

**Music News from 3**

group to the ancient salt mine of Wieliczka, just east of Kraków. This is one of the oldest salt mines in the world, operating since the thirteenth century and closed only recently. Its underground wonders include huge underground chambers with chandeliers and salt rock carvings, chapels and underground lakes, and many other attractions.

On Friday morning, selected members of the youth exchange program attended a press conference held in the Tarnów City Council chambers. They were joined by two wine representatives from Paso Robles—Cri Cri Solak-Eastin, a Paderewski Festival Board Member and winemaker, and Gracie Rey, representing the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance—who were also generously hosted at Kaźna Dolna during this exchange, thanks to the support of the local government and the Paderewski Center. Supervisor Kras opened the press conference with a summary of the exchange program so far, and then invited questions from several newspapers and TV stations. Rory McClish and Marian Michalski gave statements about their experiences, Cri Cri Solak-Eastin and Gracie Rey were individually interviewed about the wines from Paso, and Marek Żebrowski provided background on the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles.

The culmination of the week-long piano workshops was the concert at the manor house on Saturday, June 27. One of the elegant salons in Paderewski's manor was filled with members of the public, some of whom came on a specially chartered bus from Tarnów, and they were treated to a program of excellent music.

Alicja Wójtowicz began the program with selections from compositions by Krieger, Mikstein, Rowley and Dussek. Rory McClish came next, presenting works by Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin. He was then joined by his Polish friend, Marian Michalski, for a four-hand duet by Ravel. Lindsay Reed came next on stage, performing works by Haydn, two of her own compositions, and Paderewski's famous Menuet. Marian Michalski then returned for a solo segment of Bach, Haydn and Miśkiewicz. He was followed by Barbara Doroszuk, who presented works by Bach, Haydn, and Chopin. Remaining on stage, Barbara was joined by Matthew Fauria; together they performed a duet by Fauré. Afterwards Matt remained on stage to end the concert with compositions by Ravel and Chopin. The audience responded with tumultuous applause and seemed especially pleased when all of six performers came on stage for a group bow.

The evening then continued with wine tasting, featuring vintages contributed for the exchange by several Central Coast wineries, including: Cass, J. Lohr, Pear Valley, Liberty School, Eberle, Sharp's Hill, and Vina Robles. A short presentation by Cri Cri Solak-Eastin and Gracie Rey was followed by the sampling of wines from the region where Paderewski had once owned and cultivated extensive vineyards.

Sunday, the last day in Kaźna, was a day of expedition into the southern resort town of Krynica, famous for its healing mineral waters. This fashionable nineteenth century resort town in the mountains is also one of the most famous winter ski destinations in Poland. Charming wooden villas with beautifully carved balconies and stately Victorian-era hotels line the park and the main promenade, where the vacationing public comes out for a stroll. Home-made ice cream, arts and crafts stalls, and souvenir shops line the park that is bisected by a swiftly-flowing mountain stream of ice cold, crystalline water. After snacking on grilled smoked sheep's cheese, the group drove towards the Slovak border, where they took a 15-minute gondola ride to the summit of Jaworzyna Mountain. It was a sunny and warm day, with billowing white clouds dotting the blue skies, and the view of the surrounding countryside from 3,600 feet above sea level was simply stunning. On the way back, the group stopped to view a few old wooden churches and observed a Sunday folk festival in one of the nearby villages. Dancers from several nearby countries, including Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania, performed in their native costumes, with arts and crafts of all kinds on

display and various local foods for sampling. The evening ended with a gala dinner served in the eighteenth century cellars of the City Hall in Cieżkowice, the parish town of Paderewski's estate. The caterer who had supplied the visitors with the food throughout the week prepared a veritable feast of Polish cuisine. Late in the evening everybody was finally back at the hotel next to the manor house, getting ready to pack and leave the following morning.

Monday morning was spent rearranging the travelers' luggage and several cases of wine until it was all crammed together in the van with the seven passengers and the driver for the drive back to Kraków. After 3 hours on crowded country roads, Monday afternoon was spent rehearsing for the evening's concert at the Institute of Musicology of Jagiellonian University. The oldest university in Poland and one of the oldest in the world, Jagiellonian was founded in 1364 by the Polish King, Casimir III the Great. The concert was organized by Mr. Andrzej Sitarz, Editor in Chief of the Musica Iagellonica Press, who coordinated publicity and all logistical arrangements.

As the young pianists from California and Poland rehearsed, Cri-Cri and Gracie poured wine at an exclusive afternoon wine tasting held at the private residence of the US Consul in Kraków, the Honorable Anne Hall. Consul for Culture and Press and coordinator for the event, Susan Parker-Burns, had invited many important guests, among them owners of top-notch restaurants and hotels, captains of industry, owners of wine boutiques, wine distributors, and journalists. The Paso Robles wines scored very highly among these discriminating palates, and many expressed interest in importing them to Poland, where Central Coast varietals are completely unknown.

