



# Chopin Society of Atlanta

## NEWSLETTER

September 2005

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### Upcoming Events:

*Chopin Recital*  
*Ingrid Fliter, piano*  
October 15, 2005 7:30 pm  
Roswell Cultural Arts Center

*Chopin Recital*  
*Stanisław Drzewiecki, piano*  
March 19, 2006 7:30 pm  
Roswell Cultural Arts Center

*Annual Fundraising Event*  
*Chopin Society Member*  
*Exclusive*  
Spring 2006

*Chopin's Life & Work*  
*Third Annual Competition*  
*for Atlanta Youth*  
Fall 2006

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*The Chopin Society of Atlanta*  
*Newsletter is published four times a*  
*year. Please check our website for*  
*more information.*

### A Chopin Society of Atlanta Exclusive Interview:

**Ingrid Fliter**, *Second Prize Winner at the Fourteenth International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw*, is coming to Atlanta to perform a Chopin recital opening the 2005-2006 season.

An interview by Bożena U. Zaremba

**You were already an accomplished pianist before you participated in the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, in 2000. What role did the Second Prize at the Competition play in your career?**

Being appreciated by such a prominent jury gave me great encouragement and enthusiasm. The Chopin competition also helped me enlarge my musical horizons. After the competition my life changed a lot. My engagements increased significantly and, with such an important prize, so did the responsibility. The growth of an artist never ends, and the experience at the competition and what came after it was of a big importance in this process.

**You have yourself served as a jury member at other international piano competitions. How does it feel to be on the "other side"?**

It was harder than expected. On the one hand I feel relieved because my performance is no longer an object of discussion, but on the other hand I realize how complex and difficult the judgment of the jury is, and how big a responsibility one has in such a position. I put myself in the place of participants, and I understand their worries and stress and try to "forgive" minor mistakes as much as possible. In any case, all this together has been of course a great lesson for me.

**What do you especially appreciate in Chopin's music?**

I grew up playing Chopin's music, and it made me discover the world of beauty and the importance of finding your own voice to sing, using the piano. Chopin's music is a powerful instrument of human communication. That's one of the reasons why his music is so much beloved all over the world. The balance between the romantic expression and his classical soul is a difficult aspect to achieve when you play his music, and it is one of the most fascinating. His music is pure and transparent and still so deeply emotional and heart rending. Once "inhaled," its contagious influence affects you forever.

**What are your favorite pieces by Chopin?**

Definitely *Ballade No.4* and the second movement of the *Piano Concerto No.2 in F minor*. When I play the first one, I have the impression of making a trip into the deepness of a human soul and life; the fragility and the passion are continuously embracing themselves, dragging you into the ocean of desperation. The second, with its enchanting atmosphere, is one of the most beautiful pieces ever written. It is impossible not to be touched by it.

...  
Ingrid Fliter was born in 1973 in Buenos Aires, where she completed her studies at the National Conservatoire. After having won several national competitions, she played her orchestra debut in Teatro Colon at the age of 16 and launched her solo career. In 1994 she won First Prize and the Special Prize at the International Competition for Piano and Orchestra "Citta di Cantu" in Italy and in 1998 was prizewinner of the "Ferruccio Busoni" Competition in Bolzano, Italy. She continued her studies at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg, Germany, and in 2000 she graduated from the Music Academy "Incontri Col Maestro" in Imola, Italy. In 2000 she won the Second Prize and Silver Medal at the Fourteenth International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. She has performed in important worldwide concert halls, including Kennedy Center in Washington and Lincoln Center in New York. She has participated in "The World Pianist Series," side by side with such celebrated pianists as Maurizio Pollini and Martha Argerich. She has performed with many renowned orchestras and has collaborated with distinguished conductors. Her future engagements will take her on concert tours to Holland, Poland, Mexico, Spain, Japan, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Argentina, and the United States.

Biographical note based on [www.ingridfliter.com](http://www.ingridfliter.com).



# The Chopin Society of Atlanta Supports the Arts and Education

Public Broadcasting Atlanta (WABE, 90.1 FM), Alliance Francaise of Atlanta, and the Goethe Institute of Atlanta are proud to support the Chopin Society of Atlanta's sixth season opening concert on October 15th (see page 1).

The Chopin Society of Atlanta, established in December of 2000, is a not-for-profit organization devoted to promoting music, culture and the arts in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Its goal is to generate understanding and appreciation of Frederick Chopin's music, and it is dedicated to advancing and promoting the performance of Chopin's music by talented young musicians.

The Chopin Society of Atlanta organizes "mostly Chopin" concerts that are usually held at the Cultural Arts Center in Roswell, Georgia. Internationally renowned pianists such as Ilya Itin, Piotr Folkert, Adam Makowicz, and Mei-Ting Sun have performed at those concerts, which have been met with acclaim not only

from Society members, but also from metropolitan Atlanta classical music lovers. Many of our concerts were accompanied by related art exhibitions.

