



Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
in London

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CENTRE**

The Ambassador of The Republic of Poland, HE Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecińska,  
Mr Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre,  
The Polish Cultural Institute and The Polish Heritage Society  
welcome you to...

*The unveiling of the restored*  
***Chopin statue***  
*by*  
*HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO*

*and*  
***Chopin Concert***  
*by*  
***Alexander Ardakov***

*Wednesday 18th May 2011*  
*from 11.00am*



Polish Heritage Society (UK)



**FRYDERYK CHOPIN**

1810-1849

"SIMPLICITY IS THE HIGHEST GOAL,  
ACHIEVABLE WHEN YOU HAVE  
OVERCOME ALL DIFFICULTIES"

# *HRH The Duke of Gloucester*



“London has many statues commemorating the lives of significant people, who have contributed to the quality of life for millions of others. Many have been British but just a few have been international figures, and I am sure that no one would be surprised to find such an important global celebrity as Chopin commemorated in this way at Southbank Centre here in London.

Chopin's legacy is through the medium of piano playing, an instrument newly invented in his time and which he took to new levels, never surpassed, and who brought music into many homes throughout the world, that have reason to be grateful for his existence.”

**Chopin statue unveiled by HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO  
on 18th May 2011**



Polish Heritage Society (UK)



*A*s the Chairman of The Polish Heritage Society, I am delighted that you are able to be present at the unveiling of this Chopin Statue at Southbank Centre, restored by us this year, after many years of absence since its original arrival date in 1975.

The Fryderyk Chopin Statue Restoration Committee gratefully acknowledges the contribution towards this project from The Embassy of The Republic of Poland, Southbank Centre, The Polish Cultural Institute, The Chopin Society, The Polish transport company PEKAES - our logistics Partner and the statue restorers - The Art Product Company of Poznan.

We would like to thank all those individuals and various organisations, who also helped unreservedly but are not mentioned here by name, as they were many. We would particularly like to thank HRH The Duke of Gloucester for unveiling the statue today and the Polish Ambassador, Madame Barbara Tuge-Erecińska for her valued support throughout, as well as Mr. Robert Sobocinski in Poznan, the sculptor, for his invaluable help in restoring the statue of Fryderyk Chopin and Professor Bronislaw Kubica in Warsaw, the original 1975 sculptor of this work, for his priceless advice and encouragement.

Our special thanks go to Mr. Alan Bishop, CEO of Southbank Centre, for his vision and practical support when needed, and without which this happy conclusion would not have been reached.

We would like to thank Professor Alexander Ardakov and Mr. Masayaki Tayama in providing music for both the concert and the promotional material.

Finally, our thanks go to all those who truly believed that Chopin would return to Southbank Centre and did everything within their power to enable complex restoration work, long distance logistics and delicate installation works to be completed on schedule, proving that a joint vision and international co-operation has once again proved the measure of success we see here today.

On behalf of The Polish Heritage Society, I wish you a most pleasant enjoyable day and a memorable Chopin concert in the Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, which follows this unveiling.

Dr. Marek Stella-Sawicki, KM  
Chairman



*Some of the Committee members (from left to right):*  
Jurek Scibor-Kaminski, Marie Kato, Dr. Marek Stella-Sawicki, Teresa Stella-Sawicka, Dr. Andrew Meeson, Jolanta Potocka, Alina Karas, Philip Bujak, Malgosia Alterman.



Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
in London



**I**t is with great pleasure that I welcome you today at the unveiling of the restored statue of Fryderyk Chopin at its original location outside the Royal Festival Hall at Southbank Centre. In particular, I am delighted that His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester is present with us to unveil the monument, just as his mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, did during the first ceremony in 1975.

Chopin is one of Poland's greatest sons and his music can be seen as the incarnation of the passion of a people and the drama of their history. Like all great artists, he does not belong to one country alone. He is a treasure and a source of great joy for the world at large. His ties with Britain are well documented and it was here in London that he gave his final public concerts in the year preceding his death.

It was therefore entirely natural that this statue should be the gift of the Polish people to the British nation, a token of their gratitude for their sacrifice and collaboration with Poland during World War II. Ordinary Poles, many of whom had found refuge in Britain during the war, and who had fought alongside British forces in the Allied campaign against fascism, contributed to the public subscription for the statue. An urn containing earth from Chopin's birthplace at Żelazowa Wola made the gift even more precious and meaningful.

