

Where Your Treasure Is – There Is Your Heart

The 205th Anniversary
of the Polish Composer and Musician

Frederic Chopin

(1810-1849)



Chopin's family and close friends

Frederic was a very sociable person. Although he never had a family of his own, he was surrounded by a circle of friends devoted to him which included his students and teachers. His parents and sisters were always extremely important to him. All these people influenced the life and work of the composer.

Parents

Frederic was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Chopin. They also had three daughters: the oldest – Ludwika and younger than him, Izabela and Emilia.

The composer's parents: Tekla Justyna nee Krzyżanowska and French born Nicolas Chopin, met on the property of Count Skarbek in Żelazowa Wola. The young Justyna helped Countess Ludwika Skarbek in the running of the manor and Nicolas worked as a teacher of her children. In Warsaw, Chopin's parents opened a residence for boy pupils at the Warsaw Lycee.



Frederic

the Chopin's only son was given the names Frederic (probably after the oldest son of Countess Skarbek) Francis (probably after his grandfather on his father's side).



Izabela

was the guardian of the composer's heritage : his personal artefacts. Keepsakes and manuscripts.



Ludwika

showed Frycek (this is how he was called at home) how to play the piano. She was also the one who, according to her brother's last will, brought his heart back to his homeland



Emilia

had versatile talents similar to Frederic, she shared literary interests with her brother. Unfortunately, she died of tuberculosis at the age of fourteen.



Friends

Frederic made most of his friends during his education at the Lycee and the main School of Music and at the boy's residence run by his parents. Among his colleagues were: **Wilhelm Kolberg, Dominik Dziewanowski, Jan Bialoblocki, Tytus Woyciechowski, Eustachy Marylski, Jan Matuszyński, Julian Fontana, Antoni Orłowski and Kazierz Wodziński.** After many years many of them recalled their friend with warmth and kindness. Over the years they corresponded with Frederic. From these letters today we have an idea of what kind of person this genius, this Polish artist was. When Chopin left Warsaw on 2nd November 1830 his friends gathered at the boundary of the Wola district and sang the, *Born on Polish*, cantata for him. It had been composed by Professor Elsner particularly for this occasion. They also gave him a silver cup with a handful of his homeland soil in it. At that time no one had any idea how prophetic were the words of the composition and how symbolic was the souvenir given to Chopin. The composer never returned to his homeland after this trip. The composer's heart was returned to his homeland and his coffin in France was sprinkled with Polish soil during the funeral ceremony.



Tytus Woyciechowski,
Chopin's closest friend

Teachers

From letters surviving to this day we have found out about the very cordial relations which Chopin enjoyed with his first piano teacher – **Wojciech Żywny**. Frederic had similar relations with the professor of the subjects, composition and theory, and the Rector of the main School of Music – **Józef Elsner**. The composer dedicated many of his pieces to his friends.



Józef Elsner – composition professor
from the Warsaw period

Did you know that...
Frederic first went to school at the age of thirteen and he was admitted to the 4th grade in Warsaw Lycee straight away. Before that he studied at home.

Close pupils and emigres

In Paris, Chopin supported himself by writing music, giving concerts and giving piano lessons. In time many of his friends became the composer's close friends. Chopin had similar relations with a group of Polish émigrés who had arrived in the capital of France after the collapse of the November Uprising. Among them were: Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki, Cyprian Kamil Norwid and Maurycy Mochnacki. During Chopin's time in Paris there were many artists of different nationalities among his friends: Franz Liszt (Hungarian-born German composer), Hector Berlioz (French composer) and Henry Heine (German poet).



Franz Liszt

The women in Frederic Chopin's life

Frederic Chopin was always surrounded by a large circle of women. In his childhood the most important of them had been his mother – Justyna Chopin, with whom Frederic had a special relationship. He also had three sisters, whom he loved very much and with whom he was very close. The death of 14 year old Emilia, who died of tuberculosis, was a very painful time for him. Frederic had numerous female friends in his life.

