

Chopin Day in Rapperswil

Organised by the Arthur Rubinstein International Music Foundation, Lodz
in cooperation with the Polish Museum in Rapperswil

“Chopin Day in Rapperswil” will take place in Rapperswil’s medieval castle, which for almost 140 years has housed the Polish Museum. The event, a cultural collaboration between the Rubinstein Foundation and the Polish Museum, marks the 160th anniversary of the death of Frederic Chopin (Paris, 17/10/1849) and the coming 140th anniversary of the founding of the first Polish museum – the Polish National Museum in Rapperswil (23/10/1870). We would like to raise the profile of Poland’s rich culture in Europe, and we are going to stage the Year of Chopin 2010, which will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Chopin’s birth (Żelazowa Wola, 01/03/1810). We will also celebrate the greatest Polish ‘Chopinist’ (interpreter of Chopin’s works) of the 20th century, Arthur Rubinstein, who was born in Lodz in 1887 and died in Switzerland in 1982, and whose portrait can be seen in the Polish Museum’s Gallery of Distinguished Poles. A week before (17th October 2009) – on the 160th anniversary of Chopin’s death – the foundation is organising “Chopin Day in Lodz”, consisting of a mass, concert and exhibition held in Lodz Cathedral.

Please contact the organisers to reserve places and to receive invitations for the events. In inviting everybody to the celebrations and events, we urge those willing to help out financially or with expertise to contact the Rubinstein Foundation. For more information please visit www.arturrubinstein.pl and www.muzeum-polskie.org

Dear Music Enthusiasts,

2010 will see celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the birth of the brilliant Polish composer Frederic Chopin (this year is the 160th anniversary of his death). We are looking forward to a series of musical events, exhibitions and publications. An excellent introduction to the Year of Chopin 2010 will be “Chopin Day in Rapperswil”.

Lodz has played a significant role in making the composer’s works popular. It was in our city that the brilliant virtuoso and exceptional interpreter of Chopin’s compositions, Arthur Rubinstein, was born. His daughter – Eva Rubinstein – will be at the celebrations; her presence and an accompanying exhibition will bring the personality of this eminent citizen of Lodz to mind.

It is a pleasure to support this event and I am delighted that it has been prepared in collaboration with the Polish Museum in Rapperswil. Such international cultural undertakings bring local communities from different parts of Europe together. They show that artistic genius transcends borders.

I would like to thank the Arthur Rubinstein International Music Foundation in Lodz, which once again is putting on an interesting cultural event promoting Polish culture. I wish you all an enjoyable “Chopin Day in Rapperswil”. I am sure the music of this great composer will make it a memorable occasion.

Włodzimierz Fisiak, Marshal of the Lodz Region



Town square in front of entrance to castle courtyard, Rapperswil (May 2009, fot. WG)



Rapperswil Castle and Alps, view from Lake Zurich (courtesy of Polish Museum)

Page 1 – F. Chopin, portrait signed “P.R. Vigneron, 1833”

Chopin Day in Rapperswil – Programme of Events

- 11.00am – guests are received in the Castle, and given a tour of the Polish Museum
- 12.30pm – exhibition entitled *Frederic Chopin – National and Romantic Polish Composer*
- 1.00pm – exhibition of portraits of Arthur Rubinstein – mainly by Eva Rubinstein
- 1.30pm – tea and coffee with Eva Rubinstein and honorary guests; talk on the Polish Museum's history and its collections given by museum director Anna Buchmann
- 2.20pm – lunch at the Castle restaurant
- 3.30pm – visit to the Polish Library
- 6.00pm – concert in the Knights' Hall (300 places):
- reception of guests in the Knights' Hall
 - short talk on Chopin and the cultural alliance between Poland and Switzerland
 - Chopin recital by Yulianna Avdeeva (details over page)
 - tea and coffee will be served during the interval
- Admission to the concert is free, by invitation.
- 8.30pm – ceremonial supper at the Hotel Schwanen restaurant:
- reception of official guests
 - short speech by the organisers and guests of honour
 - toasts, thank-yous, etc.
- Banquet tickets must be bought in advance.



