

The 33rd International Polonaise Ball



Honorable and Mrs. Manuel Molina, Honorary Consul of Belgium,
with the Polish American Folk Dance Company from New York



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Wojciech Bukalski, Ms. Anna
Niewiadomska, Cultural Counselor at the Embassy of
the Republic of Poland, Mr. Michel Pawlowski



Ms. Lesleen Bolt, Mr. Robert Heuer, director of Florida
Opera, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Ms. Anna Niewiadom



Ambassador and Mrs. Lucas Tsilas, Ms. Irena McLean,
Mr. Howard Laks



Mr. Roman Cooper, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Mrs. Barbara Cooper



Ms. Maria Knapik, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel



Dr. and Mrs. Henry P. Williams III



Ms. Maria Knapik, Mr. Andrzej Pawlikowski



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beaman



Mrs. Monika Heftler
Mr. Erhan Sakaoglu



Ms. Jadwiga Gewert, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Ms. Anna Niewiadomska, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wiegand,
Mr. Kris Lewicki, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Leibowitz



Ms. Alina Kozinska, Mr. Wojciech Bukalski, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Ms. Maria Knapik, Dr. Kamilla Szklarska,
Polish American Folk Dance Company



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Coop
Mrs. Monika Heftler, Mr. and Mrs. Leszek Dydynski,
Ms. Pat Riley, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Leibowitz,
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wiegand

Salute to Polish Opera
The 33rd International Polonaise Ball

February 5th, 2005

Organized by the American Institute of Polish Culture, Inc.

by Beata Paszyc

SALUTE TO POLISH OPERA – The 33rd International Polonaise Ball paid tribute to Polish opera, composers, and singers of international acclaim. On February 5th, 2005 the annual ball, held in the elegant Fontainebleau Hilton hotel on Miami Beach, and organized under the auspices of the Polish Ambassador to the United States, gathered over 300 international guests studded with opera singers, diplomats, aristocracy, artists and business people.

The evening started at 7 p.m. with the cocktail hour. Ladies arrived in lovely and elaborate evening dresses and gentlemen looked handsome in tuxedos. The official part of the evening started at 8:00 p.m. in the grand ballroom adorned with floating soft fabric, sparkling lights and beautiful flower arrangements.

Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, the Master of Ceremonies, welcomed all the guests and invited the Polonaise dancers to the stage. It is a tradition that the ball opens with the stately Polonaise, danced by distinguished guests. Lady Blanka and opera singer Wojciech Bukalski led the dance, which in centuries past was performed at Royal castles in Poland.

Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper, and Mrs. Monica Heftler were the Chairpersons for the Ball. In her welcoming remarks Lady Blanka said: "Tonight we pay tribute to opera singers and composers, and to all who promote POLISH OPERA in the world. It is through the arts that we unite; music and singing bring people together; soft melodies make us gentle and peaceful; dramatic music stirs emotions. We are here to recognize the talents of so many people and introducing just a sample of these."

Lady Blanka introduced the magnificent stars who came to the Ball: among others, Ms. Maria Knapik, internationally acclaimed soprano, who traveled from Canada, Ms. Alina Kozinska, Polish-American soprano from Washington DC, and Wojciech Bukalski, bass, from New York. Lady Blanka also greeted Ms. Anna Niewiadomska, Cultural Counselor from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington DC, officially representing the Ambassador; Ambassador at Large Lucas Tsilas; the Honorary Consul of Belgium Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Molina, and Mr. Robert Heuer, the Director of the Florida Grand Opera, who is to travel to South Florida to visit opera houses and see the elaborate, state of the art productions which in the future will result in performances of Polish operas in South Florida. Sadly, many of the celebrities who were scheduled to join us for this occasion were not able to do so. They sent letters apologizing and offering best wishes for a wonderful event.

Many participants traveled long distances to be at this prestigious ball: Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse from Monaco, Mrs. Margareta de Gea from Sweden, Dr. Marek Chodakiewicz, Mr. and Mrs. John Wobelsmiht and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zachariasiewicz from Washington DC. There was a large group from Florida who came as friends of Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper, as well as groups from Boston, New York, Detroit, and Florida.

