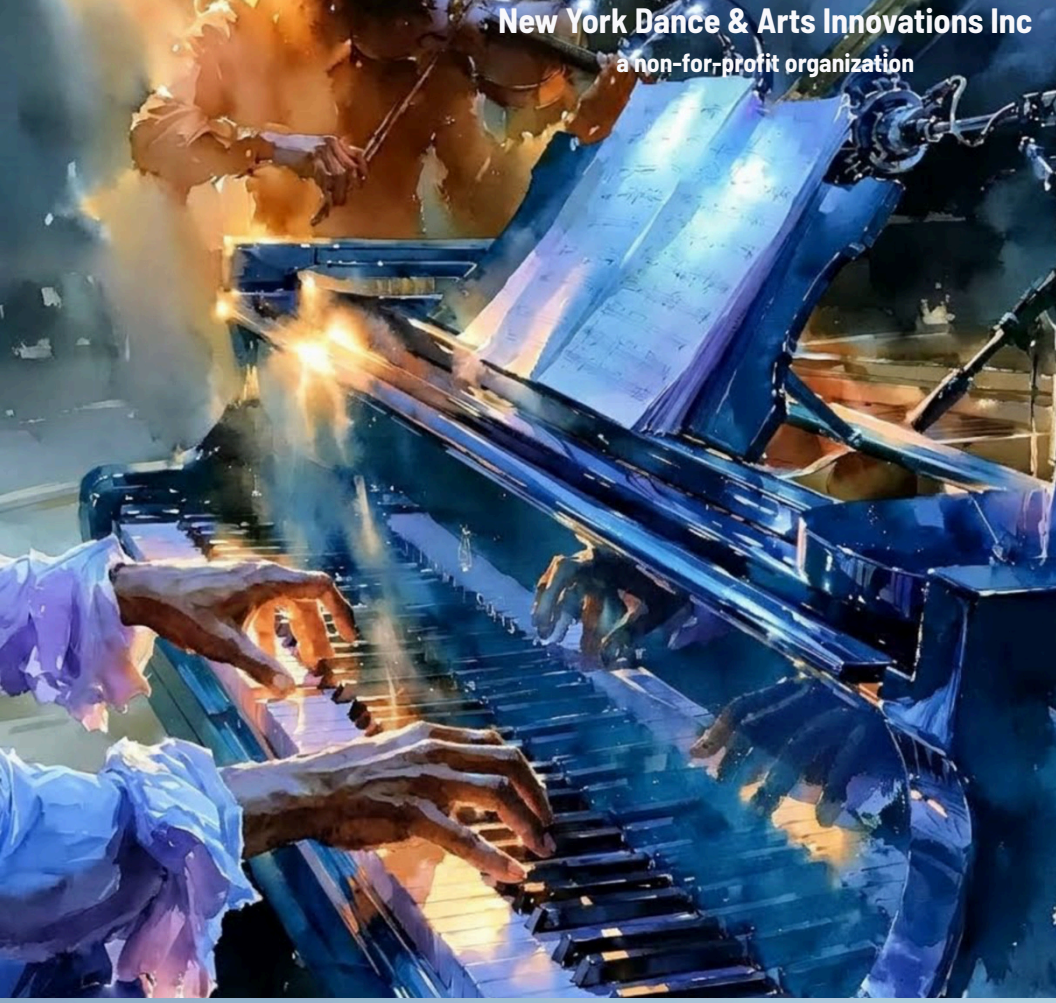
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XXVIII International Chopin & Friends Festival

November 4th - December 3rd, 2026

Honorary patronage

Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York

Consulate General of Italy New York

Programs of the events

OPENING EVENT:

MUSIC MEMORY AND BELONGING

Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in New York
November 4th 2026, 7pm

IN MEMORIAM RUTH SLENCZYNSKA:
LECTURE AND PERFORMANCE BY DR. SHELLY MOORMAN-STAHLMAN

I. Friedman	Mélodie Slave op.50, no. 1,
Sz. Laks	Sonate pour violoncelle et piano: Andante un poco grave
R. Ryterband	Triptyque contemporain: I. Adagio appassionato II. Largo, con anima pure III. Lento, ma non troppo
A. Tansman	Sonatine Transatlantique: II. Spiritual and Blues
M. Moszkowski	Berceuse F Major, op.28, no. 3
A. Tansman	Fantaise pour violoncelle et piano

Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, pianist and lecturer
Jan Kalinowski, cello
Marek Szlezer, piano

XXVIII INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN & FRIENDS FESTIVAL

MIDDLE EVENT:

ITALY IN CONVERSATION: AN EVENING OF JAZZ

Ressona
November 17th 2026, 7:00pm

Featuring the Italian ensemble Sound In Common with special guest jazz guitarist Peter Bernstein, this concert celebrates Italy's vibrant contribution to the international jazz scene and the power of music to bring cultures together. The ensemble will present original compositions alongside jazz standards, with the specific repertoire to be announced from the stage. Reflecting the festival's commitment to international cultural exchange, the evening also recognizes the valued support of the Italian Consulate, whose Honorary Patronage has graced the festival for the past two years. Through jazz, the concert builds a musical bridge between Italian and Polish cultural traditions, embracing the spirit of artistic dialogue and international friendship.

