



CANADIAN
CHOPIN
SOCIETY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN CHOPIN SOCIETY

Impromptu

ISSUE 1 • MARCH 2012

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Message from the Artistic Director

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we launch the first issue of "Impromptu", the biannual newsletter of the Canadian Chopin Society. This publication will keep you informed about the events of the newly formed Society. We will share our goals and dreams for the future, along with updates on our endeavors and accomplishments. We will also feature articles on a wide range of topics related to the life and music of Chopin, reviews of books and recordings and concert listings.

In this inaugural issue, we are pleased to present a look back on the exciting Chopin celebrations of 2010, news on the wonderful achievements and accomplishments of the talented prizewinners of the Third Canadian Chopin Piano Competition and

updates on the creation of the Canadian Chopin Society.

The success of these events, and the evolution of the Canadian Chopin Competitions over the past decade would not have been possible without the leadership of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation, and the commitment of our volunteer committee, our partner organizations and the "Friends of Chopin". We are deeply appreciative and grateful for your continued support of our initiatives and participation in our events.

We invite all who feel admiration, affection and passion for the music of Chopin to join us as we continue to celebrate his legacy.

Dr. Janet Lopinski
Artistic Director

CANADIAN CHOPIN SOCIETY
4300 Cawthra Road
Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 1V8

chopinsociety@bell.net

*"Simplicity is the highest goal, achievable when you have overcome all difficulties. After one has played a vast quantity of notes and more notes, it is simplicity that emerges as the crowning reward of art."
- Fryderyk Chopin*

CANADIAN CHOPIN FESTIVAL 2010



The Canadian Chopin Festival 2010 held at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre from February 26 to March 6, was one of many celebratory events around the world in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin. The opening concert, featuring Li Wang and Avan Yu, first prize winners of the First and Second Canadian Chopin Competitions, set the stage for an exciting week of rich musical offerings. Concerts, workshops, lectures and master classes by leading Chopin specialists provided the opportunity for audiences to become immersed in the music of the master.



FESTIVAL EVENTS

OPENING CONCERT

Featuring pianists Li Wang and Avan Yu

PERFORMANCE SHOWCASES

Dr. Jennifer Snow and Dr. Kent McWilliams

MASTER CLASSES

James Anagnoson, Krzysztof Jablonski
and Lee Kum Sing

DISCOVER THE DANCES

Lecture-Demonstration
Dr. Kent McWilliams and the
Lechowia Polish Dance Ensemble

CHOPIN'S 200th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Featuring a recital by Krzysztof Jablonski,
Jury Chair

CHOPIN'S GREATEST WORKS

Lecture-recital by William Aide

THE MUSES WHO INSPIRED THE MASTERS

Lecture-recital by Dr. Janet Lopinski, with soprano
Paulina Swierczek

THE POET OF THE PIANO

Lecture by Dr. Alan Walker

CHOPIN AND FRIENDS

A Parisian Salon Recital

Featuring Maciej Bujnowicz, Jun Fujimoto,
Krzysztof Jablonski, Janet Lopinski,
Paulina Swierczek, Valerie Tryon, Thomas Yu
and special guest Anastasia Rizikov,
First Prize winner, Junior Division

THE THIRD CANADIAN CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

The highlight of the festival was the Third Canadian Chopin Piano Competition. A total of 31 accomplished young Canadian pianists competed in the Junior and Senior divisions. The competition unfolded over a six-day period, with enthusiastic audiences applauding the outstanding performances while the distinguished jury selected prize winners in both categories.



THE JURY

Krzysztof Jablonski, chair
Leslie Kinton
Lee Kum Sing
James Parker
Patricia Parr
Valerie Tryon
Li Wang

The Gala Winners Concert in the magnificent Koerner Hall served as a brilliant finale to the week of festivities. The presentation of awards and prizes was followed by performances by the First, Second and Third prize winners of the Junior and Senior Division of the Third Canadian Chopin Piano Competition. The hall was filled to capacity and the audience included representatives of our partner organizations and the musical community. The master of ceremonies was John van Driel of the New Classical 96.3 FM, our media sponsor.



The Canadian Chopin Festival 2010 is grateful for the invaluable support of its sponsors, patrons and partner organizations including,

THE MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FOUNDATION, THE MARIE CURE SKLODOWSKA ASSOCIATION, YAMAHA CANADA, THE POLISH CREDIT UNION, CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN TORONTO, CITY OF MISSISSAUGA, ORCHESTRAS MISSISSAUGA, THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY, THE W. REYMONT FOUNDATION, THE ADAM MICKIEWICZ FOUNDATION, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #9612, THE GREAT WEST LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, CLASSICAL 96.3
and many others.