Lady Blanka thanked "the Super Angels" for their generosity and support. They were applauded by all as they came onto the stage: Mr. Roman and Mrs. Roman Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Leszek Dydynski, Mrs. Monika Heftler, Ms. Pat Riley, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Leibowitz and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weigand.

During dinner the Polish-American Dance Company from New York City performed an artistic program of dances to music from Polish operas by Moniuszko, the "Haunted Manor" and "Halka." It was a beautiful and original performance.

It was then time for awards and recognitions. The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland honored friends of the Institute with "Amicus Poloniae" awards.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zachariasiewicz



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Jan Conrad,
Ms. Anna Niewiadomska



Mr. Waldemar Dowiak, Mrs. Margareta de Gea



Mrs. Jennie Javorski, Mr. Alexander Koproski, Ms. Janice Marconi,
Mrs. Patricia Koproski, Mrs. Louise Marconi-O'Boyle



Mr. Ismael Ercan, Countess Astrid de Grabowski,
Ms. Alexandra de Wankowicz



Mrs. Mary Lou Rajchel, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Mr. Gerald Jaski



Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schietse



Mr. and Mrs. Jacek Luczynski



Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, Ms. Joanna Arvidsson,
Ms. Beata Paszyc,
Mr. Marcin Policht



Mr. Michael Alexander,
Mrs. Carmen Printup



Mr. and Mrs. David



Mr. and Mrs. William Meyers, Mrs. Ednagene Schofman,
Mr. Earl Helfman



Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper



Ms. Mila Pawlowski-Cangelosi, Count Paul Bresty,
Mrs. Sabrina Noto-Belz, Mr. Michel Pawlowski



Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lobrow



Ms. Anna Navas, Dr. Zdzislaw Wesolowski



Ms. Pat Riley with a guest



Mr. and Mrs. John Wobensmit



Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Erik Szczepkowski, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Caine,
Standing: Mr. Michael Gastom, Mr. Mike Skronski, Mrs. Lydia Gastom



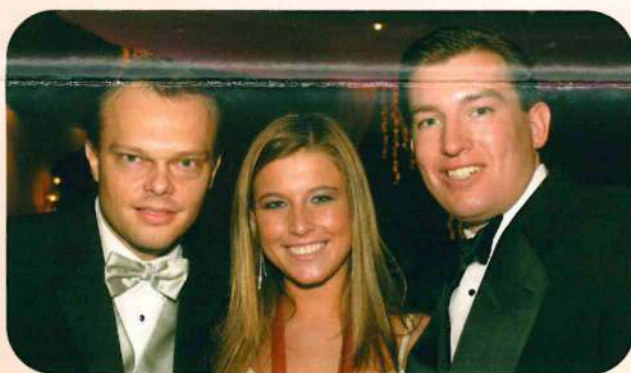
Mr. Adolf Sehring, Mrs. Henrietta Partyka, Lady Blanka
Rosenstiel, Mr. Chester Partyka



Dr. Edward Godleski, Mr. Jon Theobald, Lady Blanka
Rosenstiel, Mr. John Nosek, Mr. Leon Cholewa-Badzinski



Ms. Andrea Lawn, Mr. Stephen Karski



Mr. Christopher Kurczaba, Ms. Janelle Cooper,
Mr. Adam Sulkowski



Ms. Lucyna Wender, Ms. Anna Arvidsson, Mrs. Malgorzata Dar,
Ms. Beata Paszyc, Ms. Joanna Arvidsson

their outstanding efforts in promoting development and cooperation between Poland and the U.S. This year Mr. Marvin Leibowitz and Mrs. Ligia Wiegand, who have been very active in The Chopin Foundation, received special plaques for their continued support and promotion of Polish culture. These awards were delivered by Ms. Anna Niewiadomska, Cultural Counselor from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington DC.

The artistic program was next. Alina Kozinska, soprano, a two-time finalist and award winner of the Metropolitan Opera Competition, sang two arias from Polish operas by Stanislaw Moniuszko. Ms. Kozinska has performed throughout Europe, in France, Spain, Denmark, and Poland. Wojciech Bukalski, bass, has performed with numerous opera companies including New York City Opera, Atlanta Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Sarasota Opera, Long Beach Opera, New York Grand Opera. He gave a beautiful performance of Skoluba's aria from "The Haunted Manor" by Moniuszko.

Soprano Maria Knapik received special recognition as an internationally acclaimed rising star of Opera from the AIPC by Lady Blanka.