Programme of Piano Recital, Rapperswil Castle, 24 X 2009, 6.00pm

Yulianna Avdeeva – piano

Frederic Chopin:

- *Nocturne D-flat Major, op. 27 Nr. 2*
- *Nocturne C-sharp Minor, op. 27 Nr. 1*
- *Ballade Nr. 3 in A-flat Major, op. 47*
- *Sonata Nr. 2 in B-flat Minor op. 35*
 - Grave – Doppio movimento
 - Scherzo
 - Marche funebre
 - Finale

Intermission


4 Scherzos:

- *Nr. 1 in B Minor, op. 20*
- *Nr. 2 in B-flat Minor, op. 31*
- *Nr. 3 in C-sharp Minor, op. 39*
- *Nr. 4 in E Major, op. 54*

Honorary Patronage: Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Patron – Włodzimierz Fisiak, Marshal of the Lodz Region

Invited Guests of Honour – Eva Rubinstein, Jerzy Buzek (President of the European Parliament), Bogdan Zdrojewski (Minister of Culture), Włodzimierz Fisiak (Marshal of the Lodz Region), Heads of the Canton of St Gallen and the Municipality of Rapperswil-Jona.

Main Sponsor –  Amcor Rentsch (President Jerzy Czubak)



Signed portrait of Chopin "F. Winterhalter Paris 1847"

Life of Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

- 1810: 1st March: Frederic Chopin is born in Żelazowa Wola near Warsaw, on the estate of Count Skarbek. His parents, Nicolas Chopin (1771–1844), a private tutor originally from France, and Justyna Krzyżanowska (1782–1861), of the Polish noblesse, they have four children: Ludwika, Frederic, Izabela and Emilia.

Autumn: the Chopins move to Warsaw, where they are accommodated in a tutor's apartment at the Saxon Palace, which at that time housed the Warsaw Lyceum.

- 1817 : the Young Frederic writes his first compositions, and is receiving music lessons from Wojciech Żywny.

- 1818: 22nd February Chopin gives his first public performance at the Radziwiłł Palace (now the seat of the President of the Polish Republic), during which he is proclaimed the second Mozart.

- 1823–1826: pupil at the Warsaw Lyceum. He undergoes treatment at the spa town Duszniki Zdrój (Bad Reinertz) and on his way back spends a week at Prince Antoni Radziwiłł's palace in Antonin (1826)

- 1826–1829: student at the School of Music, part of Warsaw University. He begins lessons with Józef Elsner, who sums up Chopin thus: "remarkable ability, musical genius". His two piano concertos are composed (in E Minor and F Minor). Chopin and his teacher become good friends.
- 1828: Chopin travels to Berlin and in 1829 to Vienna; 11th August he premieres *Variations B-flat Major*, on the theme *Là ci darem la mano* from the opera *Don Juan* by Mozart.
- 1827–1830: the Chopins live in rented apartments at Krasiński Palace at 5, Krakowskie Przedmieście. This will be Frederic's last address in Warsaw.
- 1829: in spring he catches a glimpse of the singer Konstancja Gładkowska, and by autumn he harbours a secret love for her. She remains his deep, platonic love.
- 1830: 17th March, at the National Theatre he gives the first performance of his *Piano Concerto in F Minor* and he also plays his *Fantasy for Orchestra in A*, conducted by K. Kurpinski; on 22nd March he performs his *Concerto in F Minor* and the *Rondo à la Krakowiak*; on 11th October he plays a farewell concert, performing his *Concerto in E Minor* and *Fantasy on Polish Airs*.
- 1830: 5th November Chopin leaves Poland (the Kingdom of Poland) for good.
- 1831: after stops in Dresden, Vienna, Munich and Stuttgart, he arrives in Paris. There he keeps in close contact with Polish émigrés; Mondays he tends to visit Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski.
- 1835: Chopin is engaged to Maria Wodzińska; however, her family refuse to allow the wedding, as he is far too ill for a woman from such a noble background.
- 1836: Chopin first meets the writer George Sand, which leads to a fulfilled relationship, albeit turbulent, toxic and taxing on the composer; it lasts for 11 years.
- 1838: Frederic and George visit Majorca; he works on his 24 Preludes.
- 1844: Chopin's father dies.
- 1847: after increasingly frequent rows with Sand their friendship ends and they go their separate ways. His health further deteriorates.
- 1848: a tour of England and Scotland doesn't benefit him in any way, and he returns exhausted.
- 1849: at the end of his life Chopin weighs 44kg. He dies in Paris two hours after midnight on 17th October 1849. He is 39.



Photo by Eva Rubinstein

the Maestro's public speeches defending Poland's dignity: his appeals to American politicians during both World Wars, and most memorably, his dignified defiance during the concert at the inauguration of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945. On noticing the absence of the Polish flag, he changed the programme of his recital and played the Polish National Anthem. For this patriotic act he was awarded a diploma of the Polish Arts League of Pittsburgh by America's Polonia, "on behalf of the millions of Poles in the United States". (The diploma is in the History of Lodz Museum, part of the collection in the Arthur Rubinstein Music Gallery.) Rubinstein also gave both financial and material support to Polish musicians, artists, poets, writers, and institutions and made donations for the rebuilding and preservation of historical monuments. Karol Szymanowski (Poland's successor to Chopin, and Rubinstein's friend) wrote to his mother of how Arthur had given him free use of his checkbook. Rubinstein also donated his earnings from engagements in Poland to fund cultural institutes and grants for young musicians.