The friendship of our nations has only deepened in the intervening years. Our two countries are once again allies within NATO and partners in the European Union. As Poland prepares to embrace its presidency in the European Council in the second half of this year, this ceremony is a timely reminder of our deep ties to one of Europe's great nations.

This project would not have been possible without the efforts and the vision of many people and organisations. I want to express my special gratitude to Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre and his colleagues for their enthusiastic collaboration in bringing Chopin's statue back 'home' again. I would also particularly like to recognise the efforts of The Polish Heritage Society and its chairman, Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki, who conceived the idea and, in his steadfast commitment, brought it to fruition.

The Polish Cultural Institute has provided invaluable support, not to mention many private individuals and sponsors. I am also delighted that Alexander Ardakov is with us to mark this special occasion with what will certainly be a memorable recital of Chopin's music in the Purcell Room of Southbank Centre.

As a result of all of these efforts, the statue of Chopin once again assumes its rightful place at one of London's most prestigious cultural locations and will remain a symbol of the enduring friendship between the British and Polish peoples simultaneously embodying the power of music and culture.

HE Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecińska  
The Ambassador of The Republic of Poland

# About The Polish Heritage Society



Polish Heritage Society (UK)

Patrons:	The Earl of St Andrews The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
President:	General The Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank GCB LVO OBE
Chairman:	Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki M.Sc, Ph.D (Kings), FIET, KM
Vice-Chairman:	Dr Andrew Meeson M.A, M.B, BCh., BAO., KM
Secretary:	Philip Bujak BA, CertEd, ARHistS, ACMI

The Polish Heritage Society was founded in 2010 with the following aims:

- *To record for posterity and to promote the care of those memorials, monuments, buildings and other marks of remembrance testifying to the presence of Poles in the United Kingdom;*
- *To record and promote the contribution of Polish social organisations and individuals of Polish origin in the United Kingdom to its cultural heritage;*
- *To advocate, preserve and promote the strong historical relationship between the British and Polish nations through greater awareness amongst present and future generations of British citizens of the historical links between the two countries;*
- *To cooperate in a non-political, transparent manner with any groups, associations, societies and bodies, public and private, and with individuals in the common interest of maintaining and protecting our common Polish heritage in the United Kingdom.*

Projects sponsored or planned by The Polish Heritage Society include:

- The creation of a monument to members of the Allied Polish Armed Forces at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire
- A bust of the Chopin at Trinity College, Greenwich and two additional 2011 projects in the UK
- Cleaning of 1000 Polish graves in UK cemeteries and lighting candles on them for All Saints Day in 2010
- The comprehensive restoration project of the 1975 Fryderyk Chopin statue at Southbank Centre
- A planned statue in London in memory of Jan Herman Zukertort, a world chess champion of the 19th century

The Society welcomes new members and all forms of financial support.

For information please contact [info@polish-heritage.co.uk](mailto:info@polish-heritage.co.uk)  
or visit our website at [www.polish-heritage.co.uk](http://www.polish-heritage.co.uk)

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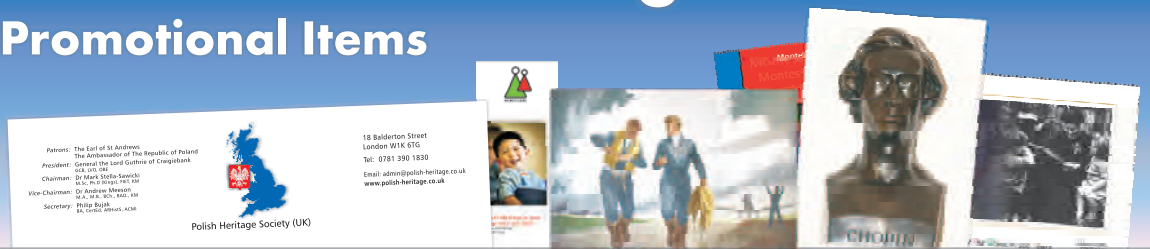
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2	Nocturne Op.48 No.2	1841	05:34
3	Nocturne Op.9 No.1	1833	09:97
4	Nocturne Op.27 No.2	1836	04:33
5	Nocturne Op.2 No.2	1830	04:55
6	Barcarole Op.60	1846	03:20
7	Impromptu Op.29 No.1	1837	07:36
8	Impromptu Op.51 No.3	1843	04:18
9	Fantasia-Impromptu Op.66	1855	05:49
10	Scherzo Op.31 No.2	1837	05:14
11	Nocturne Op.32 No.1	1837	10:29
12	Etude Op.10 No.12, "Revolutionary"	1833	02:25



