



TOWARZYSTWO IMIENIA FERENCA LISZTA
FERENC LISZT SOCIETY IN POLAND

50-107 Wrocław, Rynek-Przejście Garncarskie 2, tel./fax +48 71 351 97 35
Konto nr 11201665-9609-132-1000 Bank Zachodni, II Oddział we Wrocławiu

TiFL

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INFORMATION BULLETIN

Appendix to the Polish edition of the Bulletin

Includes translations of the texts on:
the general activity of the Society

X Nationwide Piano Course by Alexei Orlovetsky

VI International Master Course for Pianists

I International F. Liszt Piano Competition.

Ten years' activity of the Ferenc Liszt Society in Poland resulted in over 500 concerts, over 20 piano courses and 5 piano competitions. We also succeeded in increasing the quality of concert instruments in four towns.

It can be easily said that the Society took an important place in music life of Poland and that is also distinguished on international field. Nevertheless, it would not be possible without kindness, co-operation and help of many people, authorities, institutions and companies. We would like to thank all of them. We hope our further co-operation to be equally fruitful.

We also express our gratitude toward the Municipality City Promotion and Foreign Relation Office of Wrocław, and toward the Regional Branch of "PKO BP" Bank, for making in possible to publish this bulletin.

Ferenc Liszt Society in Poland (TiFL), founded in Wrocław in 1989, is a nationwide association with the aim of popularizing music with the main stress laid on the output and the person of Ferenc Liszt himself as well as his connections with Polish culture. TiFL conducts artistic, didactic and popular scientific activities, emphasizing different ways of promoting talented youngsters (concerts, competitions, grants, courses, publications, records for the radio and television). Some of the promoted ones have already achieved considerable artistic successes.

In 511 concerts held so far, almost 230 performers from 20 countries took part (some of them played many times), including 176 pianists, 23 other soloists, 11 performers of chamber music, 2 conductors and 6 actors. Apart from the outstanding artists with the international fame (such as István Lantos, Victor Merzhanov, Karol Radziwonowicz), almost 150 young artists, including 90 Poles, performed at the concerts. They were accompanied by 11 lecturers performing around a thousand pieces of over 60 composers ranging from Baroque to the contemporary music (including about a hundred compositions of F. Liszt, over 80 ones of F. Chopin and almost 40 pieces of I.J. Paderewski), playing in 60 concert halls (44 of them in Poland and 16 abroad - mainly in Budapest and St Petersburg).

We took part in three International F. Chopin Festivals in Duszniki Zdrój. Since December 1989, we have been carrying into effect a series of monthly "Liszt Evenings", since November, 1992 -concerts for disabled people. There have been 21 piano courses (including 6 international ones). In 1995 fifteen participants (from 5 countries) of our international piano courses in 1993-94, took part in XII International F. Chopin Piano Competition and one of them became the prize winner.

VII International Master Course for Pianists will be held in August, 17-29. It will be led by Halina Czerny-Stefańska, Victor Merzhanov (Moscow) and Alexei Orlovetsky (St Petersburg).

We have organized 4 nationwide F. Liszt piano competitions (prize-winners, beside one year's high grants, had the opportunity to take part in dozen or so concerts in Poland as well as abroad).

After a few years of preparations, I International F. Liszt Piano Competition took place in November 1-10, 1999 -the event that could be next one to Wratislavia Cantans to render Wrocław famous at the international music field and become a partner for the F. Chopin Competition. It is also a crowning achievement of TiFL's ten years' activity.

Thanks to us, Wrocław has been enriched with 4 grandpianos, including the new fully professional Steinway, bought in 1995 with the contribution of The Foundation of Polish-German Co-operation. We have published two issues of "Zeszyty Lisztowskie" (scientific publications about Liszt).

The patron of the Society -Ferenc Liszt, a Hungarian pianist and composer, one of the greatest virtuosi in the history of music, had a great knowledge of Polish history and culture. He was acquainted with Fryderyk Chopin, Polish writers: Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki, Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, C.K. Norwid, outstanding violinists Karol Lipiński and Henryk Wieniawski, a famous painter Juliusz Kossak and a sculptor Cyprian Godebski.

Liszt patronized a great many Polish artists, who, largely thanks to his help, achieved their position. He was a worldwide admired interpreter and propagator of F. Chopin's output and the author of the first book about our distinguished musician. About 20 compositions of Liszt were inspired by Polish history and music.

The seat of Ferenc Liszt Society is in Wrocław, the city where in 1843 Liszt gave nine concerts, conducted an opera spectacle for the first time, and gained enormous popularity. Then, he also performed in Nysa and Brzeg, places where "Liszt Evenings" are held each month. In 1859, F. Liszt performed again as a composer and conductor in Wrocław. After World War II, Wrocław became an important centre of musicological study of Liszt.

The foundation of TiFL in 1989 largely contributed to the founding of F. Chopin Society in Hungary a few months later.