THE THIRD CANADIAN CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

SENIOR DIVISION WINNERS

We are proud of the accomplishments of the winners of The Third Canadian Chopin Piano Competition and wish them all the best as they pursue their musical dreams.



First Prize Winner
Leonard Gilbert

www.leonardgilbert.com

Pianist **Leonard Gilbert** represented the Canadian Chopin Competition at the 16th International F. Chopin Competition in Warsaw in October 2010. He was the only Canadian selected for the competition and distinguished himself by advancing to the second round. Other achievements include winning 3rd prize at the Paderewski Competition in Los Angeles, and concert engagements in the United States, Canada and Europe including a performance at the Bayerische Musik Akademie in Germany by invitation from Janina Fialkowska. In 2011 Leonard was named a Young Steinway Artist. He has also given a series of benefit concerts raising funds for Oxfam and in support of the Polish Cultural Centre.



Second Prize Winner
Sijing Yi

Sijing Yi made her debut in a series of concerts with the Fort Worth Symphony under conductor Miguel Harth Bedoya in the spring of 2010. This was followed by a concert tour in southern China, and performances in France, Naples and Germany. Recitals in the USA included the Miami International Piano Festival in autumn of 2011.



Third Prize Winner
Elizabeth Schumann

www.elizabethschumann.com

Elizabeth Schumann graduated from the Université de Montréal with a doctoral degree in the spring of 2011. She has established Project Classical, Inc., a nonprofit organization supporting initiatives to encourage public education and appreciation of classical music. She is also directing Piano Theatre, an inter-arts group founded to create public access to the arts and to engage audiences with innovative combinations of classical music, theatre, literature, art, dance and technology. She remains active as a pianist and is currently preparing for a tour of the USA, Bulgaria, France, England and Italy, including premiere performances of Canadian composer Hugues Leclair's *American Haikus*, a set of 9 solo piano preludes dedicated to her.

THE THIRD CANADIAN CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

JUNIOR DIVISION WINNERS



First Prize Winner
Anastasia Rizikov

www.anastasiarizikov.ca

Anastasia Rizikov was the first prize winner of the Concourse International de Piano in Palma de Mallorca, Spain in 2011, and the first prize winner of the American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition in 2010, leading to a performance in Carnegie Hall. She has performed with the Toronto Sinfonietta under Matthew Jaskiewicz and with the International Symphony Orchestra in Sarnia and was the guest artist at the Canadian Chopin Society's 201st Birthday event.



Second Prize Winner
Nathan Kong

Since participating in the Third Canadian Chopin Competition, **Nathan Kong** has won the First Prize in the Senior Trophy Finals of the Kiwanis Music Festival of Greater Toronto. He was also the first place winner at the 2011 Canadian Music Competition (Age 18 & under). Besides musical achievements, Nathan was also awarded a scholarship to participate in the prestigious Shad Valley Program at Queen's University in July 2011. Nathan will be entering university in the fall of 2012.



Third Prize Winner
Annie Zhou

www.anniezhou.com

Annie Zhou was the youngest prize winner at the 2011 Minnesota International Piano-e-Competition. She has performed with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra conducted by Kent Nagano, the Toronto Sinfonietta conducted by Matthew Jaskiewicz, the Minnesota Orchestra conducted by Mark Russell Smith and in solo recitals in Italy sponsored by Festival Assisi nel Mondo. She was featured in "The 101 Pianists" with Lang Lang at Roy Thompson Hall in November 2011 and was the guest artist at the Canadian Chopin Society's 202nd Birthday party.



Third Prize Winner
Amadeusz Kazubowski-Houston

Amadeusz Kazubowski-Houston has won numerous scholarships and prizes, including 3rd place in the CMC Nationals in 2010 and 1st place in all four categories entered in the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival in 2011. Performances have included the Toronto Sinfonietta Concerto Competition Winners Gala, Mozart Unlaced, Tom Allen's Classical Goodtime Variety Show (CBC/ Peterborough Symphony Orchestra), and solo recitals in Toronto, Peterborough and Poland.

THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL F. CHOPIN COMPETITION

The International F. Chopin Piano Competition was founded in 1927 and is one of the oldest and most prestigious events of its kind. Held every five years in Warsaw, Poland, the competition attracts accomplished young pianists from around the world. Winners have included Maurizio Pollini (1960), Martha Argerich (1965), Garrick Ohlsson (1970), Krystian Zimerman (1975), Yundi Li (2000) and Rafal Blechacz (2005).



