

2010 – The Year of Fryderyk Chopin

Chopin Route in Poland

1st of March will see the launch of the Chopin Museum in Warsaw. The Baroque palace with massive basement vaults will house the largest collection of Fryderyk Chopin exhibits. Located on Tamka Street, the Chopin Museum will be the most modern facility of this kind in Europe.

Under the Museum's main courtyard, works are under way to develop the Chopin Centre. It will contain a tourist information centre, a shop, a library and an audio library, a conference room, a café and offices of Chopin institutions such as the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw. **The Centre will open to the public on 2nd February 2010.**

The surroundings of the facilities on Tamka Street will also be transformed: the nearby buildings, pavements, pedestrian flyovers and squares are undergoing a makeover.

Major works are also taking place in Żelazowa Wola and Brochów. The Żelazowa Wola palace will be turned into a culture and education centre. Located 10 km away from Żelazowa Wola, the church in Brochów, where Chopin was baptised, constitutes one of Europe's most unique examples of military and sacral architecture. After its interiors have been restored to their look from Chopin's time and its acoustics improved, the church may now host concerts. **Both the palace and the basilica will open on 23rd April,** the day of the composer's baptism.

Almost **PLN 147 million** have been earmarked for the above investments!

Key events

Among all the events revolving around the Chopin Year, two come to the fore: the October 16th International Chopin Piano Competition and the 6th International Festival "Chopin and his Europe" to be held in August.

What is more, already in January, the Warsaw Philharmonic Hall is launching its Chopin concert series, opening with a performance by Lang Lang. From 22nd February to 1st March, the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw will be holding Special Birthday Concerts, concluding with a Gala Concert at the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera.

In June, Warsaw will host the finale of the famous festival Folle Journée de Nantes, which in 2010 will be devoted to Fryderyk Chopin and his friends. Next year, the Folle Journée de Nantes is scheduled to visit Bilbao, Tokyo, Kanazawa or Rio de Janeiro, to name just a few. The whole world-wide tour will include over 1200 concerts.

Other performances to be held in Poland throughout the Chopin Year are going to feature **Rafał Blechacz, Yundi Li, Martha Argerich, Lang Lang, Dang Thai Son, Garrick Ohlsson, Daniel Barenboim and Frans Bruggen's Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century.**

The Chopin Year has also inspired contemporary artists dealing with domains different than music: the Puppet Theatre in Białystok, the Opera NOVA in Bydgoszcz or the Sary Theatre in Kraków are all preparing topical shows. The producers of the Oscar-winning "Peter

and the Wolf” are working on another animated movie “Project Chopin”, while the National Museum in Warsaw awaits visitors with a wealth of exhibitions, including “Chopin and France: French and Polish art of the first half of the 19th century”.

The National Film Archive will be screening films exploring Chopin motifs, both in Poland and abroad. The Archive is also going to release a topical multimedia publication encompassing feature films, documentaries and newsreels, and launch an Internet portal devoted to Chopin’s presence in film. What is more, more than 30 books and illustrated albums dedicated to Chopin are going to come out in 2010.

Cultural education of children and young people

All Polish provinces have launched school Chopin projects, while the National Centre for Culture is preparing a multimedia package containing lesson plans and teaching ideas for extra-curricular activities. Many culture institutions have also embarked on initiatives such as the “Mazurka – Reactivation” project implemented by the Fabryka Trzciny Art Centre envisaging workshops for pupils and university students. The website chopin2010.pl is going to hold the Online Chopin Contest for the best interpretation of Chopin’s music, open to young artists from all around Poland. On the day of the composer’s death, i.e. 17th October, the International Fryderyk Chopin Test modelled on the Polish National Dictation is going to take place at the Spodek arena in Katowice.

Chopin Year across the world

The Honorary Chopin Year Committees set up in a couple dozen of countries all over the world have gathered prominent representatives of the world of culture and politics, such as Frédéric Mitterrand, René Martin, Bernardo Bertolucci, Umberto Eco, Krzysztof Penderecki, Seamus Heaney, Frank Gehry, Plácido Domingo, Krystian Zimerman, Daniel Barenboim, Li Yundi, Jose Manuel Barroso, Martha Argerich, Prince Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki.

Chopin concerts and projects will be staged at the most famous concert halls of Europe, Asia and America, including Vienna, Berlin or Rome. Special attention should also be put on the Korean Asia-Pacific Chopin Competition and the Chopin Year celebrations in China, already under way now. Many music festivals have dedicated their 2010 editions to Fryderyk Chopin, e.g. the Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival in Germany, the White Nights Festival in Saint Petersburg or the French Folle Journée de Nantes.

Special commemorations are going to be held in Paris, Chopin’s place of residence after leaving Warsaw. Series of Chopin concerts are going to be held by the Cité de la musique, Théâtre des Champs Elysées and the Royal Opera in Versailles.

The musical events will be complemented with exhibitions opening in Paris, Saint Petersburg and Vienna, among others. In Germany, a group of Polish and German illustrators, including Wilhelm Sasnal and Agata Endo Nowicka, is going to develop a comic book on Polish music.

For more information about the Chopin Year, please visit the website www.chopin2010.pl.