All concerts organized by the Chopin Society of Atlanta have been sold out. However, we are especially proud of our promotion of education through music and our work with youth and children. We offer free-of-charge tickets to music students for all our concerts and hold annual competitions devoted to Chopin's life and work, which are open to Atlanta youth. The Third Annual Competition will be held in the fall of 2006. Our future plans, besides the Ingrid Fliter concert on October 15, 2005, include a concert on March 19, 2006, by Stanisław Drzewiecki, a young prodigy, and winner of numerous international competitions.

We cordially invite you to become corporate and individual sponsors for our 2005-2006 season and thereby promote the Chopin Society's work. Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

**Platinum** - \$2000 and up  
4 tickets for each concert  
Meeting with the featured artists  
Autographed CD with music of the featured artist  
Invitation for the reception after each concert  
Name will be displayed in promotional materials and mentioned prior to the concert

**Gold** - \$1000  
4 tickets for each concert  
Invitation for the reception after each concert  
Name will be displayed in promotional materials and mentioned prior to the concert

**Silver** - \$500  
2 tickets for each concert  
Invitation for the reception after each concert  
Name will be displayed in promotional materials and mentioned prior to the concert

**Friend** - \$100  
2 tickets for one concert  
Name will be displayed in promotional materials and mentioned prior to the concert

**Chopin Society membership** - \$20  
Quarterly newsletter  
Advanced notice of all concerts and events  
Access to exclusive member only events and discounts  
*All above sponsors also receive membership benefits.*

For additional information, please contact the Chopin Society of Atlanta at 770-663-0620 or [chopinsociety@mindspring.com](mailto:chopinsociety@mindspring.com)

## Congratulations to the Chopin's Life and Work Competition Winners

It is a great pleasure to congratulate those students who participated this year in the Second Annual Competition, "Chopin's Life and Work," for Atlanta youth. The competition took place on April 23, and was organized by Chopin Society of Atlanta in cooperation with the Polish Saturday School. Students between the ages of 7 to 15 were divided into three different groups: in English, two age groups, 7-10 and 11-14; and in Polish, one group. Students were required to recognize Chopin's music, answer test questions about Chopin's work and life, and write an essay. The questions were prepared by Maria Archetto, Professor of Music at Oxford College of Emory University.

The competition enabled students to show knowledge about Chopin not only as a pianist and composer but also as a loving and suffering man. Students demonstrated that they could easily

recognize Chopin's style and characteristic forms of music, such as mazurkas and polonaises. Students expressed their emotions and sensitivity to the beauty of Chopin's



Photo: Elżbieta Górtler-Krawczyńska

music. One of the students wrote: "I like the way his music reflects a wide range of feelings. His music displays the rhythms and melodies of his homeland, showing his loyalty to his

homeland although he never returned after 1830. I like how his music is soft and delicate..." (Katherine Chew). More than 60 students participated in the competition.

This year's winners are as follows:  
**1st Prize**  
Ayan Das, 7- to 10-year-olds  
Maiya Moncino, 11- to 14-year-olds  
Maya Nori, Polish School  
Natasha Nori, Polish School  
**2nd Prize**  
Surya Dutta, 7- to 10-year-olds  
Rohan Iyer, 7- to 10-year-olds  
Emma Denk, 7- to 10-year-olds  
Katherine Chew\*, 11- to 14-year-olds  
Vincent Bai, 11- to 14-year-olds  
Jola Ksiaczczyk, Polish School  
Paulina Kowalska, Polish School

\*2004 Winner

The winners were announced at the Chopin Society's concert on May 14, 2005, when Adam Makowicz and Piotr Folkert performed a dual recital entitled "Reflections on Chopin."

*continued on page 4*

## Summer Concert Review

Members of the Chopin Society of Atlanta enjoyed two memorable musical events at the beginning of summer 2005. In May and June, Adam Makowicz, a world-renowned Polish jazz pianist, and Mei-Ting Sun, recipient of the first prize of the American Piano Competition, were our guest performers here in Atlanta, along with our own Piotr Folkert.



Piotr Folkert and Adam Makowicz  
Photo: Elżbieta Gúrtler-Krawczyńska

On May 15, Adam Makowicz and Piotr Folkert performed at an unforgettable concert entitled *Reflections on Chopin*, which took place at the St. James United Methodist Church. First Mr. Folkert played Chopin's music in its original version, and then Mr. Makowicz played

his jazz interpretation of the same piece, both artists creating an unconstrained and harmonious atmosphere with their complementary rhythms and styles, to the delight of the enthusiastic audience. John Lemley from public radio station WABE (90.1 FM) hosted the evening.