**PERFORMING ARTISTS**

Alexander Ardakov (Tracks 1–11)  
Masayuki Tayama (Track 12)

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Supporting The Polish Heritage Society (UK)



# Fryderyk Chopin Compositions

## CD1

Track No.	Composition Title	Year	Track length
1	Nocturne Op.48 No.1	1841	04:51
2	Nocturne Op.48 No.2	1841	05:34
3	Nocturne Op.9 No.1	1833	09:07
4	Nocturne Op.27 No.2	1836	04:33
5	Nocturne Op.2 No.2	1830	04:55
6	Barcarole Op.60	1846	03:20
7	Impromptu Op.29 No.1	1837	07:36
8	Impromptu Op.51 No.3	1843	04:18
9	Fantasia-Impromptu Op.66	1855	05:49
10	Scherzo Op.31 No.2	1837	05:14
11	Nocturne Op.32 No.1	1837	10:29
12	Etude Op.10 No.12, "Revolutionary"	1833	02:25

## CD2

Track No.	Composition Title	Year	Track length
1	Ballade Op.23 No.1	1836	09:05
2	Ballade Op.38 No.2	1840	06:27
3	Ballade Op.47 No.3	1842	07:25
4	Ballade Op.52 No.4	1843	10:17
5	Polonaise-Fantasy in A flat major	1846	12:01
6	Polonaise in A major Op. 40 No.1, "Military"	1840	05:40
7	Polonaise in F sharp minor Op.44	1841	10:28
8	Polonaise in A flat major Op.53, "Heroique"	1843	07:12

## PERFORMING ARTISTS

**Alexander Ardakov**  
CD1 (Tracks 1–11)  
also CD2 (Tracks 1–8)



ALEXANDER ARDAKOV

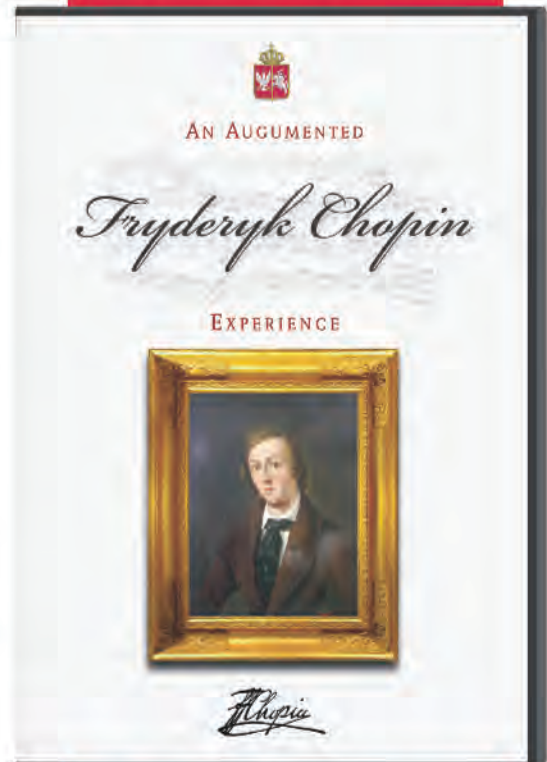
**Masayuki Tayama**  
CD1 (Track 12)



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Supporting The Polish Heritage Society (UK)

# Programme

*for the unveiling of the statue of Fryderyk Chopin  
at Southbank Centre  
Wednesday 18th May 2011*

