



...AND AT FIU NORTH CAMPUS

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With a diverse demographic of students at FIU, it is important to become acquainted with socio-cultural differences in order to appreciate the similarities among populations around the world. One of the ways FIU does this is by co-hosting events with affiliated entities, such as The American Institute of Polish Culture (AIPC) in Miami who sponsor the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series on Poland. These collaborations give students the opportunity to explore European cultures and arts that might have previously been unavailable and unfamiliar to them. Representing a fairly small percentage of the overall student body, the European Student Association values opportunities that inform their peers about Polish contemporary history and art.

On the evening of November 10th, the Blanka Rosenstiel Lecture Series presented *"Bonsoir Monsieur Chopin,"* created and performed by two members of the Polish-Canadian Theater of Toronto at the FIU North campus. The play is a riveting stage piece that muses on Frederic Chopin's life in France and how he became the darling of high society. Chopin's music is considered some of the most dynamic of all time, and he inspired legions of performers, composers and fans over the last 170 years. Several lyrical poems by renowned Polish poets were recited throughout the play as a testament to Chopin's eloquence and enduring romanticism.

After the play, Professor Kemal Gekic, artist in residence at

FIU's music department, gave a wonderful recital of several Chopin pieces on the piano.

With a mixed crowd of university students and outside guests from AIPC, the Chopin Foundation of the US and the Polish community, the event was considered a great success by many. For students of FIU, it was a special occasion to welcome community members to the Biscayne Bay campus, and to promote their university's desire for inter-cultural appreciation. Attending students visibly enjoyed the play.

"I really enjoyed how the event blended the cultural foundation of Chopin's character with his beautiful music. Learning more about his life made the following musical performance even more realistic and thought-provoking." - Olivia Napper, FIU student

"Even though the play was in Polish (but with English subtitles), it was easy for me to follow and the actors did a great job of bringing Chopin's story to life. I had never heard of him and his music, so I welcomed the event as an opportunity to expand my appreciation of the European arts." - Kristianne Enriquez, FIU student

"I am originally from Eastern Europe, and hosting this play with the European Student Association gave me the opportunity to not only share with fellow students some aspects about European culture, but also to appreciate my own heritage." - Anastasiia Denysiuk, ESA Board Member