



"Chopin Garden"

PRESENTED BY

Chicago Chopin Foundation

Introduction

Chopin's Chicago

Dear Friend,

What if you could help inspire Chicago to fall in love with Chopin? Just imagine a sublime etude emanating from a grand piano in a charming garden full of fragrant flowers beneath an open sky as the hearts of a mesmerized audience begin to swell. Sound like a fantasy? No! Today, you have the rare chance to help manifest this experience with the Chopin Garden! Do you know what joy such a unique and beautiful place will bring to the citizens of our great city? And how many lives will be profoundly enriched through the music of this timeless composer and pianist?

Fryderyk Chopin was not merely a musician but an artist with a heightened gift for expressing the lyricism in his soul. His music has resonated emotionally for generation after generation now approaching 200 years. Is it not eternal? His compositions overcome all boundaries and are enjoyed around the entire world as universally beautiful. Like the nature that inspired it, Chopin's music is transcendental and magnificent. He draws the listener into a world of the spirit that is the very essence of artistic expression.

Yet for too long Chopin has been confined to exclusive concert halls and fancy salons. But no longer- At 11th Street and Michigan Avenue in Chicago's beloved Grant Park, the Chopin Garden will create a new tradition. This unique cultural venue will come alive with live performances by talented musicians and artists that will be open and free to all citizens of Chicago and the world. The garden will be a living testimony to Chopin's spirit. Those on a stroll will marvel at Chopin's Monument standing full of grace and elegance overlooking his serene garden and marveling at the city.

Friends- This is an unprecedented opportunity to make a lasting imprint on the City of Chicago and the lives of its residents. The Chopin Garden will be an everlasting source of peace and tranquility. Please. The Chicago Chopin Foundation needs your contribution in cultivating the Chopin Garden to ensure that it blossoms with music and culture. We warmly thank you for your participation in advance.

Sincerely,

Voytek Putz
President
Chicago Chopin Foundation
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization
voytekputz@chopingarden.com
www.chopingarden.com

Please send donations to:
Chicago Chopin Foundation
723 Arlington Rd
Riverside, Il 60546

Celebrating A Genius

March 1st, 2015

Fresh powdery white snow blanketed the frozen ground while the sun gleamed through a clear sky with golden rays. At first just one, then two, next in groups of five, people began arriving until a crowd had gathered. Wearing heavy boots, bundled in thick coats with warm hats that covered their ears, men and women, young and old, had come together to celebrate two births.

The first was the birth of the greatest composer and pianist the world has witnessed, whose spirit entered the earth 205 years ago this day. The second was the birth of the Chopin Garden, where the founders had come together at 11th Street and Michigan Avenue in Chicago's Grant Park .



A historic day it was. A magnificent cake was made for this special occasion. Hot tea and coffee were served. Elegant toasts were made to Chopin and his new garden.

Afterward a procession made its way along Michigan Avenue to a nearby concert hall. There, the ears of the admirers were graced with Chopin's sweet etudes, nocturnes and polonaises played on a Steinway piano.

Chopin's timeless music resonated as powerfully as ever. Perhaps, even growing finer with the passage of time.



Cultivating A Garden

May The Flowers Of Our Labor Blossom



The spring and summer months allowed us to get our hands dirty in the garden. We cleaned and mulched and planted flowers. Volunteers put their energy and sweat into the endeavor. Indeed, a central component of the Chopin Garden is to dramatically enhance the existing landscape with the help of the community. A flourishing garden will provide the appropriate atmosphere for Chopin's serene music by bringing calm and tranquility. The upkeep of the garden keeps our supporters engaged and invested in the project. Families will visit the Chopin Garden to see how the flowers they planted are growing. With Chopin deeply inspired by nature, this is simply a perfect harmony.

Redaktor wydania cz. II - Alicja Otap

Mamy Ogród Chopina!



Taczki, łopaty, grabie, ziemia i całe pojemniki kwiatów czekały na wolontariuszy, którzy stawili się u zbiegu Michigan Avenue i 11th Street, by Ogródowi Chopina nadać realny kształt. Dzięki wytrwałości Fundacji Chopinowskiej, która zabiegała o to prestiżowe miejsce od siedmiu lat, dziś możemy powiedzieć: w Chicago mamy Ogród Chopina!