Arthur Rubinstein had four children with Nela Młynarska: Eva, Paul, Alina and John.

He died on 20th December 1982 in Geneva.

Manor house in Żelazowa Wola, where Chopin was born (taken 2009)





Eva Rubinstein will be guest of honour at the “Chopin Day in Rapperswil”. Her portraits of Arthur Rubinstein will be shown in the museum.

She was born in Buenos Aires in 1933, the first of the four children of Arthur Rubinstein and Aniela Mlynarska. They lived in Paris until the war broke out; then the Rubinsteins emigrated to the United States. Since 1946 Eva has been a citizen of the U.S. Educated as a classical dancer since she was 5, she later studied at the Theater Department of the University of California. She danced and performed on Broadway and „off Broadway”, and had tours around Europe. Photography came later. Married and divorced, she has two children and three grandchildren.

Inspired by Sean Kernan in 1967 she started a new experience with photography. Studying photography for a short period she referred to the experience and instruction of such renowned authorities as Lisette Model, Jim Hughes, Ken Heyman and Diane Arbus. At present she lives in New York

where she works as a professional documentary and portrait photographer. She also photographs nudes, interiors and exteriors. She gives photography workshops and seminars in the United States and abroad. Her pictures are published in numerous books, magazines and photographic publications in the States, Europe and South America. She has published several books: *Eva Rubinstein* published in 1974 by Morgan & Morgan, *Eva Rubinstein* published in Milan in 1983 by Fabbri in the series “Great Photographers”, *Lodz – Brief Encounters* (Lodz 1998), *Eva Rubinstein. Fotografie 1967–1990* published by Kropka in Września, 2003. The individual artistic output of Eva Rubinstein has been exhibited in galleries all over the world nearly a hundred times since 1970, and as many collective exhibitions have included her photographs. The Art Museum in Łódź was the first in Poland to have her works exhibited in 1984; the same year they were shown in Cracow, Warsaw and Katowice, and later they traveled to other Polish towns. A large retrospective of her photographs took place at Zachęta in Warsaw in 1996.

Eva Rubinstein’s first artistic contact with Poland dates back to a dramatic and sad period in the history of the Polish nation – it was the time soon after Martial Law had been lifted; a time of deep frustration, injustice and misery which badly affected the whole society. Łódź, as an industrial city, was particularly vulnerable to the mood of those days. No wonder then that a highly sensitive individual was especially inspired to react to the first contact with her father’s home town. Talks with the then Director of the Museum of Lodz History, Antoni Szram, resulted in the idea of preserving the spirit of those days. Fascinated with the challenge, the artist decided to treat it as her personal testimony. Maciek Maciejewski, assistant at the Museum, was her guide in Lodz and its environs. In 1984 a series of photographs consisting of some thousand pictures was created. This album comprises the author’s selection of the latter enriched with a few later images.

This is not a mere collection of city sights and was never meant to be. Like a puzzle consisting of particular elements: streets, interiors, graveyards, portraits which all together form an image, this is the image of the city perceived by someone who experiences an emotional sensation at the first sight on her first visit. Each subsequent outing with the camera in this town brought about new observations. Contacts with the citizens lead to other levels of understanding of the life of Lodz in those days. As the artist says herself – brief encounters became less brief, and could not remain superficial. Each photographic session developed an invisible link, evoked understanding and even sympathy. Each encounter with the city tinted the film as well as the memory of the artist. It remained only to arrange the images into a personal mosaic of impressions, puzzles, emotions. Though obvious in its universal character, to us it is the picture of Poland in the 1980’s.

