



INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUMMARY

1. General characteristic of the four-year activity.
2. „Liszt Evenings” and other concerts.
3. Piano courses and competitions.
4. Members and board of directors of the Society.

1. On 2nd March, four years passed since Ferenc Liszt Society was founded in Wrocław as a nationwide association whose aim was to popularize F. Liszt, his output and his close bonds with Polish culture. The society is engaged in artistic, didactic, popularizing and scientific activities with special attention focused on various forms of promotion of young musical talents (concerts, competitions, scholarship, courses, publications, and radio and television recordings). It collaborates with many other societies, firms and institutions: Society of Polish Musicians, Ferenc Liszt Society in Budapest, Association of Polish and Russian Friendship in St. Petersburg, Institute of Hungarian Culture in Warsaw, Centre of Artistic Education in Warsaw, Royal Castle in Warsaw, Chopin International Festival in Duszniki Zdrój, Polish Pianist Festival in Słupsk, Museums in Brzeg and Nysa, Concert Agency „Silesia” in Katowice, Polish Radio Station in Wrocław, Wrocław Private Television „Echo”, some Philharmonic Houses and music schools. Since 1989 the foreign exchange office „Cent” in Wrocław has been our main sponsor. We also get occasional financial support from the Ministry of Culture and Art, local authorities, Bank Zachodni SA in Wrocław and Wielkopolski Bank Kredytowy SA based in Poznań.

2. We have organized nearly 150 concerts (the 150th one will be held on 16th April in Piastów Śląskich Castle in Brzeg with participation of a great artist and teacher, an honorary member of Ferenc Liszt Society — prof. Victor Merzhanov from Moscow). The concerts took place in 28 different places. 26 artists and 8 lectures took part in those performances over 250 solo and chamber compositions by 33 composers were played. The solists of our concerts were: pianists — Juliusz Adamowski, Maria Baka-Wilczek, Bożena Banaszkiwicz, Laszłó Baranyay (Hungary), Liana Bertok (Germany), Małgorzata Furche, Mirosław Gaśieniec, Adam Jezierzanski, Tomasz Jocz, Tatiana Kutkova (Russia), István Lantos (Hungary), Danuta Mroczek-Szlezer, Alexei Orlovietsky (Russia), Wanda Ornatowska, Sergei Pashkievich (Russia), Karol Radziwonowicz, Ewa Sołtyk, Józef Stompel, Boris Shnaider (Russia), Paweł Rydel, Paweł Zawadzki, and Alexei Zlotariiev (Russia); singers — Michalina Growiec (soprano) and Antoni Bogucki (bass); Mieczysław Szlezer — violinist, Zbigniew Kruczek (Belgium) — organist.

The repertoire included all kinds of solo pieces of music and some chamber forms of music from baroque to contemporary music. The following 82 Liszt's compositions were played: Berceuse (II version), II Ballad in H Minor, 3 Consolations, 6 etudes from the cycle „Grandes études de Paganini”, 9 etudes from the cycle „Etudes d'execution transcendante” (only etudes I, V, XI were not played), etudes „La leggierezza”, „Un sospiro”, „Waldesrauschen” and „Gnomonenreigen”, „Au lac de Wallenstadt”, „Au bord d'une source”, „Vallée d'Obermann”, „Les cloches de Genève”, „Sposalitio”, „Sonetto 104 del Petrarca”, „Après de lecture du Dante”, „Fantasia quasi Sonata”, „Venezia e Napoli”, „Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este” from the cycle „Years of Pilgrimages”, „Bénédictio de Dieu dans la solitude” and „Funérailles” from „Poetic and Religious Harmony”, two legends: „St. Francois d'Assise. La prédication aux oiseaux”, „St. Francois de Paule marchant sur les flots”, III Nocturne in A Major from the cycle „Liebestraume”, II Polonaise in E Major, Scherzo and March, Sonata in H Minor, Spanish Rhapsody, 8 Hungarian Rhapsodies (III, IV, V, IX—XIII), Three Forgotten Waltzes, I Mefisto Waltz, „Sancta Dorothea”, „Trübe Wolken”, „Schlaß! Frage und Antwort”, „Ehemals...”, „Bagatelle ohne Tonart”, „Der Papsthyrnus”, „Six chant polonais de Federic Chopin” (Życzenie, Wiosna, Pierścień, Hulanka, Moja pieśzczołka, Narzeczony). Bach-Liszt — Preludes and organ fugues in A Minor BWV 543 and in C Major BWV 545, „Fantasie und Fuge über den Namen B-A-C-H”, „Präludium und Fuge über den Namen B-A-C-H”, „Weinen, Klagen-Variationen”, „Fantasie und Fuge über den Choral »Ad nos, ad salutarem undam« aus der Oper »Der Prophet« von G. Meyerbeer”, Introduction and Polonaise on theme op. „Puritans” and Reminiscence of opera „Norma” by V. Bellini, Miserere from opera „Il Trovatore” by G. Verdi, „Spinnenlied” from „Fliegende Holländer” by R. Wagner, Two Waltzes-capriccio according to Schubert from the cycle „Soirées de Vienne”, Transcriptions of songs „Aufenthalt” and „Der Müller und der Bach” by F. Schubert and „Widmung” by R. Schumann. Some compositions — e.g. III Consolidation in Des Major, Transcendental etudes „Ricordanza” and „Chasse-neige”, „Sonet 104 Petrarca”, „Sonata après de lecture du Dante”, Concert paraphrase „Rigoletto”, „Reminiscences of »Norma«”,

IX, XI, XIII Hungarian Rapsodies and I Mefisto Waltz were played by different artists.

