

## CHOPIN: Enduring Enigma Part 1 Oct. 1, 2020 - Time Line & Repertoire

Born March 1, 1810 at home in Żelazowa Wola, Poland, to parents Mikołaj (Nicolas) Chopin and Justyna Krzyżanowska, their 3rd child and only son. (3 sisters).

Sept. 1810 Chopin family moves to Warsaw where Mikołaj begins teaching French at the Warsaw Lyceum in the Saxon Palace

1815 “Congress Kingdom” created, allowing 15 years of stability and a rich cultural life.

1817 The family and the Lyceum move to the Casimir Palace. Justyna gives Fryderyk his first piano lessons at age 4. By age 6 he needs a professional teacher and **Wojciech Żywny** is engaged for the next 6 years. He is 60 year old Bohemian composer/violinist/piano teacher and a passionate disciple of Bach (Chopin learned all of Bach’s 48 Preludes and Fugues). Chopin composes and publishes his first composition, a **Polonaise in G minor**, at age seven and makes his first public appearance on Feb. 24, 1818 at a charity event at the Radziwiłł Palace. He is called “a Polish Mozart”.

By the fall he began to be summoned to play for Grand Duke Constantine Romanov.

1821 Chopin, age 11, composes Polonaise in A Major, dedicated to W. Żywny (not published until 1902).

1824 summer holiday in Szafarnia, **Mazurka in A-flat, revised and pub. as Op. 7 No. 4**

1825 composes: Rondo in C minor, for solo and piano duet, Op. 1; is appointed organist for the weekly services of the official church of the Lyceum

1826-28 Chopin enrolls at Warsaw’s High School for Music; studies harmony, counterpoint and composition with **Jósef Elsner**. *Lessons in piano playing were not pursued as he had nothing to gain from them.* He also studied foreign languages and Polish history and literature.

1826 composes: Rondo à la Mazur, Op. 5, Variations on a theme of Thomas Moore for piano duet; summer at Bad Reinerz spa with younger sister Emilia and mother.

1827 He becomes familiar with the music of John Field, composes his **Nocturne in E minor (Op. post)**. His sister Emilia, age 14, dies of TB in April. Chopin begins his **Variations on “Là, ci darem la mano” Op. 2**. That summer the family moves to the Krasiński Palace.

1827-28 composes: Sonata in C minor, Op. 4, dedicated to Jósef Elsner

1828 composes: Grand Fantasia in A major on Polish Airs, Op. 13, Krakowiak: Grand Concert Rondo in F major, Op. 14; meets pianist/composer Johann Nepomuk Hummel in Warsaw

1828-29 composes: Trio in G minor for Piano, Violin and Cello, Op. 8, summer travel first trips abroad to Berlin and Vienna, 2 concerts in Vienna plus important connections made

1829-30 composes: Concerto in F minor, Op. 21, Introduction and Polonaise in C major for Piano & Cello, Op. 3; hears Paganini - “Absolute perfection”, and is introduced to him by Elsner. Finished 3rd year of H.S. - “Szopen, Friderik, special ability, musical genius”.

March 22, 1830 Triumphant concert at Warsaw’s National Theater, playing Krakowiak Rondo and F minor Concerto

1830 composes: **Concerto in E minor, Op. 11**

Nov. 2, 1830 Chopin leaves Poland for Vienna

composes: **Nocturne in C-sharp minor (Lento con gran espressione)**

a Christmas gift dedicated to his sister Ludwika (published in 1875)

## **Chopin: Enduring Enigma Part 1 - Oct. 1, 2020 Melinda Coffey Armstead Recommended Recordings/Videos for at home listening/viewing\***

### **BACH**

**Well Tempered Clavier - 48 preludes and fugues (any)**

### **MOZART**

Youtube:

**\*Kathleen Battle: Mozart - Le Nozze di Figaro, 'Deh vieni, non tardar'**

Youtube:

**\*Mozart : Piano Concerto No.23 in A major, K 488 - II. Adagio  
Maurizio Pollini, piano Vienna Philharmonic, Karl Böhm**

Youtube:

**\*Mozart - La Ci Darem La Mano (English Subtitles)**

Duet from opera Don Giovanni.

Performed by: Rodney Gilfry - Don Giovanni, Liliana Nikiteanu - Zerlina

### **BEL CANTO**

**\*Youtube: Maria Callas sings "Una voce poco fa" (Paris 1958) from Rossini's Il  
Barbiere di Siviglia (1816)**

**PAGANINI - Youtube: Great performers: Niccolò Paganini - Classical Nerd**

### **\*MAZURKA**

Youtube: **Mazurka - a renowned dance from Poland | Euromaxx**

The Mazurka is considered Poland's quintessential national dance. It comes from the region of Mazovia near the capital Warsaw. It's the birthplace of Frederic Chopin, whose Mazurkas for piano helped him win international fame.

### **CHOPIN**

**\*Artur Rubinstein, 1969: Grand Fantasy on Polish Airs, Op. 13 - Eugene Ormandy**

**\*Piano Concertos in E major Op. 11 and F minor Op. 21**

recommend old masters: Arthur Rubinstein, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Martha Argerich  
and youngsters:, Yuja Wang, Jan Lisiecki, Seong-Jin Cho

FYI: Internet Classical Music Station **Polskie Radio Chopin** plays all Chopin 24/7