Later that evening, the young Polish and American pianists repeated their program from Kaźna at the Jagiellonian University. Their program was dedicated to Ignacy Jan Paderewski, whose death anniversary fell on that day, June 29. The concert began with a warm introduction by the Director of the Institute, Dr. Renata Suchowiejko, who also provided a wonderful reception with more Polish delicacies after the concert.

Meanwhile, having finished their presentation at the American Consul's residence, Cri Cri and Gracie raced back to pour wines after the Jagiellonian University concert. As the skies darkened outside the stylish palazzo where the concert was held, the exchange participants slowly returned to the hotel to pack and leave for California the next morning.

Cri Cri and Gracie remained in Poland for another event—the opening of the exhibit, "American Dream" at the National Museum in Kraków. The cream of the crop of Kraków society, including politicians, diplomats, and other notables, filled the cavernous hall of the museum. Central Coast Wineries were given a special table and many of the several hundred guests who attended the event had a chance to become acquainted with wines that were brought to Poland for this occasion. Read more about the musical aspects of this event in the next article.

There is no doubt that the first step in fulfilling the agreements signed in Paso Robles last year was a resounding success. The young pianists from California and Poland gained tremendously from their joint experience of the intensive week of practice and performances. Friendships were made and the goodbyes were quite touching. Wines from the Central Coast were brought to Poland for the first time and presented in several prestigious locations to a very receptive crowd. There is a market niche that winemakers from Paso Robles and the surrounding areas can now exploit, providing alternatives to the selections from Napa Valley that currently represent California wines. The trip was not only an artistic success—it could also be a first step in establishing a successful commercial relationship between wine importers in Poland and Central Coast wine producers. Having made friends among the local authorities, US government representatives in Poland, and the Polish diplomatic representation in California, this exchange can only continue to grow and prosper. □

**Cybulski - Vistula Miracle from 5**

"Cud Nad Wisłą." Stanisław Mackiewicz gives credit for the name to newspaperman Professor Stroński, who was not a Piłsudski supporter and tried to diminish Piłsudski's greatness. The truth is such. The Bolsheviks were not defeated by Kolczak, Wrangel, Denikir, Miller, or Judenicz. The Poles overcame the English and French generals who helped the white Czarist Army. Polish people and Piłsudski who in this historic time was given to be our leader accomplished the victory. It was he, when saying goodbye to his wife and daughter said: "Everything is in the hands of our Lord!" He was the miracle for Poland at that time. The 15<sup>th</sup> of August, the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, also became the Polish Soldier's Holiday. □

**Strybel - 70th Anniversary from 5**

Holocaust. It listed "Polish farmers" among those without whom the Nazis would not have been able to carry out the Holocaust. It also pointed the finger at Ukrainian gendarmes, Latvian auxiliary policemen, Romanian soldiers, Hungarian railway workers, Dutch land-register officials, French mayors, Norwegian ministers and Italian soldiers.

Former German inhabitants of pre-war Poland and Czechoslovakia, who fled before the advancing Red Army or were sent back to Germany after the war, are now calling themselves victims. The expellees are building museums to memorialize their plight and demanding compensation from Poland for the property they left behind in those countries, to which many had been sent by Hitler to colonize the "barbaric East".

It is understandable that to Jews World War II was mainly the Holocaust, however they too are helping to diminish Germany's blame for that atrocity. In gratitude for West Germany's bankrolling of the State of Israel in the early post-war decades, the word "German" now almost never appears in Holocaust exhibitions or literature. It is always only some mythical, nondescript "Nazis", although with the passage of time more and younger people don't really know how or what the Nazis really were.

But Jewish accounts often allege Polish complicity in the Holocaust and copiously repeat the words "Polish", "Poles" and "Poland" in that context. It should surprise no-one if in the not too distant future younger Americans ask: "Were all Nazis Polish?" or "Not all Polish people were Nazis, were they?"

The questions remains: are the people of Poland and Polonia concerned enough to do something about it? Are there enough activists to create Web sites, set up exhibitions, write books and articles or, at the very least, write letters to the editor correcting historical distortions such as the perennial "Polish concentration camps." Yes, that takes time, effort and money. The point is, however, that amongst us there are ethnic groups willing to spend it on what they regard as the defense of their community's good name. □

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**Valerian Soltes****Attorney**

*Living Trusts - Probate  
Bankruptcy  
Personal Injury  
Collections*

30011 Ivy Glenn Drive - Suite 203  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

**949/363-0106**

E-mail: [vsoltes@solteslaw.com](mailto:vsoltes@solteslaw.com)  
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