Konstancja Gładkowska

During the last moments of his life, Chopin met her while he was studying at the Main Music School. She was studying singing. She is considered by the composer's biographers as his first love and the inspiration for the beautiful second part of the *Piano Concerto in F Minor*. The composer however dedicated it to Duchess **Delfina Potocka**, his dear friend who stayed with him



Portrait of young
Konstancja Gładkowska



Delfina Potocka,
the composer's friend



Maria Wodzińska –
Frederic's great love

Maria Wodzińska

Frederic asked only one woman to marry him. This was Maria Wodzińska, who did become engaged to Chopin, but after one year she broke it off. It was at that time that she returned all his letters. He took them and wrapped them with a ribbon and wrote on them, “*My unhappiness*”

“*My unhappiness*” – the
collection of Chopin's
correspondence (letters)
with Wodzińska



Jane Stirling

Scottish aristocrat, devoted Chopin student and later his friend. She organized the composer's stay in England and Scotland, his last trip abroad when he lived in France. After Chopin's death she collected the composer's souvenirs which she later sent to Poland.



Interesting

Frederic, due to his refined looks and high personal culture, was liked by women. He was often asked to write something in their sztambuch (diary) and he jotted down a few lines of his compositions with a suitable dedication. Famous singer, **Angelica Catalani**, enthralled with how young Frederic played, gave him a watch, with an engraved dedication, with which the artist never parted.



Gold pocket watch,
owned by Chopin from 1820



George Sand

Frederic Chopin had a large group of female supporters. However he gave his greatest love to French writer, **Aurora Dudevant**, better known as **George Sand**. She was very different from the women living in the 19th century: she wore trousers, smoked cigars and was a very independent person, which at that time was considered disgraceful and even scandalous. She was talented in writing and drawing (few of her drawings depicting Chopin at work have survived). She was a composer's best friend, caring protector and a true support in the more difficult times of his life. For nine years she looked after his death and well-being and created the proper conditions for him to be able to work. She organized his stay in Majorca, she invited him to her property in Nohant and treated him as a member of her family (she was a single mother of two: daughter Solange and son Maurice). She had a high regard for his talent. Unfortunately, with time, misunderstandings grew between the couple. This led to definite break in their relationship two years before the composer's death.

Chopin's personality, or what kind of person was he

He had a sense of humour

Chopin's happy childhood resulted in him being an optimistic person, with a positive attitude towards the world and people, he was well-read, intelligent and excellently brought up. He also had a sense of humour. This can be said after reading his letters in the form of a newspaper which he titled, "*Kurier Szafarski*". In it he described in a witty manner his stay in Szafarnia at Dominik Dziewanowski's. Chopin's letters are humorous and auto-ironic

Spontaneous but well behaved

Chopin's boarders and their neighbours remembered the son as a nice, well-behaved boy although keen on mischief. Maurycy Karasowski described how Frederic, in order to calm down the frolicking boys, illustrated on the piano an invented story about thieves. With it, he put those listening to sleep and then, without warning, woke them up by striking a horrendous chord.

Patriot

Frederic Chopin was brought up in an atmosphere of love, mutual attachment and respect, as well as in patriotic values. He expressed his love of his country and longing for it (nostalgia) letters to his family and friends as well as in his music.

Parlour goer

Chopin was known abroad as a man of culture, polite in company, able to speak several languages: French, German, Italian and Latin. His fame, personality and impeccable manners made him a welcome guest in Parisian parlours. He led an active social life. He attended Balls, parties, meetings and the theatre. As a person sensitive to other people suffering, he never refused to give charity concerts.

Universal Genius

According to scientists Chopin was a universal genius. In addition to his great musical talent he also had art, literary and acting skills. Drawings by the young composer and the beautiful cards for his parents with wishes in the form of a poem have survived. Together with his youngest sister Emilia, he wrote and staged, *Omyłka, czyli Mniemany filut (Mistake or Assumed Joker)* on the day of their father's saint's names day. The language of his letters proves his literary talent.

A sensitive man

The composers friends talked about average sensitivity, subtlety and high culture. They also mentioned his shortcomings: he became angry easily and was often irritated. He also had a tendency to become depressed because of his weak health. However, despite his afflictions, he never lost his sense of humour.





In the film Chopin. Desire for love the part of the composer was played by Piotr Adamczyk



Paintings Chopin's last moments, by Teofil Kwiatkowski

Interesting

The very young Frederic gave concerts in the parlours of Warsaw aristocracy stirring the audience's admiration with his talent and his manners. A known anecdote from those times describes how his mother dressed him up in a collar she made herself for his first public concert at the age of eight. The performance went very well, the audience was enchanted with the little genius and he, describing the concert to his mother, summed up the applause by: "Everybody liked my new collar".