The Arthur Rubinstein International Music Foundation was founded in 2006 in Lodz, Poland, where Rubinstein was born and spent his early childhood. The Foundation’s board consists of Anna Wesolowska-Firlej (Chair), Wojciech Grochowalski (General Secretary) and Agnieszka Trocha (Member of the Board). Inspiration for the Foundation came from the late Jan J. Bistrizky and members of Arthur Rubinstein’s family, primarily with the aim of holding the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Festival. Founder and director of both the Foundation and the Rubinstein Piano Festival is **Wojciech Grochowalski** (b. 1958), publisher, columnist and journalist. He has conceived and put together events promoting culture and Poland in Lodz, Poland and abroad. He also seeks to promote young musicians, in particular pianists. The inaugural Rubinstein Piano Festival took place in Lodz in 2008, and in addition to such renowned pianists as Emanuel Ax, Alexander Gavrylyuk, Kirill Gerstein, and Alexander Korsantia, a number of young artists performed: Yulianna Avdeeva, Denis Zhdanov, Roman Rabinovich, Joanna Marcinkowska, Hubert Rutkowski and Wojciech Waleczek, all recent winners of Rubinstein piano competitions in Bydgoszcz or Tel Aviv. Lodz Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra (Katowice) also took part. The second Rubinstein Piano Festival, planned to take place towards the end of February 2011, will include performances from Daniel Barenboim, Garrick Ohlsson, Emanuel Ax and Yo Yo Ma, young pianists from Poland and abroad, plus at least two symphony orchestras.

Grochowalski has edited Lodz magazine *Kultura i Biznes* (*Culture & Business*) since 2002, has written several history books and published over 130 titles about Lodz and Poland written by both native and expatriate Polish authors. A horse and Polish cavalry enthusiast, he is a member of the Cavalry Society (in addition to the Society of Journalists). He has produced numerous exhibitions on Marshal Józef Piłsudski, Chopin and Rubinstein. It was Grochowalski’s idea that Polish Parliament declare 2007 the Year of Arthur Rubinstein, and in cooperation with the Museum of Lodz History he organised a number of musical events financed by Lodz City Council, including “Lodz Pianists in homage to Arthur Rubinstein”. 2009 has seen him putting together a number of cultural events celebrating Frederic Chopin.

Museum of Lodz History (garden), photo by Eva Rubinstein





Adam Harasiewicz (winner of 5th International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition in 1955 in Warsaw) on Yulianna Avdeeva:

Avdeeva's performances are absolutely phenomenal. All she touches sounds wonderful. She has perfect intuition, magnificent sound, and technical excellence.

Yulianna Avdeeva was born in Moscow in 1985. An exceptionally gifted young pianist, she has won numerous international piano competitions. At the age of 12 she was First Prize winner at the International Carl Czerny Young Pianists Competition in Prague. Aged 14 she won the All-Russian Open Music Competition in Moscow. Two years later in 2002 she won First Prize at the 5th 'Arthur Rubinstein in Memoriam' Young Pianists Competition in Bydgoszcz (Rafal Blechacz came second). The same year she won the A.M.A. Calabria International Piano Competition. She was awarded top prizes at the Bremer Klavierwettbewerb in 2003 and at the

'Citta di Cantú' International Competition for Piano and Orchestra in 2005. Avdeeva also won Second Prize at the 61ieme Concours de Genève in 2006 (no First Prize was awarded) and Second Prize at the VII International Paderewski Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz in 2007 (which was won by Nikita Mndoyants from Russia).

Yulianna began her piano studies when she was five years old at the Gnessin Special Music College in Moscow, where she studied under Elena Ivanova –who was to remain her teacher there. After completing school, Avdeeva decided to study abroad with Professor Konstantin Sherbakov at the Zuercher Hochschule der Kuenste in Switzerland, while at the same time continuing her studies in Moscow at the Russian Gnessin Academy of Music with Professor Vladimir Tropp.

Since her early childhood Yulianna Avdeeva has travelled around the world – performing concerts in more than 30 countries as far afield as Japan. She has played at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory concert halls and at the International House of Music in Moscow, and at numerous European venues, including the Barbican Centre in London, the Boesendorfer-Saal and the Karajan Center in Vienna, the Warsaw Philharmonic, and the Tonhalle in Zurich.

Yulianna Avdeeva's outstanding and highly successful interpretations of works by Liszt, Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev reflect only a small part of her artistic spectrum. Her extensive, ever increasing repertoire consists of piano concertos, solo works and chamber music, and encompasses the baroque and contemporary eras: from Mozart, Scarlatti, Bach, Beethoven and Chopin to Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Szymanowski, and also Paderewski – on whom she wrote her dissertation at the Moscow Academy of Music.

In December 2007, Avdeeva made a recording of Beethoven's *Grosse Sonate für das Hammerklavier* op. 106.

In 2008 Yulianna performed at numerous piano festivals: the Festival de Menton in France, the 'Chopin and his Europe' Festival in Warsaw, the 'Rubinstein Piano Festival' in Lodz, the 'Musical Olympus' in St. Petersburg, in Winterthur with the Musikkollegium Winterthur, and in Mexico City, as well as a series of recitals in several countries, including Switzerland. In March 2009 she was on tour in a number of Polish cities, organised by the Arthur Rubinstein Foundation.