Francesco Patti, saxophone
Giuseppe Cucchiara, bass
Andrea Niccolai, drums
Andrea Domenici, piano
Peter Bernstein, guitar

Programs of the events

CLOSING EVENT:

AMERICA 250:
A NEW WORLD, AN OLD TRADITION

Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in New York
December 3rd, 2026, 6pm

Lowell Liebermann — Sonata for Flute and Piano op. 23 (1987)
Sonata for Piano op. 82 (2002)

DISCUSSION PANEL WITH THE COMPOSER

Lowell Liebermann — Trio No. 3 Op.122 (2012)

Brandon Patrick George, flute
Chaewon Kim, violin
Sandro Sidamonidze, cello
Radoslawa Jasik, piano



DR. SHELLY MOORMAN-STAHLMAN

Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman is an accomplished pianist and organist and a close former student of the legendary Ruth Slenczynska, a pianist of Polish origin and the last living pupil of Sergei Rachmaninoff, who passed away at the age of 101. Deeply influenced by their close artistic relationship, Dr. Moorman-Stahlman now honors Slenczynska's extraordinary legacy through memorial lectures and performances celebrating her life, artistry, and musical heritage.

An active recitalist, she has performed throughout the United States and Brazil, appearing as a soloist with orchestras. She also teaches piano, organ, and church music, directs music at Grace Methodist Church in Harrisburg, and founded Lebanon Valley College's cultural exchange program with Brazil.



CRACOW DUO

The Cracow Duo, comprising cellist Jan Kalinowski and pianist Marek Szlezer, has performed internationally for over 20 years, earning critical acclaim for its concerts and recordings. Their performances have taken them to prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall in New York, Seoul Arts Center, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Salle Cortot in Paris, and St Martin-in-the-Fields in London. They have toured extensively across Europe, Asia, the Americas, and the Middle East, promoting Polish music worldwide.

A central focus of the duo's artistic activity is the rediscovery and promotion of rarely performed Polish composers. Their repertoire includes works by Fryderyk Chopin, Aleksander Tansman, Karol Szymanowski, Szymon Laks, and other Polish composers, alongside contemporary works, many written specifically for the ensemble.

Since 2009, the Cracow Duo has released numerous recordings on DUX and Warner Classics. Their discography includes works by Tansman, Chopin, Penderecki, and contemporary Polish composers. Their recordings have received international distinctions, including Gramophone Editor's Choice and La Clef de ResMusica, as well as nominations for the Fryderyk Awards.

In 2024, the duo received the Golden Diploma in the Chamber Ensemble category at the 4th International Competition "Musical Eagles." In 2025, their album Dedications, Vol. 2 received the Global Music Awards Outstanding Achievement distinction in the Contemporary Classical category.

In 2026, marking its 25th anniversary, the Cracow Duo received the Award of the Polish Composers' Union and the Award of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, recognizing its significant contribution to Polish musical culture.



PETER BERNSTEIN

Peter Bernstein is a renowned New York–born jazz guitarist who has been performing and recording since 1990. A distinctive voice in contemporary jazz, he has collaborated with legends including Sonny Rollins, Jimmy Cobb, Lou Donaldson, and Brad Mehldau. With more than 300 recordings to his credit, including 14 albums under his own name, Bernstein is celebrated for his melodic sophistication, swing, and deep connection to the jazz tradition.



A SOUND IN COMMON

A Sound In Common is an Italian jazz quartet bringing together four accomplished musicians active on the New York jazz scene: **saxophonist Francesco Patti, pianist Andrea Domenici, bassist Giuseppe Cucchiara, and drummer Andrea Niccolai**. Rooted in the swinging traditions of post-bop, the ensemble combines a deep respect for jazz heritage with a fresh, contemporary approach to composition and improvisation. Their repertoire features original compositions by the band members, showcasing their individual voices and shared musical vision. In 2023, they released their debut album, A Sound in Common, featuring special guest guitarist Peter Bernstein, who joins the quartet for a performance marked by creative interplay, melodic sophistication, and vibrant contemporary jazz.