- 10.45 The Band from The Royal College of Music plays
- 10.45 Guests Arrive
- 11.00 Arrival of HRH Duke of Gloucester
- 11.05 Welcome Speech by Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre
- 11.08 Speech by Dr Mark Stella-Sawicki, Chairman, The Polish Heritage Society
- 11.11 Speech by HE Madame Ambassador, Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecińska
- 11.14 A message from the British Government
- 11.17 HRH Duke of Gloucester unveils the statue
- 11.20 Message from Lady Rose Cholmondeley, President, Chopin Society
- 11.23 HE Madame Ambassador, Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecińska  
lays a wreath at the statue
- 11.25 A representative of the British Government, lays a wreath at the statue
- 11.28 Polish National Anthem, British National Anthem
- 11.30 Departure of HRH The Duke of Gloucester

## I N T E R V A L

- 12.00 Concert by Alexander Ardakov  
The Purcell Room
- 12.40 Vote of thanks by Philip Bujak, Hon.Sec., The Polish Heritage Society
- 12.45 Private Reception at the Queen Elizabeth Foyer for gold ticket holders

# Concert Programme

performed by

*Alexander Ardakov*

## Chopin

Nocturne in B major op 32 no 1

Nocturne in B flat minor op 9 no 1

Nocturne in E flat Major op 9 no 2

Impromptu in A flat major op 29

Impromptu in F sharp major op 36

Impromptu in G flat major op 51

Fantasy-Impromptu in C sharp minor op 66

Polonaise in A major op 40 ('Military')

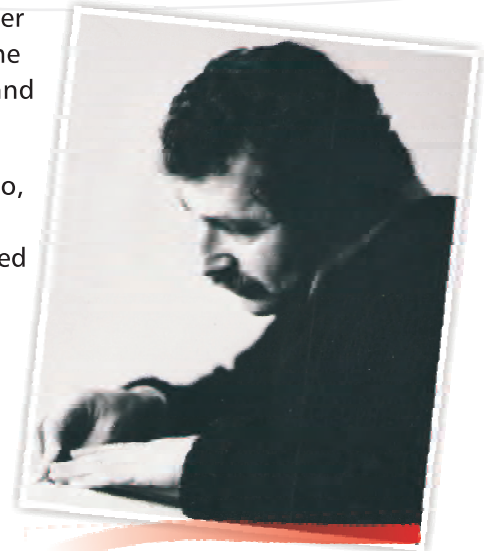


*A*lexander Ardakov, a concert pianist, a graduate of the Moscow Conservatoire and a prizewinner at the Viotti International competition in Italy (1984). Between 1981 and 1991 he performed with the Moscow State Philharmonia. Since 1991, he has lived in London, working as a Professor of Piano at Trinity College of Music, Greenwich, London. He has performed for BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM, and made numerous CD recordings, including pieces by Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Mozart and Sergei Rachmaninoff. He has recorded Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which was conducted by Sir Alexander Gibson. Alexander Ardakov has actively supported The Polish Heritage Society events since 2009 both at the National Memorial Arboretum in September 2009 and in Greenwich in 2010.

# The Story of a Statue

The statue of Fryderyk Chopin, now restored to its home by the River Thames, is many things: a work of art by a sculptor, a gift from one country to another, and the realisation of a dream of a musician and patriot living far away from home.

Professor Stefania Niekrasz was a renowned Polish pianist and teacher who, according to an article in The London Post in 1973, numbered the Queen Mother among her friends. She had devoted her life to telling the world about her beloved Poland through the power of music, in particular the music of Chopin, and was President of The Association of Polish Musicians Abroad. It was her dream to see a monument of Chopin erected at Southbank Centre near the Thames, a dream for which she campaigned tirelessly. Eventually, a site outside the entrance of Royal Festival Hall facing the Hayward Gallery was agreed by the then Greater London Council.



Sculptor Bronislaw Kubica

Professor Niekrasz passed away on 26th September 1973 in London at the age of 87. A year later, her dream of a monument to Chopin was realised, dedicated in her memory and officially unveiled on 26th February 1975 by the mother of the present HRH Duke of Gloucester, HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.



Dr. Stella-Sawicki at Prof Stefania Niekrasz memorial plaque in Warsaw.

The statue itself was a gift from Poland to Britain as a token of friendship and gratitude for the sacrifice of the British people and armed forces in the fight against fascism during World War II. Since Chopin and his music have come to symbolise the Polish nation and its struggles for freedom, he was the perfect subject for such a gift. Its special significance was further enhanced by the inclusion of an urn containing earth from Chopin's birthplace at Zelazowa Wola, Poland.

