

# Chopin Concert

to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Chopin's  
birth



Portrait by E. Delacroix

Sunday, April 25 Convocation Hall, 7:30 pm

Organized and sponsored by the Polish-Canadian Scientific Society  
of Saskatoon

**Frédéric François Chopin** was born in Żelazowa Wola (near Warsaw, Poland) on March 1, 1810 to a French father, Nicolas Chopin, and a Polish mother, Tekla Justyna Krzyżanowska. He showed great interest in the piano at a very young age, and he composed two polonaises (Polish dances) at the age of seven. Soon he was giving concert performances to impressed audiences.

He began his studies with violinist Wojciech Żywny in 1816. Soon acquiring greater skill than that of his teacher, he continued his studies at the Warsaw Conservatory under the tutelage of Wilhelm Wurfel. At 15 he published his first work (Rondo, op. 1) and the next year he began studying harmony, theory, figured bass and composition with Józef Elsner, a Silesian composer who taught at the Conservatory.

In early 1829, Chopin performed in Vienna to good reviews. Back home the next year he performed the premiere of his piano concerto in F minor at the National Theatre on March 17. Afterwards he decided to move to Paris to avoid the volatile political situation at home. On the road he learned that the Russians had captured Warsaw, and he composed the great "Revolutionary Etude," in reaction. Once in Paris, he began working on his first ballade (Op. 23) and scherzo (Op. 20), as well as his first etudes (Op. 10). It was also at this time that he began his unfortunate struggle with tuberculosis.

In France he became acquainted with contemporaries who were also involved in the Romantic Revolution in Paris, including Liszt, Berlioz, Meyerbeer, Bellini, Balzac, Heine, Victor Hugo and Schumann, making many lasting friendships. He also met a friend of Liszt's mistress, the French author best known by her pseudonym, George Sand.

The 1830s in Paris proved to be a progressive and productive time for Chopin. He completed some of his most popular works and performed regularly, receiving fantastic reviews. He was also in great demand as a composer and a teacher.

Wanting a break from the pressures of his highly public Parisian life he shared the harsh winter of 1838-9 in the country with Madame Sand. But they stayed in an unheated peasant hut and in a monastery. Much of his misery and desperation is depicted in his 24 preludes (Op. 28), which were composed during this time.

During the following eight years, Chopin spent his summers at Sand's estate in Nohant, where she entertained some of France's most prominent artists and writers. Unfortunately, the couple's happiness was relatively short-lived, and they shifted from love to conflict. Their intense relationship ended in 1847, two years before Chopin's death.

On October 17, 1849, tuberculosis ended the life of the young genius, who was only 39. His funeral was held at the Church of the Madeleine, and he was buried at the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. His heart was entombed at the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw, Poland, and Polish soil was sprinkled over his tomb in France, as he had requested.

*Adapted from <http://www.chopinmusic.net>*

# **Kathleen Solose, piano**

String quintet:

Oxana Ossiptchouk, violin

Maxim Pletnev, violin

Saache Heinrich, viola

Carman Rabuka, cello

David Pyra, double bass

## **Program**

**Polonaise-Fantaisie in A flat, Op. 61**

**Ballade no. 4 in F minor Op. 52**

**Mazurkas, Opus 24**

**No. 1 in G minor**

**No. 2 in C major**

**No. 3 in A flat major**

**No. 4 in B flat minor**

**Scherzo Op. 31 in B flat minor**

*Intermission*

**Concerto in F minor for Piano and Orchestra Op. 21**

(version for string quintet)

**Maestoso**

**Larghetto**

**Allegro Vivace**

Opening remarks by Dr. Janusz Kozinski, Dean, College of Engineering (University of Saskatchewan)

Introduction by Dr. Gerald Langner, Head, Department of Music (University of Saskatchewan)

Concluding remarks on behalf of the Polish-Canadian Scientific Society of Saskatoon by Dr. Wojciech P. Olszynski

## **About the Artists**

**Canadian pianist Kathleen Solose** is an esteemed performer of the music of Frédéric Chopin. She continues the musical legacy of her teachers - among them Adele Marcus, (The Juilliard School, New York), Stanislav Neuhaus (Moscow Conservatory), Guido Agosti (Accademia Chigiana, Siena, Italy) and Carlo Zecchi (Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Rome). Unanimous first-prize winner of the Casagrande International Competition in Italy and winner of CBC Canada's National auditions for both solo and chamber music, Kathleen Solose has appeared in recital and with orchestras in Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, the United States, and Canada. She has also recorded for RAI-TV, Radio Svizzera Italiana, American Public Radio and CBC.

Kathleen Solose has recorded a solo CD of Chopin's Sonatas Op. 4 and Op. 35 as well as the Polonaise-Fantaisie in conjunction with CBC. Her repertoire is wide-ranging; she has commissioned new works and performed with the Toronto Array and New Music Ensembles. In the 2005-6 season Prof. Solose performed all five Beethoven piano concerti and the Triple Concerto with the Saskatoon Symphony Chamber Orchestra. Research has taken her to St. Petersburg, Russia, where she was invited to perform a recital at the St. Petersburg University for Culture and Art in May of 2008.