From a letter to Wilhelm Kolberg, 19th August 1824:
"(...) and not only you ride a horse, I also can sit on it (...) at least so that the horse slowly walks where it wants and I, filled with fear, sit on it as a monkey on a horse (...) Flies often sit on my sumptuous nose, but forget it, this is almost a habit with these importunate creatures. Mosquitoes bite me, but forget it, as long as it's not the nose (...)".

Frederic Chopin's most important work

DANCE GENRES

Polonaises

Chopin's polonaises express the solemn and dignified character of this Polish national dance. Polonaises were first compositions of the seven year old Frederic,. It is worth listening to some of them:

Polonaise in G minor (youthful)
Polonaise in B major Op. posth. (youthful)
Polonaise in A major Op. 40 No. 1
Polonaise in A-flat major Op. 53



Waltzes

The waltz is a dance in $\frac{3}{4}$ time originating in Germany. Chopin composed waltzes, which were first of all meant to be listened to. However he kept their swirling dance character. These pieces belong to those particularly liked by listeners to Chopin's compositions. The best known among them include:

Waltz in E-flat major Op. 18
Waltz in A minor Op. 34 No. 2



Mazurkas

Short pieces in which the composer referred to three Polish dances: brisk and sturdy mazurkas, lyric sung kujawiak and the swirling and fast oberek. Chopin's most popular mazurkas include:

Mazurka in F major Op. 68 No. 3
Mazurka in D major Op. 33 No. 3
Mazurka in A minor Op. 68 No. 2
Mazurka in B major Op. 7 No. 1
Mazurka in A minor Op. 7 No. 2
Mazurka in B minor Op. 24 No. 4



MINIATURES

Etudes

These etudes, until then composed for teaching aims (for practicing playing the piano) were given a completely different status by Chopin. He made them independent concert compositions. Chopin's etudes have a very diverse ambiance – from lyrical, calm and melodious to stormy, rapid, sometimes dramatic. They require great skills from pianists. It is worth listening to some of them:

Etude in E major Op. 10 No. 3
Etude in C-flat minor Op. 10 No. 4
Etude in G-flat major Op. 10 No. 5
Etude in F major Op. 10 No. 8
Etude in C minor Op. 10 No. 12
"The Revolutionary"

Did you know that...

The etude *Etude in C minor Op. 10 No. 12*, known as "*The Revolutionary*" is the composer's musical act of despair at the news of the failure of the November Uprising.



Preludes

These date back to the Baroque epoch. In Romanticism, only a few composers, apart from Chopin referred to this musical genre. Here Frederic's genius is visible at its fullest, because despite the short form of each of the 24 preludes, he was able to show diversified moods – from happy, cheerful, joking or dancing to lyrical, reflective, sometimes even dramatic. It is worth knowing a few of Chopin's preludes:

Prelude in E minor Op. 28 No. 4
Prelude in A major Op. 28 No. 7
Prelude in D-flat major Op. 28 No. 15
"Rainy"
Prelude in C minor Op. 28 No. 20

Did you know that...

Prelude in D-flat major takes its names from rain drops persistently and rhythmically hitting a window sill in the Valldemossa monastery in Majorca where Chopin stayed with George Sand. Indeed, the repeating sounds can be heard in the lowest notes.

ROMANTIC AND NARRATIVE GENRES

Ballades

The Ballade was known as a vocal genre. Only Chopin changed it composing piano ballades. The most popular among them is:

Ballade in G minor Op. 23



*French first print of Ballade
in F major Op. 38*

Scherzos

The Scherzo (pronounced skerco) means joke in Italian. In reality though, these pieces are not always light and cheerful. Some people describe the scherzo as a bitter joke. Chopin's pieces, composed according to the rules of this genre, are also not too cheerful, they are rather dramatic. Two of them deserve special attention:

Scherzo in B minor Op.20
Scherzo in B-flat minor Op. 31

Did you know that...

