop off your head".

This thread in the whole story resonated with me, as it touches on the volatility of one's memory, with the backdrop of large-scale manipulation of recorded knowledge performed by the totalitarian regime in the book. While Orwell mostly deals with the memory that exists within humans and memory that's written down, today we deal with omnipresence of recorded media of multiple sorts, particularly sounds, images, and videos. As we produce larger and larger amount of such records, not only through traditional books, audio records and movies, but also in social media, blogs, podcasts etc., I find it fascinating how we navigate this oversaturated space and how it is being transformed by both large-scale phenomena as well as targeted actions. In my piece I am seeking to explore these transformations by employing a machine learning model that embeds the memory of the piece. While being performed, the piece re-composes itself, as the model is being re-trained to embed new

"memories" of the performance gestures.

This work is supported by the Department of Digital Arts and Experimental Media at the University of Washington, as well as eScience Institute with support from the Washington Research Foundation.

The piece is realized in 3rd order Ambisonics spatial sound format and employs custom motion sensors developed by the composer.



Jakub Ciupiński is Polish composer living in New York City. Although his music is often associated with electronics and interactive performances, he has written numerous pieces for traditional acoustic forces, varying in scope from solo miniatures to an hour-long Oratorio for symphony orchestra and double choir.

At the age of 18, he signed a contract with Sony Music Poland and since then has been recording electronica-infused world music under the stage name Jakub Żak. His concert music has been commissioned and performed by various institutions and ensembles including Birmingham Royal Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Silicon Valley Ballet, Metropolis Ensemble, Silicon Valley Ballet, The New York City Ballet's Choreographic Institute, Spokane Symphony, Stamford Symphony, Sinfonietta Cracovia, Lysander Piano Trio, The New Juilliard Ensemble, Sybarite5, as well as the world-famous soloists such as Anne Akiko-Meyers, Philippe Quint and Małgorzata Walewska. His works have been performed around the world, including prestigious venues such as Tonhalle in Zurich and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York. Ciupiński is a co-founder of Blind Ear Music, New York based group of composers and instrumentalists performing improvised, real-time compositions, using wirelessly connected laptops as musical score displays. He has also designed his own instrument for performing electronic music using hand gestures.

He has collaborated with a variety of artists, musicians, choreographers, and film directors, including Oscar winning director Andrzej Wajda, and scored the music for United Nations documentary "Opening Doors". He is also a fellow of the Sundance Institute Episodic Story Lab 2016. Ciupiński studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Christopher Rouse at The Juilliard School, Zbigniew Bujarski and Krzysztof Penderecki at the Cracow Academy of Music, and with Edwin Roxbrough and Joe Cutler at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Since 2013 he has been teaching at Purchase College, State University of New York where he served as head of Studio Composition program as well as artistic director of Purchase Orchestra Electric, an innovative multimedia project combining live orchestra with electronics, lights and video projection mapping.

The 25th International Chopin and Friends Festival in NYC proudly announced the 6th International "New Vision" Composition Competition for fixed medias, Electronics or electronics with video, possible interactive systems "Galaxies" in memory of Nicolaus Copernicus. The jury of three Polish-American composers: Jakub Ciupiński (New York City), Marcin

Pączkowski (Seattle) and Jakub Polaczyk (New York City) decided to award the following composers and compositions (out of 26 submissions):

First Prize 400\$ for piece: **“Reverie”** by **Leah Reid (USA)**

(Piece will be performed November 8, 2023 at the Polish Consulate in New York City during the 25th International Chopin and Friends Festival)

2nd Prize: “The cycle of Life and Decay” by **Berk Yağlı (Cyprus)**

3rd Prize: “Aphâr” by **João Pedro Oliveira (Portugal/USA)**

Honorable mentions: “Directionality” by **Ian Whillock (USA/Germany)**

“Risonanze erranti” by **Paolo Geminiani (Italy)**

Congratulations!