The site for the statue was, in many respects, ideal, right at the heart of London's most important cultural centre. But it represented a major challenge: the uncompromising modern architecture, with its great concrete slabs, was not particularly welcoming to a traditional figurative monument. A competition was held in Poland, which attracted more than 100 entries. The judges, who included some of the most prominent figures in the British art world, chose a work by the sculptor Bronislaw Kubica.

As The Daily Telegraph report of the unveiling ceremony confirmed, Kubica's bronze is perfectly adjusted to its setting. 'Viewed from most angles, the memorial appears as an abstract upright bronze shape, echoing both nature and architecture,' the paper's correspondent wrote: 'Yet it is not just a matter of de-humanised consideration. Viewed from the front, there emerges from the bronze a clearly recognisable head of the composer whose music has meant so much to millions.'

*Stella-Sawicki!*

Oczekalam na Twój list, niestety w kraju  
którego reprezentujesz Pan w polonie  
miesiąc temu, by przekazać fotokopie  
mojej, aby w okresie powstania  
pamięnika Fryderyka Chopina, którego  
Pan prabab i rodzinnic telefonowal.  
Jednocześnie pragnęłam  
i Malborka, gdzieś podziękować  
za udział, wysłanie i doprowadzenie  
do pomoninich, adstanie, pamięnika.  
Fryderyka, młody, w Warszawie, w Warszawie  
i w sprawie powstania, choroby mojej  
długo, wyjazd mój na, uszczelnienie  
do Londynu, jest nie możliwy.  
Mam nadzieję, że skromna  
dokumentacja, upamiętniająca to  
wydarzenie, artystyczne, towarzyskie.  
Ja też, mojej, planuję pragnę  
zaintensyfikować, o, międzynarodowe,  
przygotowanie, dla, w Warszawie, która  
pragnę, przekazać, że, trud, heroizm  
i, w Warszawie, Fryderyka Chopina, mojego  
autorka, przy, najbliższej, w Warszawie  
i, kraju.

*Stella-Sawicki*

*St. Sawicki*

Warszawa  
3.04.2011

## ...The Story of a Statue

After standing outside Royal Festival Hall for some 10 years, the statue was removed for safe-keeping during development works on the complex but was not returned to its intended new home. Perhaps it would never have been but for the curiosity of Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki, Chairman of The Polish Heritage Society.

With the world celebrating the bicentenary of Chopin's birth in 2010, he and PHS Vice-Chairman, Dr Andrew Meeson decided to find out what had become of the statue. After some detective work, they tracked it down to a storage facility and set about marshalling support to have it restored to its proper condition and its rightful place.

The Polish Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency, Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecińska, took up the case with the Chief Executive of Southbank Centre, Mr Alan Bishop. A plan was agreed in principle and the Polish Heritage Society took on the task of having the statue restored to its original condition. It was decided that the work should take place in Poland and be carried out by the sculptor, Robert Sobocinski, who conceived and created the monument to the Polish Armed Forces at Britain's National Memorial Arboretum, which had been unveiled in 2009.

### Memorial to Chopin at Festival Hall

By TERENCE MULLALLY

A MEMORIAL to Chopin, which provides lessons for all those concerned with the art of sculpture, with its siting in public places and indeed with town planning, was yesterday unveiled by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

The memorial, which is on the South Bank outside the entrance of the Royal Festival Hall facing the Hayward Gallery is by a young Polish sculptor Marian Kubica.

He has produced a large abstract bronze perfectly suited to its site. The commission, the result of a competition held in Poland, judged among others by the Duke of St Albans and Sir Thomas Monington, the President of the Royal Academy, has obviously gone to the right man.

The problems involved were difficult, for the uncompromising, de-humanised architecture of the Royal Festival Hall, the Hayward Gallery and the surrounding buildings would have made any purely representational piece of sculpture look out of place. Kubica has arrived at a suitable compromise.

#### Austerity in tune

His bronze is perfectly adjusted to its setting. Its austerity is in tune with the buildings about it, but it has sufficient references to direct human connotations to evoke an immediate response.