Professor Solose has initiated several chamber ensembles, including the Toronto Kammertrio and Musici Amati. She has performed with major artists including Pierre Henri Xuereb, Erika Raum and Paul Marleyn, and presently is pianist and Artistic Director of the Elixir Chamber Ensemble that presents a concert series in Saskatoon. The Solose Piano Duo (with Dr. Jane Solose, Associate Professor, UMKC) has toured Canada, the US and Hungary to great accolades. They have recorded a CD of Liszt, Rachmaninov, Chopin and Schubert. The Solose Duo performed at the American Liszt Society Festival in Washington, DC in May, 2008 and they were invited to perform works by Rachmaninov and Stravinsky at the St. Petersburg Conservatory International Festival in October, 2008.

A Master teacher, her students have been successful at national and international competitions. Prof. Solose has given Masterclasses at the Kansas City Conservatory (UMKC), as well as the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and the University of Szeged (Hungary). Her CD's are distributed by Eroica Classical Recordings. Kathleen Solose is Professor at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada.

**Oxana Ossiptchouk** was educated in North Ossetiya, Russia, where she received a Master's degree at the Sergey Rachmaninov State Conservatory in Rostov-on-Don in Violin Solo Performance, Orchestral Performance and Chamber Music. She was the winner of several competitions in Russia, performing the Mendelssohn Concerto with the North Ossetiya Republic Symphony Orchestra, and the Brahms violin concerto with the Rostov-on-Don Philharmonic Orchestra. In Canada, Oxana won the Saskatchewan Concerto Competition and performed the Szymanowsky Concerto with the Saskatoon and Regina Symphonies. She has also been an orchestral member of the Timmins and Regina Symphonies, and is presently Principal Second Violinist of the Saskatoon Symphony and performs with the Saskatoon Symphony Chamber Players and Elixir.

**Maxim Pletnev** was born in Rostov-on-Don, Russian in 1976. He started playing the violin at age of 7 and completed the music school program with a certificate by age of 16. After that he was accepted to the Rostov's College of Fine Arts in 1991 and graduated with a Bachelor of Music in 1995. During his college years he attended a

number of music festivals and competitions, one of which was the South Russia Competition where he received second prize. In 1995 he was accepted, with scholarship, by the Rachmaninoff Conservatory in Rostov-on-Don, where he completed the degree of Master of Music in 2000. Since moving to Canada in 2000 he has played in the Regina Symphony Orchestra, Timmins Symphony Orchestra (and other Ontario orchestras), and is currently a member of the Saskatoon Symphony.

**Saache Heinrich** studied the viola at Regina's Conservatory of Music, McGill University and the University of Regina, where she obtained a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance in 1997. Highlights from her training include playing with the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Le Domaine Forget and McGill Symphony Orchestra. She has played professionally with L'Orchestre symphonique de Sherbrooke, Regina Symphony, Opera Saskatchewan, Prairie Virtuosi, and Saskatoon Opera and is in her tenth season with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. In 2000, she received her Master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta and currently works as Youth Services / Branch Manager for the Wheatland Regional Library.

At the age of four, **Carman Rabuka** was introduced to his first cello and has never looked back. He began his studies in Saskatoon under the direction of John Payzant and later Terrence Sturge, completing his Associate of the Royal Conservatory in cello performance in 1999. He went on to study under the direction of John Kadz (Calgary) and Desmond Hoebig (Banff), receiving numerous awards and scholarships for performances throughout Canada. Carman will be playing in his 13<sup>th</sup> season with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in the fall of 2010 and enjoys making professional recordings in rock, jazz, and classical genres. He also chose to pursue his second passion, dentistry, graduating from the College of Dentistry at the U of S in 2007, and has set up his professional dental practice in Saskatoon. In his spare time, Carman enjoys camping and traveling with his wife Esther, and helping out on the family farm.

**Dave Pyra** is an active classical musician and instructor in Saskatoon. He has served as the double bass coach for the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra for one year and as a tenured musician of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra for two years, all while continuing with a busy education to complete a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. Dave Pyra studied double bass with Joel Quarrington at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and has participated in the National Youth Orchestra of Canada (NYOC) and l'Orchestre Mondial des Jeunes Musicales (JMWO).

**The Polish-Canadian Scientific Society of Saskatoon**, established in 2007, comprises a multidisciplinary group of Canadian scientists of Polish origin affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan and other scientific and medical centers located in the Saskatoon area. The members have expertise in most areas of the natural and applied sciences.

[http://biblioteka.info/scientific\\_society](http://biblioteka.info/scientific_society)

Dr. Pawel Grochulski