Dr. Leah Reid (b. 1985) is a New Hampshire-born composer, sound artist, researcher, and educator, whose works range from opera, chamber, and vocal music, to acousmatic, electroacoustic works, and interactive sound installations. Her primary research interests involve the perception, modeling, and compositional applications of timbre. In her works, timbre acts as a catalyst for exploring new soundscapes, time, space, perception, and color. In recent reviews, Reid’s works have been described as “immersive”, “haunting”, and “shimmering”.

Winner of a 2022 Guggenheim Fellowship, Reid has also won the American Prize in Composition (Vocal Chamber Music Division), first prizes in the 8th KLANG! International Electroacoustic Composition Competition, Musicworks’ Electronic Music Composition Contest, the Tesselat Electronic Music Competition, and the Franz Schubert Conservatory International Composer Competition, Sound of the Year’s Composed with Sound Award, the Film Score Award in Frame Dance Productions’ Music Composition Competition, the International Alliance for Women in Music’s Pauline Oliveros Award, and second prizes in the Iannis Xenakis International Electronic Music Competition and the 13th International Destellos Competition. She has received fellowships from the Guerilla Opera Company, Transient Canvas, the Hambidge Center, MacDowell, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA), the Ucross Foundation, and Yaddo.

Reid has worked with and received commissions from ensembles such as Accordant Commons, Blow Up Percussion, Concavo & Convesso, Ensemble Mòbile, Guerilla Opera, the Jack Quartet, McGill’s Contemporary Music Ensemble, Neave Trio, Sound Gear, Talea, and Yarn/Wire. Her compositions have been presented at festivals, conferences, and in major venues throughout the world, including Aveiro_Síntese (Portugal), BEAST FEaST (England), Espacios Sonoros (Argentina), EviMus (Germany), Forgotten Spaces: EuroMicrofest (Germany), the International Computer Music Conference (USA & Chile), IRCAM’s ManiFeste (France), LA Philharmonic’s Noon to Midnight (USA), the Matera Intermedia Festival (Italy), the New York

City Electronic Music Festival (USA), the OUA Electroacoustic Music Festival (Japan), the San Francisco Tape Music Festival (USA), Série de Música de Câmara (Brazil), the Society of Composers National Conference (USA), Soochow New Voice Concert Series (China), the Sound and Music Computing Conference (Germany), the Tilde New Music Festival (Australia), the Toronto International Electroacoustic Symposium (Canada), and the Workshop on Computer Music and Audio Technology (Taiwan), among many others. Her works are published with Ablaze Records, New Focus Recordings, Parma Recordings, RMN Classical, and BabelScores.

She is a Vice President of the International Alliance for Women in Music (IAWM), VP for Programs and Projects for the Society of Electroacoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS), and Boston New Music Initiative’s (BNMI) Director of Concert Series.

Reid received her D.M.A. and M.A. in music composition from Stanford University and her B.Mus from McGill University. Reid’s principal teachers include Mark Applebaum, Jonathan Berger, Brian Ferneyhough, Sean Ferguson, Ana Sokolovic, and Brian Paul Harman.

Reid splits her time between Massachusetts and Virginia, living with her husband, son, and two dogs. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA), where she teaches courses in music composition and technology. She has also taught at Stanford University (Stanford, CA), University of the Pacific (Stockton, CA), and at the University of Silicon Valley (San Jose, CA).

Reverie (2019) is an acousmatic composition that leads the listener through an immersive fantasy centered around deconstructed music boxes. The work is comprised of eight sections that alternate between explorations of the music boxes’ gears and chimes. In the work, the music boxes’ sounds are pulled apart, exaggerated, expanded, and combined with other sounds whose timbres and textures are reminiscent of the original. As the piece unfolds, the timbres increase in spectral and textural density, and the associations become more and more fantastical. Gears are transformed into zippers, coins, chainsaws, motorcycles, and fireworks, and the chimes morph into rainstorms, all sizes of bells, pianos, and more.



