

Abstract

International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition and Chopin Festival in

Mariánské Lázně

The annual Chopin festival in Mariánské Lázně is an event of a supreme significance. Its dramaturgy and diverse selection of performers bring the listeners an interesting and extraordinary experience of Chopin's music.

Chopin Festival is one of our most treasured cultural events. It became a meeting point for artists from all over the world, but the core group consists of Polish interpreters, mostly laureates of the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. Besides the time-proven compositions, the organizers include some infrequently played and unknown pieces, the works of Czech and foreign composers or contemporary artists. They also attracted the audience by inviting popular performers, amateur ensembles, holding golf and tennis tournaments, exhibitions or film projections. Lately, the festival has been getting back to its traditional image and the purpose of celebrating Chopin's music. The piano competition, interpreter seminars and musicologist seminars are still a part of the event.

The Chopin Festival is the only one in Czech that has been listed by UNESCO and is widely popular. It is necessary to point out the efforts and credit of the main organizers, the Fryderyk Chopin Society in Mariánské Lázně.¹ Its members voluntarily help arrange the event and make it run smoothly.

I wish the Chopin festival with the piano competition were always well received by public and reminded all the classical music enthusiasts of Polish composer and Romantic musician Fryderyk Chopin.

¹ Fryderyk Chopin Society in Mariánské Lázně is the third oldest of its kind. There are 47 Fryderyk Chopin societies in the world. The Czech society holds the largest number of concerts of all.