On June 5, St. James United Methodist Church hosted a concert by Mei-Ting Sun, a 24-year-old pianist who has played in such concert venues as Alice Tully Hall in New York City.

Mr. Mei-Ting Sun played Chopin's music with the rare sensitivity

and precision of an artist who understands the lyrical value as well as the spontaneity of those Polish compositions. He will represent the United States at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw this October. We wish him good luck.

Joanna Babinska  
Translated by Lila Piechocki



Mei-Ting Sun and Ning An, winners of the National Chopin Piano Competition in Miami, in 2005 and 2000, respectively  
Photo: Derek Lukaschus

On September 23<sup>rd</sup> the thrill of the **15th International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition** in Warsaw will start with the Preliminary Round. The main part of the competition won't start until October 2<sup>nd</sup>, but almost 350 participants who have registered must already be very excited and anxious; the competitive atmosphere can be nerve-racking, and winning or not winning a prize at such a prestigious competition will dramatically affect their musical careers. But before it all begins it might be interesting to take an inside view and get acquainted with selected rules of the competition.

The Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities, born between 1977-1988. At the time of registration all participants must submit extensive documentation, including a biographical note and photocopies of musical school diplomas, as well as two letters of recommendation from renowned pianists. Besides the registration fee of \$150, the participants bear all travel costs. The organizers cover the cost of accommodation only for those participants who advance to the main part of the competition. All contestants are provided with grand pianos for practice.

The demanding program must include the works of Frederick Chopin exclusively and must be played from

### The Thrill and the Rules

memory. The Preliminary Round program is to include two etudes and a piece from a mandatory list drawn by the participants two days prior to the performance. The main part of the competition consists of three stages. The program of Stage One is to include (but is not limited to) two etudes, one nocturne, a ballade, a waltz, and *Preludes op. 28*. Performance time in Stage One is limited to 40–45 minutes. The program of Stage Two must include a full cycle of mazurkas, a polonaise, and a sonata. During the Final Stage, participants are to play one of the concertos: *in E minor op. 11* or *in F minor op. 21*. While it is permitted to use the scores from all available editions of Chopin's works, contestants are recommended to use "The National Edition of the Complete Works of Fryderyk Chopin" edited by Jan Ekier, a distinguished pianist, composer, professor at Music Academy in Warsaw, prizewinner at the 3rd International Chopin Piano Competition in 1937, and a frequent member of its jury.

Each contestant's performance – technique and artistic merit – will be evaluated by a jury composed of outstanding Polish and international

musicians. The jury has the right to change the way prizes are awarded, and they may choose not to award specific prizes, as they did, for example, in 1990 and 1995 by not awarding the First Prize. All decisions made by the jury are final.

Not more than 80 participants will advance to the main part of the competition, and not more than 30 to Stage Two. The number of participants admitted to the Final Stage has been increased to 12 this year, but only six top finalists will receive the title of Laureate of the 15th International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition. The winner of the First Prize and Gold Medal will receive \$25,000. There will also be special prizes awarded by the Chopin Society in Warsaw for the best performance of a polonaise, by the Polish Radio for the best performance of mazurkas, and by the Polish National Philharmonic for the best performance of a concerto. The competition will be crowned with a recital by the prizewinners. An unexcused absence from that concert will result in forfeiting the prize money.

Personally, I am looking forward to the thrill, especially because it comes only every five years.

Bożena U. Zaremba

Based on the competition's official website:  
[www.konkurs.chopin.pl](http://www.konkurs.chopin.pl)

The concert was hosted by John Lemley, a radio presenter from public radio station WABE, 90.1 FM. Award levels, higher than last year, were as follows: First Prize, \$150 (all age groups); Second Prize, \$50 (all age groups).

Special thanks to sponsors who founded the awards, especially to the

following individuals: Michelle Dupourque, Elzbieta and Krzysztof Krawczyński, Barbara and Tolek Leszczyński, Tatiana and Ken McDougal, Krystyna Prus and all those who prefer to remain anonymous.

Thank you to everyone who participated in spreading knowledge about Chopin's life and work, and to the young people, thanks to whom the

name of this remarkable Polish pianist and composer will not be forgotten. They have helped remind us that the music of Frederick Chopin knows no borders and brings together people from different places, ethnic groups and backgrounds. It is his music that people have been enjoying throughout the years; yet it still has not lost its freshness, richness and beauty.

Beata Olszok

### Chopin Fun Fact...

#### A quote from Anton Rubinstein—

'The piano bard, the piano rhapsodist, the piano mind, the piano soul is Chopin. Tragic, romantic, lyric, dramatic, fantastic, soulful, sweet, dreamy, brilliant, grand, simple, all possible expressions are found in his compositions and all are sung by him upon his instrument.'

~Anton Rubinstein (1829-1894)

#### **A Special Thank You to The Chopin Society of Atlanta Sponsors and Supporters:**

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