

Chicago Chopin Society Gala Concert
"If Chopin met Paderewski"
Featuring the Lincolnwood (IL) Chamber Orchestra

Chopin Society founder and president, composer and pianist Jarosław Gołombiowski, put together a spectacular program in Skokie, IL, a suburb of Chicago. The centerpiece of the program was the North American premiere of a long-lost work of Paderewski, the incomplete Suite in G major for string orchestra (see program note at the end of this article), brilliantly performed by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra under conductor Philip Simmons.

The full program was:

Paderewski: Legend No. 1 in A-flat major, Op. 16 no. 1

Jarosław Gołombiowski, piano

Chopin: Polonaise in A major, Op. 40 no. 1 ("Military")

Daniel Majcher, piano (17-year-old student of Jarosław)

Chopin: *Leci liście z drzewa* (A leaf falls from a tree) Op. 74 no. 17

Marlena Dziś, soprano, Jarosław Gołombiowski, piano

Paderewski: *Hej Orle Białe* (Hey, White Eagle)

Michał Sadowski, tenor

Vocal arrangements of Chopin Mazurkas by Pauline Viardot:

Aime-moi, Mazurka Op. 33 no. 2

L'oiselet, Mazurka Op. 68 no. 2

Seize ans, Mazurka Op. 50 no. 2

Marlena Dziś, soprano, Jarosław Gołombiowski, piano

Paderewski: Mazurka Op. 9 no. 2

Jarosław Gołombiowski, piano

Chopin: *Jakież kwiaty, jakież wianki* (What flowers, what wreaths)

Originally for a capella voice, here with piano accompaniment arr. Gołombiowski

Marlena Dziś, soprano, Jarosław Gołombiowski, piano

Chopin: *Wiosna* (Spring) Op. 74 no. 2

Marlena Dziś, soprano, Jarosław Gołombiowski, piano

Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, Philip Simmons, Founder and Music Director

Mieczysław Karłowicz: Finale from Serenade for Strings Orchestra Op. 2

Chopin: Preludes from Op. 28, arr. P. Simmons

No. 4 Largo

No. 7 Andantino

No. 20 Largo

No. 22 Molto agitato

Paderewski: Suite in G major for Strings (North American premiere)

Paderewski: March from the opera *Manru*, arr. P. Simmons

Michał Ogiński: Polonaise *Pożegnanie Ojczyzny* (Farewell to the Fatherland), arr. Ilya Levinson

All of these were performed splendidly, but the standout was Marlena Dziś who sang with a clear, powerful voice that cut through the unfortunate noise from a raucous event in the adjoining section of the ballroom. Her coloratura was simply amazing.

For the accompaniment to the a capella song, Jarosław used harmonies from a piano Mazurka in the key of G major, Op. 30 no. 1. He also provided informative and sometimes humorous verbal commentary throughout.

Congratulations to Jarosław for putting together a beautiful program. It was an artistic and social triumph.

Paderewski: Suite in G major for String Orchestra

Composed in January-March 1884

Though Ignacy Jan Paderewski composed the Suite in G major in 1884, it remained unknown for decades, and parts of it were first published only in 1997, over a century later. Little is known about the origin of this work; some basic facts were established by musicologist Małgorzata Perkowska-Waszek at the Fryderyk Chopin Institute, Warsaw. Drawing on Paderewski's correspondence, the suite was written during his studies in Berlin with the violinist and composer Heinrich Urban (1837–1901). Paderewski refers to it as "written in the form of a march," as the first movement is a march-like Allegro. He composed it as a student piece and notes in a letter that he does not attach much weight to it since it likely had slight chance of publication. Upon discovery of the score, it finally was included in Volume X of The Complete Works of Ignacy Jan Paderewski published by Musica Iagellonica in 1997, 113 years after the composer set it to paper.

Further movements followed the Allegro: Scherzo, Adagio and Finale. Only two of these were found completed, the Allegro and Scherzo. The Adagio was found unfinished (consisting of only 14 measures) and only a fragment of the Finale exists. It is known that the Suite in G major was completed by Paderewski, although the entire manuscript has not been found to date.

The two-movement suite had its contemporary world premiere in Kraków in June of 1998. At the behest of Jerzy Stankiewicz, the director of the X International Festival of Kraków Composers, AUKSO—the Chamber Orchestra of the City of Tychy, performed the piece under the baton of Marek Moś in the Florianka recital hall of the Academy of Music. AUKSO has recorded the suite and since the premiere, the composition has become part of Paderewski's repertoire, frequently performed in Poland. Tonight's performance by the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra under the auspices of the Chicago Chopin Society is the debut of the Suite in G major in North America.

Above notes were provided by Jerzy Stankiewicz, musicologist and vice-president of the Association of Polish Composers, Kraków branch. Translation by Barbara Mirecki