TiFL is composed of around 170 members from 4 countries. The Society, basing mainly on free of charge contribution of its members, financial help from the authorities of different levels, from many institutions, firms and private sponsors.

In the years 1989-94 -TiFL had a permanent sponsor in the foreign exchange office "CENT", and since 1997 has been sponsored by "ATLANTYK s.c." owned by Grażyna and Andrzej Krzywik.

X Nationwide Piano Course by Alexei Orlovetsky. The 10th annual piano course for teachers and pupils of Music Schools (primary and secondary ones) took place in Wrocław in March 3-9, 1999. It was led by Alexei Orlovetsky - the outstanding artist and pedagogue from Sankt Petersburg. The course was organised by the F. Liszt Society in Poland in co-operation with the State R. Bukowski Secondary School of Music in Wrocław and with financial assistance of the Artistic Education Centre in Warsaw. Juliusz Adamowski was the director of the course.

Over 50 pedagogues and pupils from 20 towns and cities in Poland participated in the course. Alexei Orlovetsky, during 42 open classes (two classes with each student), again showed ways of working over interpretation and of solving technical problems. 21 pupils from several regions of the country prepared very rich repertoire consisting of pieces from baroque to the contemporary music. Some classes, due to the range of repertoire and level of the pianists' advance lasted 2-3 hours. Alexei Orlovetsky not for the first time impressed us all with his artistic individuality, professionalism and the skill of knowledge transmission and of instilling sensitivity and with his pianistic and pedagogic experience.

Among many classes, some of them really fixed in the memory of the auditors, especially interpretations of F. Chopin's E-moll Concerto and 12 etudes op.10, Sonata B-moll and "Rigoletto" of F. Liszt, Sonata A-moll KV 310 of W.A. Mozart and Preludes of C. Debussy.

The concert of the active participants was held at the end of the course. The audition especially enjoyed the performance of F. Liszt's Sonata B-moll and "Rigoletto" by Natalia Sawościanik (her professor - Aleksandra Utrecht, Music School in Poznań) and C. Debussy's "L'isle joyeuse" by Jan Janicki (pupil of Janina Butor, Music School in Wrocław).

The next course has been planned for the period of 6-12 March 2000.

VI International Master Course for Pianists was held in Wrocław on 17-29 August 1999. Fifty pianists from eight countries participated in it (as usually mainly from Poland and Japan). They took classes under the artists of the international fame: Halina Czerny-Stefańska, Victor Merzhanov (Moscow) and Alexei Orlovetsky (Sankt Petersburg).

There were around 170 hours of classes opened for public in the Philharmonic Concert Hall, the Music and Literature Club and in the Concert Hall of the Secondary School of Music. There were also concerts in Duszniki Zdrój (the Chopin's Manor House), in Brzeg (the Silesian Dynasty Castle) and in Wrocław (the Secondary Music School, the Philharmonic Hall and the Music and Literature Club).

The Course took place directly before the succeeding International Chopin Competition in Darmstadt and before I International F. Liszt Competition in Wrocław. It gathered quite a large number of talented and professionally advanced young artists. Almost 30 participants performed at the concerts, which, especially those in Duszniki Zdrój, Brzeg and in the Philharmonic Hall, were characterised by a very high level of performance, and they fully satisfied very demanding professors of the course and auditors, as well.

It was a really strenuous course; the participants and professors (leading very rich artistic activity) worked, on regular basis, a dozen or so hours a day. 30 rooms with pianos and upright-pianos were at the professors' and participants' disposal in order to practise, as well as three concert halls with six pianos of very high quality. The Meyer Company from Kalisz gratuitously rendered their latest product accessible for participants. It was a grand-piano (180 cm long) and it received very flattering opinions.

The participants and professors have listened to the great recital of Victor Merzhanov, to the performance of Krystian Zimerman in the Philharmonic Hall and to the unbelievably remastered recordings of one of the greatest pianists of all times - Sergei Rachmaninoff.

The Course has been organised by the F. Liszt Society in a co-operation with the State R. Bukowski Secondary Music School in Wrocław, the W. Lutosławski Philharmonic Society and the Music and Literature Club, and with financial assistance of the Artistic Education Department at the Ministry of Art and Culture. The artistic and organising director was Juliusz Adamowski, the translators were Maria Serafin, Dariusz Adamowski, Zbigniew Faryniarz and Aleksander Janicki; tuning care of the instruments was taken by Stefan Pilcer and Janusz Serafinowicz.

The next course with participation of the same professors - Halina Czerny-Stefańska, Victor Merzhanov and Alexei Orlovetsky has been planned for the period of 16-29 August 2000.

I International F. Liszt Piano Competition (Wrocław, 1-10 Oct. 1999) was organised and realised by the Ferenc Liszt Society in Poland in co-operation with the State Philharmonic Orchestra and the Academy of Music in Wrocław. It was held under the auspices of professor Jan Waszkiewicz - the President of the Lower Silesia Province. Juliusz Adamowski - the President of the F. Liszt Society, was the artistic and organising director of the Competition. It was the first international piano competition in the history of the Lower Silesia region and also of western territories of Poland as a whole.