Stanisław Stowiński - Violinist, composer, arranger, and music producer. He stands out as one of the most dynamic and active musicians among the young generation in the vibrant Polish music scene. As a bandleader, sideman, and sought-after session musician, he performs over 100 times a year, captivating audiences all around the world; Poland, Spain, the USA, Hungary, Serbia, Iceland, Germany, China, South Korea, Chile, Capo Verde, Mongolia, and beyond. In his solo career, he performed at the most important Polish concert venues, such as: the National Philharmonic Hall Warsaw, the Cracow Philharmonic Hall, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra Concert Hall (NOSPR), ICE Kraków Congress Centre, and the Cavatina Concert Hall, among many others. Stanisław’s debut solo album, “Landscapes Too Easy To Explain,” garnered international acclaim and was released by the esteemed European publishing house, Hevhetia. The album’s premiere concert tour spanned an impressive 30,000 kilometers, captivating audiences throughout Europe.

His second solo album, "Visions | Between Love and Death," recorded with the Stanisław Stawiński Sextet, garnered enthusiastic praise from both critics and audiences alike. The premiere concert tour featured numerous performances across Europe and Asia. Notably, during the tour, Stanisław and his band also contributed to the Jazzpopolsku project [the largest initiative promoting Polish jazz in Asia, with Stanisław being one of the most frequently performing representatives of Polish jazz scene]. Together, they completed four concert tours in China and Mongolia, totaling nearly one hundred concerts from 2016 to 2019.

He received Audience Award at the 1st International Jazz Violin Competition. Zbigniew Seifert. Grand Prix of the 39th International Competition of Young Jazz Bands Jazz Juniors, creative Scholarship of the City of Krakow. A multiple nominee in the "Violin" and "New Hope" categories in the Jazz Top readers' survey of the Jazz Forum magazine. Reached the Top of the Oriental Billboard Chart Shanghai as a guest performer on Shine Yang and Guo Liang's single. The Ministry of Culture of Poland and National Heritage Scholarship. He received The Platinum Award from the Polish Society of the Phonographic IndustryCon, for his contributions as a performer and co-composer for the single "Take this Love Away," performed by J. Wieniawa and M. Musiałowski. His album "Visions Violin Concerto Live at ICE Kraków" was recorded with the esteemed chamber orchestra AUKSO, under the baton of the remarkable conductor, violinist, and chamber musician himself, Marek Moś. The album was met with enthusiastic acclaim from both audiences and music critics, and its promotional tour featured performances in Poland, China, Mongolia, Germany, Switzerland, and beyond, marking a significant highlight of the Polish jazz season. The album was released in a double format, CD and DVD Live, by InfraArt Record Label, a publishing house founded by Stawiński. He has participated in multiple projects involving internationally renowned artists, such as Brian Eno, Ben Frost, Daniel Bjarnason, Elliot Goldenthal, Diego Navarro, Ludwig Wicki, Joe Hisaishi, Robert Kabara, Joanna Stawińska, Paweł Kaczmarczyk, Piotr Orzechowski, Grzech Piotrowski, Hadrien Feraud, and Marcin Wasilewski to name but a few.

Beyond being a consummate performer and accomplished composer, he is also widely known as an acclaimed arranger, music producer, and session musician, boasting a substantial discography spanning dozens of albums. His artistic endeavors have also extended into the realms of theater and film, where he has made a significant impact as a composer. On top of that, Stanisław is behind the creation of a new musical genre known as "Akustronika," showcasing his innovative approach to music.