The idea of the Scherzo in B minor was probably developed because of the loneliness of Chopin on Christmas Eve in Vienna. That is why the piece refers to a Polish carol Lulajże Jezuniu

Nocturnes

This is the music of the night. The name itself describes their character: romantic, lyrical, calm, melodious with swinging accompaniment. Chopin's nocturnes are exactly like this. The most popular among them:

Nocturne in E minor Op.72
Nocturne in E-flat major Op.9 No. 2
Nocturne in E-flat major Op.15 No. 2
Nocturne in C minor Op. 48 No. 1
Nocturne in F minor Op. 55 No. 1
Nocturne in B major Op.62 No. 1



Nocturnes are associated with night

CLASSICAL FORMS

Interesting

The numbers of Chopin's concertos are not in chronological order – The 2nd Concerto in F minor was composed first and the 1st Concerto in E minor was composed second. The difference was caused by the reversed order of their publishing.

Variations

This name made Chopin laugh. The Italian word variation was translated too directly into Polish and therefore the name suggests a crazy composer. In reality, in this genre various forms of the initial melody called the theme written by the composer or borrowed from another one, are created. Among the variations composed by Chopin these are especially note-worthy:

*Variation in B major Op. 2, based on the aria, **La ci darem la mano** from Mozart's opera **Don Giovanni***

Piano concertos

The concerto is a form in which three parts are put together in contrast: fast-slow-fast. They also differ in character. The Concerto is for a solo instrument accompanied by an orchestra which plays the accompaniment. In a particular place the composer marks the so called cadence, a virtuoso show from the soloist without the orchestra. It is worth listening to both Chopin's concertos:

*Concerto in E minor Op. 11
Concerto in F minor Op. 21*



In piano concertos, the orchestra accompanies the soloist – pianist

Other important compositions

Some other compositions by Chopin need to be mentioned: **Barcarole in F-flat major Op.60, Lullaby (Berceuse) in D-flat major Op. 57 and Sonata in B minor Op.35** with the famous **Funeral March**, which was performed at Chopin's funeral on 30th October 1849 in Paris.

Funeral March
(from Sonata, Op. 35, No. 2)

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)
arr. by b.papoki

Lento

Chopin – piano virtuoso

The piano accompanied Chopin from his birth. Frycek first played it at the age of three. Initially he recreated the melodies he had heard. Later he improvised music to stories he invented, he improved his technical skills, finally – he performed his own compositions. Sometimes he played with his sister Ludwika with four hands. He quickly gained fame as a child prodigy in Warsaw and was even called the “second Mozart”.

The master's favourite pianos

Chopin played on different pianos, but especially on instruments made by Pleyel and Erard. He had a special arrangement with the Pleyel Company: he could use their pianos for free, advertising them in return among his students and at concerts. The son of the founder of the company, Camille Pleyel was also Chopin's friend. Some of the composer's Parisian concerts took place in the Pleyel Hall. In addition he “tested” new pianos and his opinions were important in improving the construction of the instrument.



*The last Pleyel Piano belonging to the composer.
It is now in the Frederic Chopin Museum in Warsaw*

Not only a pianist

Chopin played not only the piano. In the Warsaw period he also learned how to play the organ. When he was in the last grade of high school, he played at Mass for pupils of the Warsaw Lycee in the Church of the Sisters of the Visitation. He also liked to experiment. At the age of fifteen he played on the Eolipantalion – an instrument constructed by Józef Długosz. Tsar Alexander I listened to his eolimelodikon concert and gave him a diamond ring.



Chopin played the organ in the Church of the Sisters of the Visitation when he was still a pupil at the Warsaw Lycee



*Giraffe piano in the
Frederic Chopin Museum*

Concerts for the aristocracy

Places where the little favourite of Warsaw gave concerts include: the Radziwiłłowski Palace, Belvedere, Holy Trinity Evangelic Church as well as homes of the gentry and aristocracy: the Czartoryski, Sapieha, Radziwiłł, Skarbek, Sowiński, Zamoyski families and many others. He also participated in many Musical Soirées. In 1826, when he stayed with his mother and sisters in the Duszniki-Zdrój health resort, he performed at two charity concerts. To commemorate this, the International Chopin Festival takes place there every year. Chopin had his first great and successful international concert in Vienna. In a short time Frédéric became a famous European pianist. He was the favourite of Parisian parlours. All his concerts were received with great enthusiasm. He was called the “piano king”, “Rafael of Piano” and the “aristocrat of the piano”.



The International Chopin Festival takes place every year in Duszniki-Zdrój

Chopin's original Instruments

Only a few pianos on which Chopin played survived to our present day. Every once in a while word circulates around the world that another piano has been found but this news proves to be false and no other instrument has been identified. In 2007, however, Chopin's piano was found in the property of Hatchlands (Surrey County) in England. Numerous experts confirmed its authenticity. It is one of the last surviving instruments of the great Polish genius. In 2009 it was discovered that the Jagiellonian University in Krakow has not one, as it was believed, but two pianos on which Chopin played. One belonged to him; the second one was chosen by him for Duchess Katarzyna Potocka – Branicka.