While Yulianna Avdeeva continues to develop her talent and widen her repertoire, besides her artistry and vitality she's a charming, sensitive woman, who presents an elegant figure on stage, always dressed in striking creations.



Column of Bar (also known as the Column of Liberty) Rapperswil

Polish Museum in Rapperswil

The first Polish museum was founded in Rapperswil on 23rd October 1870 by Count Wladyslaw Broel-Plater (who fought in the November 1830 Uprising and died in 1889). Today the museum is cultivating the traditions of the National Polish Museum, which was established 140 years ago. The charming town of Rapperswil-Jona (Swiss-German speaking; pop. approx. 24 thousand) lies on the shores of Lake Zurich in the Canton of St. Gallen. On the castle hill can be found the Column of Bar (photo), also known as the Column of Liberty, or to the locals, the Column of Poland, which was erected by Count Plater to commemorate the Bar Confederation. It bears the inscription *Magna Res Libertas* (Liberty is a Great Thing). The museum is a good advertisement for the town.

The Count leased the 13th century castle – which was in a poor state of repair – for 99 years. He restored the building (he saved it from ruin in effect) added a storey, and put on a roof. Then, with fellow Poles, he founded the

first Polish museum, in order “to present truthfully and independently Polish Christian culture and its contribution to western civilization”. The museum gathered artifacts related to Poland: manuscripts, books, documents, works of art such as pictures and engravings, old cartography, coins, and weapons, and their most treasured relic, an urn containing the heart of Tadeusz Kościuszko. In October 1927 the museum's collection was transported to a now independent Poland (in accordance with instructions in the Count's will) and the castle was taken over by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A 'second museum' was established – the Museum of Contemporary Poland. After World War II “diplomats” from the People's Republic of Poland opened the “Museum of the Revolution” at the castle; however, the Swiss authorities weren't at all impressed and reneged on the lease, and in 1951 the agreement with Poland was terminated in court. It wasn't until 1954 when the Swiss-Polish Society of Friends of the Polish Museum in Rapperswil was formed (still doing excellent work today), that Poles were again allowed to hold meetings at the castle and put on exhibitions. In 1975 permission was given to lease a few rooms, and the Polish Museum in Rapperswil was opened – the third one, so to speak. The museum is independent of Warsaw authorities and is largely intended for the Swiss and foreigners. The museum director is Anna Buchmann.

The Society of Friends of the Polish Museum in Rapperswil leases museum rooms from the local municipality of Rapperswil, which owns the castle. The museum's valuable collections include Copernicus's famous work, and J. Wujek's Polish translation of the Bible – both printed in the 16th century in Basel, and views of 18th century European cities, painted by the court artist to King of Poland Stanislaw August. It also contains paintings by Polish masters such as Brandt, Chelmonski, Wierusz-Kowalski, Boznanska, Axentowicz, Kossak, Falat, and Wyczółkowski. At one time, the distinguished Polish novelist Stefan Żeromski worked as the museum's librarian, and Ignacy Jan Paderewski was an honorary member of the museum.



Łódźkie



Marshal
of the Łódź Region



ŁÓDŹ EUROPEAN
CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2016
candidate
www.lodz2016.com



Coat of arms of Łódź



Arthur Rubinstein International Music Foundation in Łódź

ul. Piotrkowska 112
90-007 Łódź
Tel. +48-042-632-79-39
fax. 632-94-58
fundacja@arturrubinstein.pl
www.arturrubinstein.pl

The foundation is a non-profit organisation and any financial support is gratefully received.
Donations can be made to the following account:

Foundation address: ul. Piotrkowska 112, 90-007 Łódź (Poland)
Bank: Powszechna Kasa Oszczędności Bank Polski SA
Bank address: I Oddział w Łodzi, Kościuszki 15, 90-959 Łódź
Account no. (CHF): **81 1020 3352 0000 1202 0150 9207**
SWIFT: BPKOPLPW
Account no. (PLN): **PKO BP 62 1020 3352 0000 1602 0113 9104**

Polish Museum / Polenmuseum /

Schloss Rapperswil
Postfach 1251
CH-8640 Rapperswil
Switzerland
Tel.: 0041 (0)55 210 18 62,
fax: 0041 (0)55 210 06 62
muzeum.polskie@muzeum-polskie.org
www.muzeum-polskie.org



Published by Arthur Rubinstein International Music Foundation in Łódź
Compiled by Wojciech Grochowalski, translated by Ben Brewer, Łódź, August 2009

Amcor – main sponsor of Chopin Day in Rapperswil



Amcor is a world leader in innovative packaging