Born and raised in Lecco (Italy), **Andrea Domenici** is a jazz pianist and composer who has been living in New York since 2012. At the beginning of his career he won the "1st edition of the GPremio "ianni BassoM as best soloist and the "1st prize of the La Spezia Jazz Competition as the best piano player. A 2016 graduate from The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, Domenici studied with great piano players such as Benny "reen, Barry Harris, Penny Barron, Dado Koroni, Rossano Sportiello and Kario Rusca. After moving to New York City, he collaborated with Harry Allen, Wynton Karsalis, "ary Bartz, Louis Hayes, Penny Washington, James Korrison, Etienne Charles, Eddie Henderson, Billy Drummond, Peter Washington, Roy

Hargrove, Carol Fredette, Billy Harper, Dave "lasser, Charles Tolliver, Jimmy Owens, Wayne Escoffery, Dave :ikoski, Dave Douglas, James Carter and many more. Andrea Domenici performed in the most prestigious venues of New York City such as Jazz at Lincoln Center, Dizzy's Club Coca Cola, Smalls, Kezzrow, Smoke Jazz Club, Zinc Bar, Peter Jay Sharp Theater... Andrea Domenici has played all over the world. In 2017 he played at the QFestival Internacional de Ku sicaQ in Cancun, Kexico. Andrea Domenici was also called to do a week residency at the prestigious Karriars Jazzroom in Bern with The David Adewumi's 8uartet. In 2015, Andrea Domenici graduated from The Juilliard School with a Kaster Degree in Jazz Performance. The same year he released his "rst album as a leader entitled GPlaying Who I amM which features Peter Washington on bass and Billy Drummond on drums. Andrea Domenici has been the house pianist at Casa Cipriani till 2022 where he performed nights a week.



Katarzyna Vernet was born in Kraków to the family of research associates who graduated AGH University of Science and Technology. Music has always been present in her family home. Her grandmother, a Polish teacher, and her maternal grandfather, the lawyer as well as her father's father - the founder of the Cracow Arsenal and the grandmother who came from the family of Cracow councilmen also made sure that their children received musical education. As a result, the piano and violin have always been present at her home. They were performing music together, honouring the musical traditions of the family and making it the heritage passed over to the next generations. As a result, Katarzyna started her education at the age of five. Since she started her regular education, the head teacher and her tutor has been emphasizing her exceptional musical talent. She has given concerts in many countries, for instance: Holland, Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Malta, Ukraine, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Spain. For her great achievements in music she has received prestigious awards of the President of the City of Kraków and the President of the City of Katowice as well as the Polish Culture Foundation Award. She has also been invited to make recordings for the radio and TV.

The works of Frederick Chopin played by her were promoting Poland in international TV stations during the Football Cup Euro 2012. She received her PhD in Music performance for the doctoral thesis devoted to issues of piano virtuosity based on world premiers of Maurycy Moszkowski's compositions. This thesis is the compendium of theoretical and practical knowledge for pianists and music experts. She has performed in various Polish and European concert halls, and have been enthusiastically welcomed by the public and critics. She has inaugurated international festivals including the prestigious Stars Are Promoting the All festival in Jelenia Góra. Her highly praised piano skills also result from her working with world famous pianists – Halina Czerny-Stefańska, Barbara Hesse-Bukowska, Miłosz Magin, Wiktor Mierzanow, Krystian Zimerman, John O'Connor, and Edit Picht-Axenfeld. Her skills are being constantly developed, which is demonstrated by her approximately one hundred concerts given annually in Poland and abroad. Her individual style is very authentic in medium and is very emotional.

When:

Wednesday, November 16, 2023 at 7 PM
 *Reservation required
 e-mail address:
 new.york.dance.and.innovations@gmail.com

Where:

Consulate General of the Republic of Poland
 233 Madison Avenue (Jan Karski corner)
 New York, NY 10016

Weronika Woźniak, host

Program:

Franz Schubert - Impromptu Op.90 No.2
Pablo Echevarria - Piano

György Ligeti - Cello Sonata : Capriccio
 (in memory of the 100th Birthday anniversary of the composer)

Gabriel Faure - Elegie Op.24
 Cello - **Shu-Wei Tseng**
 Piano - **Jakub Polaczyk**

Henryk Wieniawski - Kujawiak in a minor
 Henryk Wieniawski - Obertas
 Karol Szymanowski - "Roxana's Song"
 Violin: **Margot Zarzycka**
 Piano: **Jakub Polaczyk**