Miroslav Kultyshev plays Chopin



*The cast
of the Chopin's
left hand*

The most important contemporary Chopin events

Frederic Chopin's music is very popular all around the world. Both in Poland and abroad there are many marvellous events connected with Chopin's creative work. These include prestigious piano competitions, plein – air events open for everyone. Here you will find the most important moments in the Chopin concert calendar.

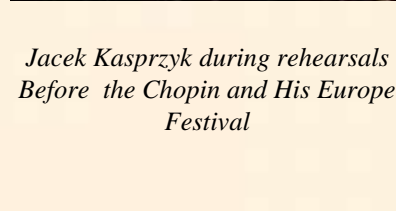
Events in Poland

Poland, Chopin's homeland, commemorates him in various ways. Numerous artistic events connected with the great pianist and composer take place regularly. The most important among them include:

- ❖ **International Chopin Festival in Duszniki-Zdrój** – the oldest festival in Poland and in the world, has taken place during the summer without any breaks since 1946;
- ❖ **Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition**, held every five years in Warsaw since 1927 created at the initiative of Prof. Jerzy Żurawlew;
- ❖ **Chopin in Autumn Colours International Festival in Antonin** – commemorating Chopin's visit to the real estate of Duke Antoni Henryk Radziwiłł in Antonin;
- ❖ **Chopin and His Europe International Music Festival** – organized since 2005 by Frederic Chopin Institute;
- ❖ **Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition for Children and Adolescents** – held every year in Szafarnia since 1993;
- ❖ **International Children Chopin Competition** – held in Zielona Góra since 1999 every three year;
- ❖ **International Chopin Competition Chopin for the Youngest** – held in Antonin since 1992 every two years;
- ❖ **Chopiniana** – Warsaw festival during which musicians play Chopin's pieces in places connected with the composer. Concerts are accompanied by artistic events featuring other art genres inspired by Chopin's music;
- ❖ **Chopin Youth Interpretations** – festival held in Żychlin near Konin;
- ❖ **Frederic Chopin National Piano Competition** – a competition held in Warsaw since 1968;
- ❖ **International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition for Amateurs** – the first edition took place in Warsaw in 2009, future editions are planned every three years.



15th Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition in 2005



Jacek Kasprzyk during rehearsals Before the Chopin and His Europe Festival



In summer, concerts are held in front of Chopin's monument in Warsaw Royal Baths Park



Famous winners of the International Piano Competition

The Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw is the most important. It gathers talented pianists from the entire world who are critically judged by an international jury often consisting of winners from previous years. International concert halls and recording studios open for the winners.

The most prominent winners of the competition include: *Lew Oborin, Stanisław Szpinalski, Witold Małcużyński, Bella Davidovich, Janusz Olejniczak, Ewa Pobłocka, Tatiana Shebanova, Wladimir Ashkenazy, Fou Ts'ong, Maurizio Pollini, Martha Argerich, Garrick Ohlsson. Piotr Paleczny, Krystian Zimerman, Dang Thai Son, Stanislav Bunin, Kevin Kenner, Rafał Blechacz.*