The 16th International Chopin Competition began with a Preliminary Round in Warsaw in April 2010. The Canadian Chopin Competition was proud to sponsor prize winners Leonard Gilbert and Elizabeth Schumann's participation. Leonard Gilbert was amongst the 80 pianists selected, and the only Canadian to qualify for the Competition which took place from October 2-23. We congratulate him on advancing to the Second Round (quarter finals) and performing brilliantly at this major event.

THE WINNERS OF THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL F. CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

FIRST PRIZE

Yulianna Avdeeva (Russia)

SECOND PRIZE

Lukas Geniusas (Russia/Lithuania)
and
Ingolf Wunder (Austria)

THIRD PRIZE

Daniil Trifonov (Russia)

FOURTH PRIZE

Evgeni Bozhanov (Bulgaria)



Video archives of competition performances, including those of Mr. Gilbert, can be accessed on the International F. Chopin website:

<http://konkurs.chopin.pl/en/edition/xvi/participants/info/stage/1>

CANADIAN CHOPIN SOCIETY

After the resounding success of the Canadian Chopin Festival 2010 and The Third Canadian Chopin Piano Competition, the time has come to create a Chopin Society in Canada with a national profile.

MISSION

TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF FRYDERYK CHOPIN BY PROMOTING HIS MUSIC, WHILE NURTURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG TALENT BY PROVIDING PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

GOALS

- To maintain a permanent society dedicated to celebrating the legacy of Fryderyk Chopin and promoting young talent.
- To create a permanent display and archives in the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre
- To present annual concerts, workshops and master classes focusing on the music of Chopin
- To publish a bi-annual newsletter
- To organize the Canadian Chopin Piano Competition and Festival every five years - one year prior to the International Chopin Competition in Poland
- To provide the winners of the Canadian Chopin Competition with performance opportunities and sponsor their participation in the International F. Chopin Competition.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the Canadian Chopin Festival 2010 and the evolution of the Canadian Chopin Competition over the past decade would not have been possible without the leadership and initiative of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation. We look forward to maintaining a collaborative relationship with the Foundation and the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, the home of the Chopin Competitions and Festival.

We recognize and appreciate the ongoing support and generosity of Yamaha Canada in sponsoring our annual events.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Janet Lopinski - Artistic Director
Joan Ciupak
Bernice Kinal
Teresa Lasiuk
Henry Lopinski
Anna Lopinski
Lady Misek
Wally Misek
Diane Pogorzelski
Carla Zabek



CANADIAN CHOPIN SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBERS

Araxie Altounian	Gladys and Ben Gryś	Diane and Joe Pogorzelski
Mona Al-Kazemi	Bernice and Michael Kinal	Richard Pyne and Ellen Annor-Adjei
Casimir Bak	Halina and Edward Kossack	Elizabeth and Marek Rabo
Gloria and Rudy Bies	Czeslawa and Roman Krygiel	Kristina and Stan Reitmeier
Anita and Doug Burke	Faye and Robert Kruzel	Jadwiga Rosinska
Sam Chan	Emily Krula	Frank Sobolak and Irene Sepp
Wanda Chmiel	Teresa Lasiuk and Michael Carruthers	Ryta and Robert Stachula
Joan and Julian Ciupak	Elizabeth Lau	Philip Stefaniak
Tatiana and Grzegorz Czajkowska	Greg Lopinski	Janusz and Mariola Swierczek
Mariola and Piotr Dejnicki	Anna and Henry Lopinski	Lorraine and Ed Uba
Maria and Pawel Dubicki	Janet Lopinski	Danuta and Zygmunt Warszawski
June and Karl Fajarczuk	Armandina Maziarczyk	Elizabeth and Joseph Zabek
Anju and Ted Fajarczuk	Lilly and Ron Mech	Carla Zabek and Ralph Cuervo-Lorens
Teresa Fajarczuk	Valerie Merlo	In memory of Marianne Langhorne Turner
Rochelle and Greg Glista	Eva Michalak	In memory of Endre Gaal
Marina Glista	Lady and Wally Misek	
Barbara Glogowski	Alice Piotrowski	



The Canadian Chopin Society welcomes new Founding Members. Benefits include permanent recognition as "Founding Members", bi-annual newsletter, invitation to special events and a commemorative CD. The deadline for Founding Members has been extended to June 30, 2012.

*We invite you to join us!
Membership registration cards can be obtained by e-mail: chopinsociety@bell.net
\$250 Tax receipt provided.*

SAVE THE DATES!

June 6, 2012
Benefit Concert
Leonard Gilbert & Paulina Swierczek

November 24, 2012
Polish Heritage Day
Royal Ontario Museum