Henryk Mikołaj Górecki - 4 Preludes for Piano Solo Op.1
 (in memory of the 90th Birthday anniversary of the composer)
Radosia Jasik - Piano

Honorable distinction of legendary Ruth Slenczynska and emeritus members of the NYDAI
 "Chopin" by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)

Paweł Kubica - Piano

Frederic Chopin - Ballade in A flat Major Op.47
 Etude in c minor Op. 10 No. 12, "Revolutionary"
 Mazurka in c sharp minor Op.50 No. 3
 Polonaise in A flat major Op.53

Poetry reading: **Weronika Woźniak**



Pablo Echevarria Cuesta is a 17-year-old Spanish-American currently studying at the New York Conservatory of Music under supervision of composer and pianist Jakub Polaczyk. Living in New York, Pablo started his piano journey at the age of 7. Over the past decade, he has steadily honed his skills and deepened his love for the instrument. As a dedicated student, he looks forward to furthering his musical education and sharing his passion with others.



Shu Wei Tseng - Known for her exceptional technique, musicality, and her programme versatility, Taiwanese-British musician Shu-Wei Tseng has performed as both soloist and chamber musician across four continents in major concert halls on the piano and cello. Shu-Wei joined the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland faculty in 2010 and is a Global Ambassador of CU Boulder, USA (DMA, 2010), with previous degrees from London's Royal Academy of Music. Alongside regular lectures/masterclasses and workshops she gives internationally, Shu-Wei is frequently featured as the musician representative for the Taipei Consulate and the Taiwan Ministry of Culture in the UK, as well as representing the UK at the D-Day Commemoration Concerts in Normandy, France since 2016. Shu-Wei is a New York City newcomer since late October 2023.

Jakub Polaczyk - see bio on page 25



Margot Zarzycka - violinist born into a family of classical musicians, originally comes from Poland where she made her solo violin debut at the age of six.

Margot is a winner and finalist of numerous European violin competitions, including the Wieniawski International Young Artist Violin Competition in Lublin, Poland. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in violin performance and education from the Music Academy in Poznan, Poland and a Masters of The Arts in Violin Performance and Education from the Academy of Music in Gdansk, Poland. In 1997, Margot was invited to study at Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana, and was awarded the prestigious Emma Clause Scholarship as a recognition of her musical talent.

In 2000, Margot won a full time violin core position with the Sarasota Orchestra in Florida, where she is currently serving as a core violinist. She frequently performs with the Florida Orchestra in Tampa, the Naples Philharmonic, the Orlando Philharmonic in Orlando and the Florida South West Symphony in Fort Meyers.



Polish pianist **Radosia Jasik** is the first prize winner of numerous competitions, including The Beijing Music Academy Competition, and the recipient of scholarships from Prime Minister of Poland, Mount Royal University (Canada) and Fontainebleau Schools of Music and Fine Arts (France). Radosia had her debut at Carnegie Hall in 2015 performing in duo with flutist Denis Savelyev. She returned to this

prestigious hall as a soloist and with her duo multiple times in 2018, 2019 and 2022. In November 2022, Ms. Jasik curated her own project at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York, collaboration with composer Mikołaj Piotr Górecki. Radosława Jasik performed Górecki's solo and chamber pieces as well as the Trio Concerto with the Avalanche Orchestra. She also led a panel discussion with the composer. Moreover, Radosława Jasik has been collaborating with jazz pianist Andrea Domenici on their original project, exploring connections between jazz and classical music.

Additionally, Radosława Jasik has been active as an educator, offering private lessons and group classes. She received a grant from the Polish Government in Warsaw to lead a series of workshops at Polish Schools in New York City in 2022 and 2023.

Ms. Jasik earned her Master of Music degree and Professional Studies Diploma degree from the prestigious Mannes School of Music, as the recipient of the Steinway Award for an outstanding performer. She earned a doctoral degree in Piano Performance from the Hartt School, University of Hartford in May 2023.