*Rafał Blechacz – the winner of
15th Chopin Competition*



*Yeol Eum Sin from South Korea
playing at the
Chopin Competition in 2005*

Worldwide Events

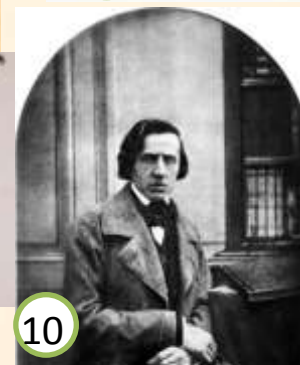
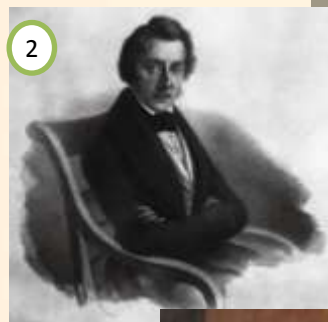
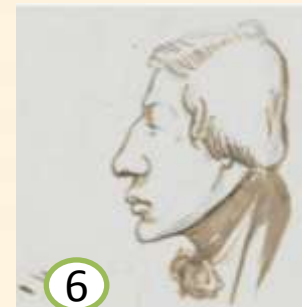
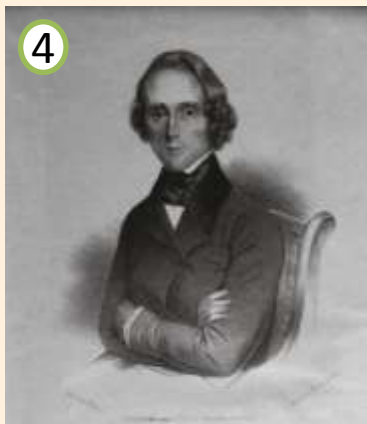
Many cultural events devoted to Chopin are organized around the world. The most important include:

- ❖ **International Piano Competition in Asia, Tokyo** (Japan);
- ❖ **Chopin Competition in Marienbad** (Czech Republic);
- ❖ **International Competition Frederic Chopin for Young Pianists in Moscow** (Russia);
- ❖ **Chopin Competition in Bangkok** (Thailand);
- ❖ **Kościuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition in New York** (USA);
- ❖ **National Chopin Piano Competition of the United States in Miami** (USA);
- ❖ **Chopin Piano Competition for Young Pianists in San Francisco** (USA);
- ❖ **Chopin Competition in Gottingem** (Germany);
- ❖ **Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition in Darmstadt** (Germany).



Frederic Chopin in painting

Chopin's image has been depicted many times by many artists in various forms and ways. His numerous portraits were created during the composer's life and after his death. Chopin posed eagerly and with some of the artists such as Eugene Delacroix, he became friends. He was also the first pianist, who had his photograph taken using the Daguerreotype method.



1. Eliza Radziwiłłówna, Frederic Chopin at the piano
2. Maria Wodzińska, Frederic Chopin
3. Teofil Kwiatkowski, Chopin at home attire
4. Nicolas-Eustache Maurin, Frederic Chopin
5. Teofil Kwiatkowski, Chopin's last moments
6. Pauline Viardot, Frederic Chopin (caricature)
7. George Sand, Frederic Chopin
8. George Sand, Chopin running up the stairs to Madam Marliani (caricature)
9. Eugene Delacroix, Frederic Chopin
10. The only known photo of F. Chopin, 1849. Now it is in private collection.

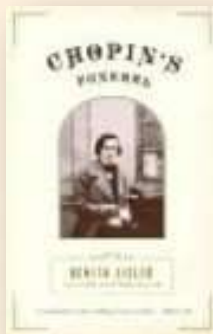
Frederic Chopin in literature

Chopin is also described in literary pieces. Poems, memoirs and biographies about him were and are still created. The best known are:

- ❖ Cyprian Kamil Norwid: Chopin's Piano – an astonishing poem about how the Tsar's soldiers threw Chopin's piano out of a window of the Zamoyiski Palace in Warsaw in 1863
- ❖ Kornel Ujejski: a cycle of poems Chopin's Tranlations, inspired by his music
- ❖ Artur Oppman (Or-Ot): poem Chopin's Concert
- ❖ Władysław Broniewski: poem Szopen's Mazurka
- ❖ Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz: poem Meeting
- ❖ Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz: poem Chopin
- ❖ Maksymilian Rylski: poem Szopen
- ❖ Stanisław Ziembicki: poem Fifth Chopin Competition
- ❖ Wanda Chotomska: poem Rain Prelude
- ❖ Wanda Chotomska: poem Our mama loves music
- ❖ Wanda Chotomska: book and radio-play Mon. Chopin's Music
- ❖ Michał Rusinek: book Young Chopin
- ❖ Michał Rusinek: radio-play Chopin's Menu



Frederic Chopin and
E. L. Voynich
Chopin's Letters



Benita Eisler
Chopin's Funeral



James Huneker
Chopin :
The Man and His Music

Suggestion

New literary, art and music works are still created about Frederic Chopin. He is the principal character in theatre performances and films and ballets are created to his music. The amount of people listening to his music continues to grow. Join the group of Frederic Chopin experts and before going to bed read at least one of the poems mentioned with your parents

Descriptive Poems:

I. Personal: Miscellaneous Chopin

Emma Lazarus

*A dream of interlinking hands, of feet
Tireless to spin the unseen, fairy woof
Of the entangling waltz. Bright eyebeams meet,
Gay laughter echoes from the vaulted roof.
Warm perfumes rise; the soft unflickering glow
Of branching lights sets off the changeful charms
Of glancing gems, rich stuffs, the dazzling snow
Of necks unkerchieft, and bare, clinging arms.
Hark to the music! How beneath the strain
Of reckless revelry, vibrates and sobs
One fundamental chord of constant pain,
The pulse-beat of the poet's heart that throbs.
So yearns, though all the dancing waves rejoice,
The troubled sea's disconsolate, deep voice...*

Chopin in Warsaw



11. **Błękitny Palace** – the venue of Chopin's many concerts (at present the headquarters of the Municipal Transport Board)
12. **National Theatre** – the former building was located at the Krasiński Square but was demolished in 1874 – the venue of Chopin's public concert in Warsaw on 17th March 1830. The next concert took place on 22nd March and the last before his departure from Poland on 11 October 1830
13. **Holy Trinity Evangelic-Augsburg Church** – Chopin performed here for Tsar Alexander I in May 1825 playing the eolmelodikon
14. **The Church of the Sisters of the Visitation** – Chopin played the organ here at Sunday Masses for school children
15. **"Honaratka" Café** – meeting place of Chopin and his friends
16. **"Pani Brzezińska" Café (or "Brzezińska's")** – Chopin's favourite coffeehouse
17. **Church of the Holy Cross** – the church where the urn with Chopin's heart rests
18. **Powązki Cemetery** – where Chopin's family, friends and teacher as well as prominent pianist, the popularisers of his work, rest
19. **Royal Bath** – the Frederic Chopin monument sculpted by Wacław Szymanowski; Sunday Chopin concerts take place here during the spring-summer season

1. **The Saxon Palace** – the place of residence of the Chopin family during 1811 – 1817 (at present it's only remaining part is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier)
2. **Saxon garden** – the favourite place for walk
3. **Kazimierzowski Palace** – the Chopins' apartment and the residence run by the composer's parents were located in the palace's outbuilding between 1817 – 1827 (today it is one of the buildings belonging to the University of Warsaw; a relief depicting the composer can be seen on the building's wall); The Warsaw Lycee, which Chopin attended in 1823 – 1826, was housed in the main building of the Palace (at present the Chancellery of the University of Warsaw – on 25th February 2010 a commemorative plaque was unveiled)
4. **Krasiński Palace** – the Chopins' apartment from 1827 where they moved in after Emilia's death; the place of the Thursday meetings of representatives of Warsaw's intelligentsia (nowadays, the Fine Arts Academy; the Chopin's Parlour was reconstructed and opened to the public, a sign commemorating the composer's stay is fixed on the building's wall)
5. **Warsaw Lycee** – located in the Kazimierzowski Palace, Chopin studied here for three years
6. **Conservatory** – the venue of practical classes for the pupils of the Main School of Music attended by Chopin (at present, part of the Royal Castle Square) – where Chopin accompanied singers for example Konstancja Gładkowska
7. **Radziwiłłowski (Namiestnikowski) Palace** – the venue of Chopin's first concert on 24th February 1818 (at present, the Presidential Palace)
8. **Warsaw Charity Society** – the venue of Chopin's next concert on 24th February 1823 (at present, the headquarters of "Caritas" Catholic Society)
9. **Belvedere** – the venue of many performances Grand Duke Constantine and his wife (nowadays, one of the properties of the President of the Republic of Poland)
10. **Morsztyn Palace** – the venue of Chopin's concert on 19th December 1829 (until recently the headquarters of the PWN Scientific Printing House)

Places connected with Chopin in Mazovia



***Żelazowa Wola** – the composer's place of birth*



***Rościszewo** – a stop on the way to Gdańsk (1827)*



***Sanniki** – Chopin's summer stay at his friend Konstantyn Pruszek*



***Brochów** – St. Roch Church (at present the St. John the Baptist Church), Chopin's parents were married here in 1806 and baptised their son four years later in the church*



***Kowalewo** – a stop on the way to Gdańsk (1827)*



***Płock** – a stop on the way to Gdańsk (1827)*



***Sochaczew** – Chopin paid visits to Gen. Piotr Szembek, playing for him and together*

Chopin in Poland



Interesting

From Chopin's letter to Jana Matuszyński "(...) the biggest impression on me was made by the gingerbread. Although I did see (...) Gothic churches founded by the Teutonic Knights (...) a leaning tower, the famous town hall, (...) the largest peculiarity being that it has as many windows as there are days in the year, as many rooms as there are months and as many offices as there are weeks in the year (...).