Among other over 170 compositions there were works by I. Albeniz, J. Alain, J. S. Bach, L. V. Beethoven (Sonats in Cis Minor op. 27, D Minor op. 31 and F Minor op. 57), A. Brejza (contemporary Polish composer), nearly 50 F. Chopin's compositions, among them rarely played Rondo in Es Major op. 16 and song „Leaves are falling off a tree”, Cl. Debussy, E. Dohnany, J. Elsner, M. d. Falla, Ch. Gounod, Ch. Headington, J. Kołmanowski, W. A. Mozart (among others rarely played piano concert in A Major KV 414 and variation in B Major KV 500 and in D Major KV 573), S. Moniuszko, M. Mussorgsky (Picture at an Exhibition), M. K. Oginsky, I. J. Paderewski (among 35 compositions there were performed recently discovered songs and compositions for the violin accompanied by the piano and some rarely played piano compositions), S. Prokofiev, M. Ravel, S. Rachmaninov, G. Rossini, F. Schubert (e.g. „Wanderefantasia”), R. Schumann (Symphonic Etudes, Papillons and Fantasienstücke), M. Szymanowska, K. Szymanowski, P. Tchaikovsky, G. Verdi, L. Vierne, Ch. Widor, and 7 compositions by J. Zarebski, one of F. Liszt's favourite disciples.

The main form of our concert activity is the monthly cycle „Liszt Evenings” that take place in five Polish towns (one concert of each programme is broadcast on the Polish Radio and recorded for archives). Besides, we organized several concerts dedicated to Ignacy Jan Paderewski, a great pianist and still too little popularized composer, one of the greatest interpreters of Liszt's music. These concerts are also given outside Poland — there have been 6 in St. Petersburg and 3 concerts are going to be given in Budapest this year.



Sergei Pashkievich — the 1st prize winner of the 3rd Liszt International Piano Competition in 1992 in Utrecht (Holland) during his „Liszt Evening” in the Room of Four Muses in Oborniki Śląskie on 18th February 1993

„Liszt Evenings” usually attract a large audience as concerts take place in beautiful interiors of museums and clubs, and the pianos of high quality help to achieve good artistic effects. Our concerts have gained a faithful audience in the five cities in which they are held. Mostly professionals, youth and retired people come, and what they do appreciate is the level of a performance (e.g. in Piastów Śląskich Castle in Brzeg, nearly 200 people rewarded Laszlo Baranyay with a standing ovation after he had played „Symphonic Etudes” by R. Schu-

mann, a difficult composition both for pianists and audience). The audience reacted in the same way a few times at the end of I. Lantos's and S. Paszkiewicz's and A. Orlovetsky's recitals and after the concerts devoted to I. J. Paderewski. The special atmosphere of the concerts is also created by the presenter, his announcements and comments.

Since February it has been possible to see an exhibition devoted to F. Liszt, arranged by the Institute of Hungarian Culture in Warsaw and Museum of the Silesian Piasts in Brzeg. The exhibition commemorates the 150th anniversary of F. Liszt's concerts in the towns where we organize our concerts now.

In November 1992 we began „Liszt Evenings” for handicapped people. Programmes for these concerts are specially arranged and a new form of presentation has been introduced. Our aim is to acquaint these people (first of all, young ones) with the values that music represents and motivate them to adopt more positive attitude towards life.

3. Polish nationwide piano courses were held in Wrocław and Bydgoszcz in November 1992. They were conducted by Alexei Orlovetsky, a great artist and teacher from St. Petersburg. About 200 teachers and students from several music schools took part in them. Since there is much demand on this kind of teaching activity and because of a very high level of A. Orlovetsky's teaching skills, the pianist has been invited to our country again. In May he is going to teach courses in Cracow, Łódź and Wrocław. He will also give some piano recitals at „Liszt Evenings”.

The prize winners of the piano competition for F. Liszt's grants have given three concerts in St. Petersburg, in June they will play in Ferenc Liszt Museum in Budapest, in September they will take part in Polish Pianist Festival in Słupsk, and soon they will give a concert in the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The 2nd Polish nationwide piano competition for F. Liszt's grands will be held in Wrocław between 1—5 October 1993.

We are organizing with co-operation of Bank Zachodni SA in Wrocław an International Master Course for Pianists that will be held in Wrocław on 20—29 September 1993. Classes will be given by Andrzej Jasiński, Victor Merzhanov and Alexei Orlovetsky, artists that are also outstanding teachers. Moreover, István Lantos will give a recital and a lecture.

4. The Society has 176 members. Apart from Poles there are Austrian, British, Belgian, Russian and Hungarian citizens. Among the members there are 68 musicians, 35 professors, 10 engineers, 8 physicians, artists, art historians, archeologists, economists, civil servants, technicians, and 36 students and pupils (out of them 22 are music students). Some outstanding personalities of the international musical life are our members, too — e.g. prof. Ryszard Bakst, prof. István Lantos, prof. Victor Merzhanov; Jan Weber, a known Polish musician, a great specialist on Ferenc Liszt was our member till his death in Warsaw on 20th October 1992.

The board of directors was elected at the 1st General Meeting of the Members on 20th September 1989. President is Juliusz Adamowski, a pianist, music propagator and a teacher at the Academy of Music in Wrocław; Vice-presidents are dr Zdzisław Bednarek, a physician and lieutenant-colonel, and Stanisław Dybowski from Warsaw, a musician (among others, the author of a book on Ferenc Liszt).