Paweł Kubica graduated with distinction from the Music Academy of Krakow in Janusz Olejniczak's class in 1996. Prior to this he studied with Jerzy Łukowicz for many years.

He attended various master classes in Poland and abroad working with such virtuosos as Halina Czerny - Stefańska, Andrzej Jasiński, Vlado Perlemuter, Rudolf Buchbinder, Lee Kum Sing, Jean Marc Luisada.

His first significant achievement came in 1989 when he was awarded Second Prize at the Mitośz Magin Piano Competition in Paris. Since that time the pianist has won a range of prizes at competitions in Poland and abroad. He won the Stendal Foundation Piano Competition in Detmold (Germany, 1992) and the Special Prize at the I Tansman International Competition of Musical Personalities in Łódź (1996). In 1998 he won two prizes at the Krzysztof Penderecki International Competition of Contemporary Music in Kraków: First Prize in the category of soloists and Special Prize for the best interpretation of a Polish composition. He participated twice in the Fryderyk Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw (1995, 2000).

Paweł Kubica has been engaged in a solo artistic activity winning the audience's attention and critical acclaim in Poland and abroad, e.g. he successfully performed in England, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Slovakia and Serbia.

He has been invited to participate in notable music events such as Chopin Festival in Nohant (France), International Festival of Contemporary Music "Warsaw Autumn", Polish Piano Festival in Słupsk, "Chopin in autumn colours" in Antonin, International Days of Cracow Compos-

ers, Summer Music Festival "Wawel at dusk".

As a soloist he has performed symphonic concerts, among others with SWF - Sinfonieorchester, Tomsk Philharmonic Orchestra, The Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice, The Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Cracow Philharmonic Orchestra, Rzeszów Philharmonic Orchestra, Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra, Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra, under direction of such conductors as Arnold Östman, Wojciech Michniewski, Wojciech Rajski, Michał Klauza, Michał Nesterowicz, Wojciech Czepiel, Paweł Przytocki, Zygmunt Rychert.

Paweł Kubica has recorded a CD with Robert Schumann's compositions with SWF-Sinfonieorchester conducted by Arnold Östman. The recording was published by Arte Nova in 1995. In 2011 the "Polish Recordings" company released another album with the participation of Paweł Kubica, entitled "Music and Politics". It is the record of a gala concert at which the compositions of the President of Croatia Ivo Josipović were performed, in the presence of the composer.

Among many recordings for the radio and television worth mentioning Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor performed with the Polish Radio Orchestra conducted by Wojciech Rajski in 2002 deserves a special attention as well as recorded live Francis Poulenc's Piano Concerto performed with the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice conducted by Michał Klauza in 2013. Paweł Kubica is a faculty of the Chamber Music Department at the Penderecki Music Academy in Krakow.



Veronika "Vivi" Wozniak (aka Weronika Wozniak) is a Polish actress, martial artist, and theatre maker based in New York City.

She was born in Poznań, Poland and at the age of 5 she joined the youth dance group Rytmix in Konin, Poland. While being a member of the dance group until 2006, she received such awards as 1st Place in The 27th International Song and Dance Festival. In 2006 her family moved to Wrocław, Poland and she continued to dance in many studios, including Dance Studio Gemar, changing her main competitive category to Hip-Hop. In 2009, she won 8th Place in The World Championships of Hip-Hop, Electric Boogie and Break Dance in Kalisz.

As a teenager, she made her first camera appearance in TV Show Pierwsza Miłość as a guest star in 2014. Two years later, Weronika decided to give a shot to acting by moving to New York City for Conservatory Program at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. The first short film she has acted in, "Lost In The Wind", directed by NYU then-sophomore student Dan L. Nguyen Phan, was accepted to Cannes Festival Short Film Corner selection in 2016. Among teachers like Irma Sandrey, Geoffrey Horne, Robert Ellermann, Barry Shapiro, Mauricio Bustamante, Jeremy Kruse, Weronika also had the honor of participating in acting intensive taught by Vincent D'Onofrio in her final year.