Zapowiadane na minioną sobotę spotkanie Polonii w Parku Granta, inaugurujące wyczekiwany od pewnego czasu Chopin Garden, stało pod znakiem zapytania w poprzedzający je zimny, ponuro pochmurny i deszczowy piątek.

Jednak w sobotę 13 września nawet ta groźna trzynastka nie powstrzymała słonecznej pogody i wprost idealnej temperatury przed sprzyjaniem pracowitym amatorom muzyki, ogrodników i Chicago, porządkującym teren u zbiegu Michigan Avenue i 11th Street.

Pierwsi wolontariusze oglądali z podziwem ogromną górę ściółki, taczki, łopaty, grabie i inny sprzęt ogrodniczy – dostarczone przez Zarząd Parków Chicagowskich. Następnie przyjechały pojemniki z kwiatami do zasadzenia i ziemia ogrodowa,

Wiele zdjęć na naszej stronie internetowej:
www.dziennikwiazkowy.com

władz miejskich na ustanowienie ogrodu – Chicago

kompozytora przyjmowali z dużym zainteresowaniem. Dostawali wydane po angielsku

jego perspektywach, po czym zaczął się koncert. Sławek Maciejczyk na akordeonie, trąbce i klawiaturze czarował publiczność paryskimi walczykami, a także śpiewaną ze stosowną chrypką piosenką Louisa Armstronga oraz czardaszami i innymi utworami muzyki świata.

Teraz zacznie się dla organizatorów niełatwy etap gromadzenia funduszy. Ogród ma kosztować 1,5 mln dolarów. Na początek potrzebny jest zadatek w wysokości 120 tys. dol. na wykonanie odlewu rzeźby przez specjalistyczną firmę w Gliwicach.

Osoby zainteresowane spektakularnym sukcesem polskich i amerykańskich działaczy „prochopinowskich” mogą przeczytać więcej o obu organizacjach na ich stronach internetowych:

www.chopinmonumentinchicago.com



May 3rd, 2015

Grand Concert On Constitution Day

Every year, Chicago's large Polish-American community travels to downtown Chicago to show their cultural pride at the Constitution Day Parade. Red and white flags wave through the air. In 2015, a new tradition was born. The parade now comes to a climactic conclusion with a grand concert at the Chopin Garden. Friends and family fill the monumental stairs as they await the concert. Chopin is particularly important to Polish people because he is Poland's greatest cultural contribution to the world. He brings class and respect for Polish culture and Poles .



May 7th, 2016

Like Chopin, Chicago's Poles are emigrants, who left their country to pursue their dreams. The Chopin Garden will provide a legacy that will allow future generations of Poles to discover and celebrate their cultural roots.

"Polonia" Performs Theater Brings History Alive



The Chopin Garden will be more than just a location for piano concerts; it will also be a site for diverse expressions of culture. The photo above shows a theater ensemble in full historical dress recreating an iconic moment from Polish history. The Chicago Chopin Foundation intends to program the site with a variety of events to bring the Chopin Garden alive for the public to enjoy. Beyond consistent piano performances during the summer season, the Chicago Chopin Foundation intends to partner with other organizations to host festivals, art fairs and live shows.

Our Chopin Monument

From Warsaw To Chicago



RIDGELAND
ASSOCIATES
INC.

838 North Blvd.
Oak Park, IL 60301
708.431.0300

Chopin Garden in Chicago



VIEW LOOKING EAST 12.07.2012

The monument is the stunning centerpiece of the Chopin Garden. It is a scaled replica of the historic Chopin Monument located in the Royal Baths Park at the heart of Warsaw. The statue represents Chopin's profound connection and relationship with nature, which provided much of the inspiration for his compositions. While we can beautify the garden and bring it alive with concerts and performances, nothing will match the presence of Chopin himself. The monument will stand in front of an impressive staircase that provides perfect outdoor seating and an atmosphere of an amphitheater. Meanwhile, the surrounding historical beaux-arts architecture creates a truly unique experience. The monument is the most ambitious element of the Chopin Garden and therefore presents the most significant fiscal challenge. However, the permanence and symbolic value that the monument provides are priceless.

Fryderyk Chopin

Beloved International Icon

Fryderyk Chopin was born on February 22nd or March 1st in 1810 in the village of Żelazowa Wola, in the Duchy of Warsaw. His mother, Justyna Krzyżanowska was Polish, while his father Mikołaj Chopin, was a French-expatriate. From early in his life, Chopin was regarded as a child-prodigy pianist.