Taking into account the exploitation of the Philharmonic Concert Hall for 16 hours per day, the organisers were able to admit the maximum number of 38 competitors out of 40 applicants. The pianists represented 13 countries (i.e. Chile, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, Taiwan, USA and Uzbekistan). Some of them had already had considerable artistic achievements on the international field. They were prize-winners of numerous piano competitions in Europe, Japan and USA (such as the M. Long and J. Thibaud Competition in Paris, the F. Liszt ones in Utrecht and Los Angeles, and one entitled "Arthur Rubinstein in memoriam" in Bydgoszcz). There were also laureates of latest nationwide F. Liszt piano competitions organised by the F. Liszt Society since 1991.

Eventually, 32 pianists participated in the Competition. Six competitors were unable to come due to health problems or unexpected problems with visas.

The Jury included Prof. Victor Merzhanov (Russia) - chairman, Juliusz Adamowski - secretary, Prof. Andrzej Jasiński (Poland), Prof. Alexander Jenner (Austria), Prof. István Lantos (Hungary), Prof. Włodzimierz Obidowicz (Poland) and Alexei Orlovetsky (Russia). Mostly they are artists of wide international fame and respect.

The Competition was characterised by all the Jurors, participants and press-reviewers as one of very high artistic level. It has become a considerable artistic event presenting new quality of music life. Next competition is planned for the year 2002.

Sponsors apart from those prize awarding: SG Bank in Poland (Commercial and Investment Bank of Société Générale Group), Bank Zachodni S.A., KGHM Metale S.A. (Investment Group of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.), Turów Power Station, The Lignite-mine "Turów", C Bechstein Pianofortefabrik - Berlin, Meyer Piano Manufacturer - Kalisz, The Municipal Heating Plant S.A., "Creator" - Productive and Trading Company, and Wrocław Hotel.

Competition results

1st place - Evelina Borbei (Russia)

Prizes:

\$5,000 awarded by the Minister of Art and Culture.

20,000 zlotys awarded by the Regional Branch of "PKO BP" Bank in Wrocław.

The recital in F. Liszt Museum in Budapest on 6th May 2000.

The recital in Chopin Centre in Szafarnia in September 2000, awarded by the Philharmonic Society in Bydgoszcz.

An invitation issued by Elżbieta Penderecka to give a symphonic concert or recital in the cycle of "Elżbieta Penderecka presents Great Talents" in the season 1999/2000.

A series of recitals within the cycle of "Liszt Evenings" organised by the F. Liszt Society in Poland in the season 1999/2000 or 2000/2001.

2nd place - Maciej Pabich (Poland)

Prizes:

25,000 zlotys awarded by the President of the Lower Silesia Province.

An invitation issued by the Hungarian Ministry of National Heritage to symphonic concerts organised by the Philharmonic Society in Budapest.

An invitation issued by Elżbieta Penderecka to give a symphonic concert or recital in the cycle of "Elżbieta Penderecka presents Great Talents" in the season 1999/2000.

An invitation to concerts by the Polish Concert Office in Warsaw in the season 2000/2001.

A series of recitals within the cycle of "Liszt Evenings" organised by the F. Liszt Society in Poland and in Sankt Petersburg in the season 1999/2000 or 2000/2001.

3rd place - Alexei Komarov (Russia)

Prizes:

15,000 zlotys awarded by the Municipality of Wrocław.

A series of recitals within the cycle of "Liszt Evenings" organised by the F. Liszt Society in Poland in the season 1999/2000 or 2000/2001.

4th place - Tatiana Larionova (Russia)

Prizes:

10,000 zlotys awarded by the Lower Silesia Investment Company in Lubin (Holding Group of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.).

A series of half-recitals within the cycle of "Liszt Evenings" organised by the F. Liszt Society in Poland in the season 1999/2000 or 2000/2001.

5th place - Hanna Holeksa (Poland)

Prizes:

5,000 zlotys awarded by Bank Zachodni S.A.

A series of half-recitals within the cycle of "Liszt Evenings" organised by the F. Liszt Society in Poland in the season 1999/2000 or 2000/2001.

Additional award - Michał Szczepański (Poland)

Prizes:

1,000 zlotys awarded by "Piano-Fiks" - Piano Renovation Company in Nowe Skalmierzyce for the best Polish competitor excluding finalists.

Participation in concerts in Sankt Petersburg organised by M. Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatoire in Sankt Petersburg in co-operation with the F. Liszt Society in Poland.

Additionally, the State Philharmonic Society in Poznań, the State W. Lutosławski Philharmonic Society in Wrocław, and the one in Zabrze will invite one of the laureates to symphonic concerts in the season 2000/2001.

The organisers make endeavours so as to get invitations for the winners of the highest prizes to perform with the National Symphonic Orchestras in Warsaw and of Polish Radio, and with the symphonic orchestras in Katowice, Kraków (Cracow), Rzeszów and Gdańsk.