Veronika made first steps in her theatrical career in The United States by joining the original Off-Broadway cast of an interactive stage-combat play "The Video Games" with MB Stage Productions at The Elektra Theatre (now Times Square Arts Center), where she appeared as a swing in 2016, and later on got cast as Shiek (The Legend Of Zelda) in 2017.

During The Video Games production in NYC she started training Karate Ken Wa Kan Dojo under the mentorship of Shihan Michelle Gay – 5th-degree black belt and 5-time Women's full contact champion and Certified Laban Movement Analyst. She received awards in many Kyokushin tournaments, and received her blackbelt in June 2023.

During the pandemic, she has been part of online productions, whether on zoom, or live-streamed from the theatre. In her first theatrical season with The Seeing Place, an Off-Off-Broadway ensemble, she performed online in the productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (2020), "Dog Act" (2021), and "Queer Witch Conspiracy" (2021). She also acted in The Evening Crane Theatre's play "Spyglass Seven" streamed for The International Edgar Allan Poe Festival and shot a period short film with the same company called "Caprices". In the years 2020-2022, she hosted her own radio program in Polish Nasze Radio USA, interviewing artists of Polish origin and talking about NYC's culture and entertainment. Veronika was also part of a workshop for "Ideologix" a bilingual play written by Eri Nox, a collaboration between Playmachine and Juliusz Stowacki Theatre in Poland. The play's first iteration happened online in mid-2021 and then traveled to Cracow. She jumped on the team remotely as a dialect coach and cultural consultant. She has been working with many Polish institutions over the years, including Polish Theatre Institute at Kosciuszko Foundation, Polish Cultural Institute in NY, Polish Consulate in New York, Polish and Slavic Center, and New York Polish Film Festival. This year she received Acting Distinction Award at NYU FirstRun film festival for the leading role of Manusha in film "New Lives" by Joey Schwitzer. The movie, currently in festival circulation, will be screened next at Boston Jewish Film Festival in November and HollyShorts Film Festival in Los Angeles later this year. www.VeronikaVozniak.com



Henryk Cioczek, M.D, Ph. D. a. Polish doctor born in Lublin, Poland. He lives in New York and is engaged in the promotion of Polish culture and artists in the United States. Author. He is a philanthropist, social activist, collector and donor of art, and a writer who touches on issues and outstanding personalities from Poland and the Polish diaspora. Dr. Henryk Cioczek is the author of six books: "Bellevue Hospital Intern", "Bishop in Pasiak", "Polish Jerusalem - History of Survival", "Fight for the Secrets of Life", "Palace in Wierchowiska", "Women's Victory" by Dr. Maria Zakrzewska. He is also the author of two theater plays: Woman's Victory and "Great Righteous". Dr. Henryk Cioczek is the co-author of a documentary film recorded at the Chicago USA festival titled: "Beacon Hill - American Częstochowa". His play performed by Theater Panopticum from Lublin "Righteous Among the Nations" will have its American premiere at the 25th International Chopin and Friends Festival, November 18 at the Polish & Slavic Center.

5 Closing Curtain

When:

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 7 PM

Where:

Polish and Slavic Center
177 Kent Street
Brooklyn, NY 11222

Theater Panopticum from Lublin "Righteous Among the Nations"

"Righteous Among the Nations"

The performance by Panopticum Theatre shows problems related to suffering of Polish people and Polish Jews from Nazi occupiers during the Second World War. The main characters are both specific Jews and the Cioczeks family from Lublin who saved the Jews from German destruction and were found Righteous Among the Nations. The theme of the blessed bishop martyr Władysław Goral from Lublin runs through the play. He was imprisoned in the Lublin castle and later executed in a concentration camp Sachsenhausen in 1945. The bishop was related to the Cioczeks family. The author of the play "The Righteous" and the creators of the performance want to commemorate Poles who saved Jews during the German occupation. Positive role models, brave family, heroic attitude should be recalled and remembered.