Viewed from most angles, the memorial appears as an abstract upright bronze shape echoing

both nature and architecture. The relationship with both has, indeed, been carefully conceived.

Not only does the memorial provide an admirable foil to the surrounding buildings, but it is also carefully adjusted to its immediate setting. It stands on an island of gently sloping grass, backed by two splendid trees.

Yet it is not just a matter of de-humanised consideration. Viewed from the front there emerges from the bronze a clearly recognisable head of the composer whose music has, over the years, meant so much to millions.

#### Earth from Poland

Nearby, in the Festival Hall itself, there is something else linking Poland and Britain. Here there is a casket, itself an admirable example of contemporary craftsmanship, containing earth from Chopin's birthplace at Zelazow Wola, in Poland.

That the commission for a memorial to Chopin, close to the heart of musical life in London, should have been so successfully resolved, is particularly satisfactory. It was initiated in 1969 by the late Prof Stefania Niekrasa, and much planning and thought has been involved.

The final result will long serve as an example as to how the difficult problem of relating sculpture to an uncompromisingly contemporary setting can be solved.

PT 27.275

Daily Telegraph, Thursday 27 Feb. 1975

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE  
Secretary of State  
General Inspector of Monuments  
Piotr Zachowski

His Royal Highness, His Ambassador, Piotr Stefan Madon

I was greatly pleased to receive the initiative of the Polish Heritage Society and Chairman Dr. Marek Stella-Sawicki to renew the monument of Fryderyk Chopin designed by Bronislaw Kubica.

The placement of the monument in the initially planned spot in the vicinity of the Royal Festival Hall and the Hayward Gallery in the London Southbank area, one of the most important places on the cultural map of London, is an essential completion of last year's celebration of the Year of Chopin. This will help to properly commemorate the figure of this great composer in the United Kingdom where Chopin went on his last journey and where, apart from Prague, he had the greatest number of friends and admirers in his lifetime.

I wish to heartily thank you, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, for adding splendour to the ceremony of the monument's unveiling. I wish to express my recognition of all persons involved in the monument's renovation and the organisation of its unveiling, most significantly Dr. Marek Stella-Sawicki and the Polish Heritage Society, His Excellency Ms. Barbara Tuge-Erecińska, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Director of the Southbank Centre in London, Mr. Alan Bishop, and employees of the Polish Embassy and the Polish Cultural Institute in London.

I would also like to thank all those without whose involvement this ceremony would not be possible. I wish you unforgettable artistic experiences at the concert commemorating Fryderyk Chopin. "Warsaw citizens by heart, Poles in heart and the citizen of the world by virtue of talent."

To the Organisers and Participants of the unveiling ceremony of the monument of Fryderyk Chopin in London

*Robert Sobocinski*

Warsaw, 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

The monument was carefully packed and transported back to Poland on 14th October 2010, the shipping costs kindly donated by the Polish transport company, PEKAES. Stone for a new plinth was imported from Brittany and the following inscription carved:

FRYDERYK CHOPIN

1810-1849

'Simplicity is the highest goal, achievable when you have overcome all difficulties'

So, it is a source of great satisfaction to all those who have contributed to this effort to see the statue standing proudly once again at Southbank Centre, and a fitting memorial to all those who worked so hard on the original project.

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**Sami Swoi [www.PrzekazyPieniezne.com](http://www.PrzekazyPieniezne.com) wish  
The Polish Heritage Society (UK) every  
success on the historic unveiling of  
the Chopin statue at Southbank Centre.**

**We are delighted and proud to support  
The Polish Heritage Society (UK) in United Kingdom.**

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John and Rie Zylinski are delighted to support the return of the Fryderyk Chopin statue to Southbank Centre and salute the energy of all concerned especially The Polish Heritage Society who made it happen.

## THE WHITE HOUSE



*The private residence of  
Prince John Zylinski...  
yours for the day.*

The White House in Ealing was built by John Zylinski in order to keep the promise that he made to his Grandmother when he was six years old: that he would rebuild her Polish palace which the Communists had destroyed. It is now the Zylinski family residence hosting many different activities : masked balls, charity concerts and most recently its own Royal Wedding Party attended by 200 people. Often used for filming and photo-shoots it has become a popular wedding venue. It looks like a Wedding Cake!

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