She was deeply moved and thanked everyone for this prestigious award. She praised the work of the Institute promoting Polish culture in the US.

Ms. Knapik, a multi-award winning singer, was most recently grand prize winner of the Gerda Lissner Foundation vocal competition in New York. She came to the Ball from Ottawa, Canada, where she resides. She treated the guests to arias from operas by Moniuszko and Dworzak. She performed them with passion and charm. Dr. Kamilla Szklarska accompanied all of the singers.

After the artistic program the official part of the ball was over. The guests danced to the tunes of the Frank Hubbell orchestra. Elegance, joy, and happiness filled the ballroom throughout the evening.

The grand finale of the Ball was a reprise of the Polonaise, danced by the Polish American Dance Company from New York and a special performance by the guests. The Ball once again proved to be the most elegant Polonaise in the US, gathering distinguished guests from all over the world. It was a delightful, lovely and educational event from which the guests will have unforgettable memories.



Mr. and Mrs. Roman Cooper with family and friends from Chicago



Mr. Jimmy Corpora, Ms. Claudine Smurfit



Mr. Waldemar Dowiak, Mrs. Krystyna Laszewski,
Mr. Boleslaw Laszewski



Mr. Alfonso Cacace, Ms. Nina de Rovira



The Polish American Folk Dance Company



Ms. Urszula Krzywicka, Ms. Barbara Bilinska, Ms. Sylwia
Gawlowska, Mr. Marcin Bolec, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Mr. Dariusz
Barcikowski, Mr. and Mrs. Tadeusz Barcikowski



Dancing guests

Special Brunch

The day after the ball on February 6, an elegant brunch was served. The guests were able to enjoy delicious food as well as a rich artistic program. The Polish American Dance Company performed the Krakowiak and Mazur. Then, Alina Kozinska, Wojciech Bukalaski and Maria Knapik, Kamilla Szklarska on piano, once again treated the guests to melodic arias. It was a great performance that was generously applauded.

Lady Blanka and Anna Niewiadomska, Cultural Counselor from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington DC, decorated Professor Morrison, from the University of Florida, Gainesville, with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland awarded by President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. Professor Morrison is a professor of Comparative Politics, specializing in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe especially Poland. He was an Academic Advisor in the Florida-Poland Exchange Program (1973-1995). From 1974 to 1994 the Program had more than 100 participants (Polish and American) going both ways between Poland and the US. The Program exchanged more students than the entire US-Poland Fulbright program in that period.

Lady Blanka then thanked the guests for coming and especially Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund, the Master of Ceremonies, and Ms. Beata Paszyc, Director of Public Relations of AIPC as well as members of the committees and volunteers for making this event a spectacular success.

The orchestra played throughout the brunch, and many couples twirled around the dance floor. This event was a delightful combination of entertainment, music and dancing. What a way to say "Goodbye," au revoir, Do zobaczenia until next year!



Mr. Edward Pawlowski, Mrs. Bernadetta Wiermanski,
Mr. Walter Zachariasiewicz, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Mr. Richard Wiermanski, Mrs. Adeline Zachariasiewicz,
Mrs. Alice Laning, Dr. Robert Laning



Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Professor James Morrison,
Ms. Anna Niewiadomska



Ms. Jadwiga Gewert, Dr. Filip Dydynski, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Mr. Leszek Dydynski, Ms. Nathalie Dydynski, Mrs. Marie-Rose Dydynski



Ms. Mila Pawlowski-Cangelosi, Count Paul Brestyanszky, Mrs.
Rose King Friedland, Mr. Michel Pawlowski



Mrs. Barbara Cooper, Ms. Claudine Smurfit,
Lady Blanka Rosenstiel, Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Zwierzycki,
Mr. Roman Cooper



Mr. Mike Skronski, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Schiet



Dr. Kamilla Szklarska, Ms. Maria Knapik, Mr. Wojciech Bukalaski, Ms. Alina Kozinska,
Ms. Beata Paszyc, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel and Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund among folk dancers



Dr. Krzysztof Kubik, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kurczaba, Lady Blanka Rosenstiel,
Mr. Christopher Kurczaba, Mr. Roman Cooper, Dr. Howard Brestyanszky, Mr. Jaroslaw Rottermund