The performance is an adaptation of a theatre play by dr Henryk Cioczek, a Polish doctor born in Lublin, Poland, living in the United States of America for many years and who is engaged in the promotion of Polish culture, artists and his hometown Lublin in Polish and American communities. Fragments of camp poetry and works of Polish post-war poets were used in the performance. The play shows not only events and real people but, in the stage shape, gains a new dimension of broader meaning and metaphors in relation to human suffering and condition of a man struggling with the cruelty of war and adversities of fate. A modern form of narration, songs and poetic image enrich the drama of the performance and activate the deepest layers of the viewer's imagination.

The first night: 3rd November 2023 in Lublin

PANOPTICUM THEATRE from The Youth Culture Centre 'Pod Akacją' in Lublin, Poland was founded in 1984 to carry out artistic and educational activities. Next year we will celebrate the 40th jubilee. The members of the Theatre are high school and university students. It conducts broadly understood theatre education; the young people develop their artistic potential, acquire knowledge about theatre, appear in performances to enrich the city's theatre culture. Many of them have become famous actors, theatre directors and stage designers working for theatre, film, radio and television. Panopticum Theatre is a true „goldmine for young talents” who work in Poland and all over the world.

PANOPTICUM made over 80 theatre performances and won numerous Polish and international rewards in many prestigious contests and festivals. The Theatre travelled a lot across Europe. In 2018 it took part in the 20th International Chopin & Friends Festival in New York. The founder of Panopticum Theatre is Mieczysław Wojtas – artistic director and drama teacher who has run it till today.

All music compositions and vocal arrangements for Panopticum Theatre performances of the last 14 years were created by Piotr Tesarowicz.

“Righteous Among the Nations”

Author: Henryk Cioczek

Stage adaptation: the actors

Director: Mieczysław Wojtas

First assistant director: Oskar Rybaczek

Music and vocal preparation: Piotr Tesarowicz

Film scenes: Adrian Tarnowski

Visualisation: Jakub Oszust

Actors: Michał Bielawski, Natalia Dyjak, Magdalena Gorgol-Rzepecka, Emil Janczak, Jakub Kalinowski, Michał Niczyporuk, Jakub Oszust, Grzegorz Popiołek, Oskar Rybaczek

Actors in the film scenes: Magdalena Góźdz and Oskar Rybaczek



Mieczysław Wojtas – a specialist in Polish studies, art historian, theatre instructor, artist

Mieczysław Wojtas is the founder, creator, artistic and theatre director of a well-known in Poland Panopticum Theatre which he has run since 1984 in The Youth Culture Centre ‘Pod Akacją’ in Lublin, Poland.

Mieczysław Wojtas has won twice the Polish title of “ Theatre Instructor of the Year”, The Central Award of the Theatre Culture Society, a few rewards of the Ministry of Culture and Art, the Ministry of Education, of Polish Television and the President of Lublin.

Mieczysław Wojtas is the recognized authority in the field of youth theatre, juror of many contests and theatre festivals. He is a highly regarded teacher, has extensive experience and achievements in theatre education of young people and instructors as well as in his artistic career. For his achievements awarded The Golden Cross of Merit and the Bronze Cross of Merit Badge of Meritorious Cultural Activist, Medal of the National Education Commission, Honour Badge of Merit for Polish Culture, Medal of the Mayor of Lublin, Medal of the 700th Anniversary of the City of Lublin, Medal of Merit for the City of Lublin



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The Polish & Slavic Center (PSC) is non-profit social and cultural services organization founded in 1972 and headquartered in New York City. With approximately 40,000 members, the PSC is one of the largest Polish-American organizations on the East Coast. It receives contracts from the City of New York – Department for the Aging (DFTA), Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD), and sponsorship from the NYC Council. Each year the PSC receives funds to support programs that are free for the community. In addition, PSC promotes the program “Polonia supports young talents” and the PSC scholarship program. PSC also publishes its own quarterly paper “Echo PSC” which is dedicated to events, happenings and achievements of Polonia.

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