During his school years, Chopin often went to the countryside to listen to Polish folk songs which later materialized in his mazurkas, etudes and polonaises.

In November 1830, at the age of 20, he went abroad carrying a clod of Polish soil. Following the suppression of the Polish November Uprising against tsar Russia occupiers of 1830–31, Chopin became one of many expatriates of the Polish "Great Emigration".

Settling in Paris, Chopin made a comfortable living as a composer and piano teacher. However, he gave few public performances. From 1837 to 1847 he had a turbulent relationship with the French writer George Sand (Aurore Dudevant).

Soon he developed a reputation as a great pianist and composer and became friends with the greatest musicians and artists of the time: Schumann, Mendelssohn, Berlioz, Rossini, Hiller, Delacroix, and Liszt.

Always in frail health, in 1849 he died in Paris, at the age of 39, of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis. When he realized he was terminally ill, he expressed a wish to be buried at Pere Lachaise cemetery. He also made an explicit wish that his heart be brought back to Warsaw, Poland.



"Varsovian by birth, Polish by heart,
citizen of the world by talent."

- Cyprian K. Norwid

"Hats off gentlemen, a genius!"

- Robert Schumann

"Put all your soul into it, play the
way you feel!"

- Fryderyk Chopin

"Chopin has written two
wonderful mazurkas which are
worth more than forty novels and
are more eloquent than the entire
century's literature."

- George Sand

"Music was his language, the
divine tongue through which he
expressed a whole realm of
sentiments"

- Franz Liszt

Grant Park

Chicago's Front Yard



Grant Park is Chicago's global stage for art and culture of the highest caliber. With elements like postmodern Millennium Park, historic Buckingham Fountain and the renowned Art Institute of Chicago, few urban parks can begin to compare. Millions of tourists from around the world mingle with native Chicagoans at Grant Park, which is open and free of charge for all. As such, Grant Park is an ideal environment for a project like the Chopin Garden. With his international fame, Chopin is appropriate for a global city like Chicago. Chopin ranks in the elite of culture and meets the very high standard that is demanded of any permanent addition to the park.

The Chopin Garden will further enrich the landscape of Grant Park with a magnificent statue, landscape beautification and cultural programming. The Chicago Chopin Foundation is an engaged organization that will maintain and upkeep the garden. At a time of stressed public resources, the Chopin Garden mobilizes private funds and community volunteers into the park. The Chopin Garden will be in harmony with Grant Park.

The Facts

The Chopin Garden is a project initiated by Chicago's Polish community to honor the distinguished composer Fryderyk Chopin and his immortal music. The Chicago Chopin Foundation has secured conditional approval from the Chicago Park District to designate the location at 11th Street and Michigan Avenue in Grant Park as a site for concerts and cultural performances to be known as the "Chopin Garden." The centerpiece of the "Chopin Garden" will be a 13ft tall, 5/8 scale bronze replica of the Fryderyk Chopin statue designed by Wacław Szymanowski in Warsaw's Royal Baths Park. The site is located on the most valued public space in Chicago.

This is an unusual opportunity for the residents of Chicago along with millions of tourists to listen to this musical genius in a garden bearing his name. The Chicago Chopin Foundation has undertaken the effort to popularize the project through concerts and performances that have already occurred on the site of the Chopin Garden. In March 2016, a press conference with representatives from Grant Park was held for the purpose of familiarizing the public with the project. The cost of casting and installing the Chopin statue is approximately \$400,000.00 dollars and will take 1 year. The full realization of the Chopin Garden is \$1,200,000.00 including the first year of operating expenses. The completed statue will also be a coveted opportunity to display sponsors and donors.

An agreement with the Chicago Park District will need to be finalized that requires the Chicago Chopin Foundation to maintain and program the site. Furthermore, the Chopin statue will have to be donated to the City of Chicago. The Chicago Chopin Foundation was formed in 2009 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN #27-1362508) that has undertaken the task of executing this effort. As President, along with the leadership of the Chicago Chopin Foundation, I am counting on your enthusiastic participation, understanding of our intentions, cooperation, and support in realizing the Chopin Garden.

I encourage you to contact me directly with any questions.

Sincerely,

Voytek Putz
President
Chicago Chopin Foundation
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization
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