1. **Szafarnia** – the property of Dominik Dziewanowski's family where Chopin spent the summers of 1824 and 1825 getting to know Polish folklore and gentry culture
2. **Obrowo**, 3. **Golub** (Golub-Dobrzyń), 4. **Sokowoto** – places visited by Chopin during his vacations in Szafarnia
5. **Toruń** – Chopin visited this town in 1825 during his second summer in Szafarnia
6. **Wrocław** – Chopin visited this town on his way for treatment in the Duszniki-Zdrój resort
7. **Oleśnica** – Chopin stayed here on his way to Duszniki-Zdrój
8. **Duszniki – Zdrój** – the place where Chopin stayed for treatment and where he gave two charity concerts
9. **Kozłowo** – place visited by Chopin on his way to Gdańsk (1827)
10. **Wąplewo** – place visited by Chopin on his way to Gdańsk (1827)
11. **Gdańsk** – Chopin's destination during his trip in 1827
12. **Kalisz** – Chopin visited this town many times on during his trip
13. **Antonin** – Chopin stayed here in 1829 at the invitation of Duke Antoni Radziwiłł
14. **Poznań** – Chopin visited this town on his way to Berlin in 1828
15. **Kraków** – Chopin stayed here in 1829 on his way to Vienna; many mementos of the composer can be found here
16. **Wieliczka**, 17. **Ojców**, 18. **Pieskowa Skała** – the route of Chopin's trip in Małopolska in 1829
19. **Poturzyn** – the property of Tytus Woyciechowski's family Chopin spent the summer of 1830

Chopin in Europe



1. **Berlin** – the destination of Chopin's first trip abroad (1828)
2. **Vienna** – in 1829 Chopin gave his first concerts abroad here with great success; he returned again in 1830 and stayed for 11 months
3. **Prague** – Chopin stayed here while travelling to Vienna in 1829 and 1830
4. **Dresden** – Chopin visited this city on his way to Vienna and when meeting with his family in Karlsbad in 1835; here a year later he proposed to Maria Wodzińska
5. **Linz** – Chopin visited this city in 1831 on his way to Paris
6. **Salzburg** – Chopin visited this city on his way to Paris, he marvelled at the evening bells and visited Mozart's house
7. **Stuttgart** – during his stay in Stuttgart in 1831 Chopin received the news of the collapse of the November Uprising; it caused his despair and a nervous breakdown connected with fear for the safety of his closest friends and relatives
8. **Paris** – the city where Chopin lived abroad, where he died and rests forever
9. **Karlsbad** – the place where Chopin met his parents in 1835
10. **Leipzig** – here in 1835 and 1836 Chopin met the German composer and music critic Robert Schumann who was an admirer of his talent
11. **Heidelberg** – Chopin stayed here in 1835 because he was ill
12. **Marienbad** – here in 1836 Chopin spent almost a month with the Wodziński family
13. **London** – Chopin visited this city incognito in 1837 in the company of Camille Pleyel, who had come here on business; he was here for the second time in 1848 on a concert tour to England and Scotland
14. **Edinburgh** – Chopin stayed here during his concerts in England and Scotland in 1848
15. **Manchester** – Chopin gave a concert here in 1848 with great success
16. **Glasgow** – Chopin gave a concert here in 1848
17. **Barcelona** – a stop on the way to Majorca with George Sand in 1838
18. **Palma de Mallorca** – the first place where Chopin and George Sand stayed on Spanish island from November to December 1838
19. **Valldemossa** – the second place where Chopin stayed in Majorca from December 1838 to February 1839; a bad phase in his illness
20. **Marseilles** – the place where Chopin recovered after his very bad illness in Majorca and after a very exhausting trip by boat
21. **Nohant** – George Sand's property where Chopin spent the summers of 1841-1846 and where he composed many of his masterpieces

"Chopin has done for the piano what Schubert has done for the voice. Chopin is unique as a pianist: he should not and cannot be compared with anyone."

La France Musicale