BRANDON PATRICK GEORGE

Brandon Patrick George is a GRAMMY-winning flutist, soloist, and member of Imani Winds, praised by The New York Times for his "elegant" playing. His repertoire spans the Baroque era to contemporary music, and he has performed with leading orchestras and at prestigious venues worldwide, including Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and the Elbphilharmonie.
His acclaimed solo albums include Twofold (2023), which explores musical dialogues across time and identity. A passionate advocate for music education and equity in classical music, Brandon founded BPG: The Community Concerto Project, connecting orchestras with local communities and inspiring young musicians. He serves on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music and Mannes School of Music.



CHAEWON KIM

Violinist Chaewon Kim has been praised by The Dallas Morning News for her "throaty, viola-ish sound" and "plenty of virtuosity." She has performed as a soloist with ensembles including the Dallas Chamber Symphony, Jeonju City Symphony Orchestra, and SeongNam Philharmonic Orchestra, making her solo debut with the Gunsan City Symphony Orchestra at age seven. She has won numerous competition prizes, including the Stony Brook Concerto Competition. A dedicated chamber musician studying under the Emerson String Quartet, Ms. Kim won first prize at the 2025 Ackerman Chamber Competition and second prize at the 2023 Coltman Chamber Music Competition. She has performed at the Pacific Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, and Aspen Music Festival, collaborating with artists including the Takács Quartet, Benjamin Beilman, and Philip Setzer.
Ms. Kim holds degrees from The Juilliard School, Yale School of Music, and Seoul National University. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at Stony Brook University, studying with Philip Setzer.



SANDRO SIDAMONIDZE

Sandro Sidamonidze is a Georgian cellist with an international career as a soloist and chamber musician, performing throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. His appearances include prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Vienna's Musikverein, and Merkin Hall in New York, as well as performances with orchestras including the Xi'an Symphony Orchestra and the Evgeni Mikeladze Georgian National Symphony Orchestra.

A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Sidamonidze has performed works by composers including Lowell Liebermann, Giya Kancheli, and Zhao Jiping. He is the cellist of Vienna-based Trio Revolution, whose debut album, Unconventional Journey, featuring music by Liebermann, Haydn, and Kapustin, received nominations for the 2024 OPUS KLASSIK Award and the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik. Alongside his performing career, Sidamonidze has held orchestral leadership positions in the United States and serves as Managing Director of the Manufaktur der Künste Festival in Vienna.



RADOSLAWA JASIK

Polish pianist, Radoslawa Jasik is the first prize winner of numerous competitions and a recipient of scholarships from the Prime Minister of Poland, the Mount Royal University (Canada), The Maestro Foundation and The Fontainebleau School of Music and Fine Arts in France. She had her debut at Carnegie Hall in December 2015 performing Virko Baley's Partita no. 3 with the flutist Denis Savelyev in the world premiere arrangement for flute and piano. She returned to perform at this prestigious venue multiple times: as a soloist and with her duo partner Denis Savelyev. Savelyev and Jasik (UP Duo) released an album entitled "Two Cultures, One Sound" in 2024. In November 2022, Mrs. Jasik curated her own project at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland collaborating with composer Mikołaj Piotr Górecki. 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. Mrs. Jasik received grants from the Polish Government in Warsaw to lead series of workshops at Polish Schools in NY in 2022 and 2023. In April 2024, she was appointed President of the non-profit organization NYDAI and also assumed the role of Executive Director of the International Chopin & Friends Festival.



LOWELL LIEBERMANN

One of America's most acclaimed living composers, Lowell Liebermann is internationally recognized for his distinctive musical voice, combining expressive romanticism with modern sophistication. Praised by Time magazine for his "radiantly visionary" music and "openhearted lyricism," Liebermann has established an extraordinary place in contemporary classical music. With more than 140 works spanning orchestral, chamber, operatic, and solo repertoire, his compositions have become staples of the repertoire for musicians around the world.

His extensive catalog includes four symphonies, three piano concertos, numerous instrumental concertos, and two full-length operas. His celebrated Sonata for Flute and Piano and Gargoyles for solo piano are among the most frequently performed contemporary works for their respective instruments. His music has been premiered by leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra. His full-length ballet Frankenstein, co-commissioned by the Royal Ballet in London and San Francisco Ballet, further demonstrates his versatility across musical genres.

An accomplished pianist, Liebermann has performed internationally and released numerous recordings as both composer and interpreter. His discography includes more than 150 recordings on distinguished labels such as Deutsche Grammophon, Hyperion, and RCA Red Seal. His compositions are published by leading music publishers, including Theodore Presser Company, Schott, and Faber Music.

Liebermann has served as composer-in-residence for numerous prestigious organizations, including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Pacific Music Festival in Japan, and Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Since 2012, he has served on the composition faculty of Mannes School of Music at The New School, where he also founded the Mannes American Composers Ensemble, dedicated to performing music by living American composers.

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M. P. Górecki

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