

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada



70th Anniversary Concert

PROGRAMME

under patronage of
Rick Chiarelli, Councillor, City of Ottawa

Ben Franklin Place Studio Theatre
101 Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2013

7:30 p.m.

(Theatre opens at 7:00 p.m.)

Introduction

Alexander M. Jabłoński & Jolanta Leśniak

PART I

Konrad Binienda - piano

- **Johann Sebastian Bach: *Partita No. 2 in C minor***
BWV 825-830
Sinfonia
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Rondeau
Capriccio
- **Frédéric Chopin: *Ballade Opus 52 No. 4 in F minor***
- **Frédéric Chopin: *Polonaise-Fantasia Opus 61 in A-flat major***

Intermission

PART II

Maria Knapik - soprano

Michel Brousseau - piano accompaniment

- **Giacomo Puccini: Gianni Schicchi *O mio babbino caro***
- **Francesco Cilea: Adriana Lecouvreur *Io son l'humile ancilla***
- **Antonin Dvořák: Rusalka *Mesičku na nebi hlubokem***
- **Frédéric Chopin: *Lithuanian Song (Piosnka Litewska)***
- **Frédéric Chopin: *Soldier (Wojak)***
- **Frédéric Chopin: *Revel (Hulanka)***
- **Jacques Offenbach: Les contes d'Hoffmann *Barcarole***
(Maria Knapik with members of *Bel Canto Ensemble*)
- **Franz Lehár: *Csardas***
- **Georges Bizet: Carmen *Habanera***



Konrad Binienda, Akron, Ohio, USA

Mr. Konrad Binienda received his Master of Music in piano performance from the New England Conservatory, where he was a student of Wha-Kyung Byian and received the John and Robert Carthwright scholarship. He also studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Sergei Babayan and Gerardo Teissonnière, and under Philippe Giuslano and Viktor Mierzhanov in Europe. Currently, he pursues a doctoral degree in piano performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

He debuted in 2007 with the Cleveland Orchestra and has since performed in recitals and with orchestras throughout the United States and Europe winning acclaim for his highly individual style of performance. Mr. Konrad Binienda was awarded the 2011 Hastings Prize for Musical Performance at Harvard University, is a winner of the 2010 Chopin Piano Competition at New York, the 2010 Peabody Mason International Piano Competition, and the 2008 Mozart Society Orchestra's Concerto competition at Harvard University.

Mr. Binienda also is an accomplished composer. His music is featured in the 2013 documentary "Polacy" by Maja Dłużewska. In May 2011 he performed his own piano concerto in E minor with the Pforzheimer House Orchestra at Harvard University. His arrangement of Simple Gifts for piano trio was a finalist for the National Association of Music Educators' 2007 Showcase.



Maria Knapik, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Acclaimed soprano Mrs. Maria Knapik lives in Ottawa, but frequently appears on international operatic stages of Europe and United States, in particular in Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Centre in New York, the Kennedy Centre in Washington, and National Arts Centre in Ottawa. In Ottawa, she frequently organizes evenings during which she and other soloists sing the most popular operatic arias and ensembles. These concerts are becoming important events in Ottawa's artistic life, highly ranked and much expected by Ottawa's concert-going public. During these concerts Maria often talks to the audience about her arias. This informal commentaries are very much appreciated by the audience.

Being of Polish origin, she excels in interpreting the heroines of Polish operas, *Halka*, *Straszny Dwor*, and *Hrabina (The Countess)*. She sang the principal parts in these operas, before enthusiastic audiences in Warsaw, Buffalo and Sarasota.

Mrs. Maria Knapik has won many international competitions like the Gerda Lissner Vocal International Competition in New York, Greater Buffalo Opera International Competition or the International Chigiana Festival in Sienna, Italy, and also Canadian competitions. She was awarded several distinctions and medals for her artistic activities, among them a golden medal by the American Institute of Polish Culture (Florida), the *Cross of Merit* and a medal *Gloria Artis* (Poland).



Michel Brousseau, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Mr. Michel Brousseau is an acclaimed artistic director and conductor of several choirs, among them Ottawa Classical Choir, Les Chanteurs de Sainte Therese, the Choeur Tremblant, the International Choir as well as a conductor of the New World Philharmonic Orchestra. He also is an enthusiast of opera – he conducted several operatic performances in many cities, among others in New York, Montréal, Québec City, and Naples. His performance of Mozart's *Requiem* in 2011, when he conducted the Ottawa Classical Choir and members of other choirs was rated as one of the best *Requiems* recently heard.

Maria Knapik and Michel Brousseau form a remarkable duo, working frequently together as a singer-accompanist team. Maria Knapik says that a good accompanist must understand the singer, read her mind and anticipate her reactions, but always takes the second place in the team. In her opinion, Michel Brousseau is just such an ideal accompanist.

Bel Canto Ensemble, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Basses: *Thomas Franzky, Rodney Williamson, John Sarkissian*

Tenors: *Ken Trudel, Marek Korkusinski*

Sopranos: *Fauzya Moore, Josee Lamothe, Ying Birks, Dianne Droogh, Lara Ferreira, Anna Lehn*

Altos: *Laura Brett, Jocelyne Dearden, Chrissy Spratt, Pauline van der Roest*

Double Bass: *Andrew Snow*

Rehearsal Accompaniment: *John Sarkissian*



The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada
L'Institut polonais des arts et des sciences au Canada
Polski Instytut Naukowy w Kanadzie

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada is a Canadian, federally incorporated, non-profit organization. The Institute was founded in 1943 and its most recent by-laws are from 1984. The Institute organizes meetings, public lectures, concerts, video and film presentations, poetry readings, etc., and publishes on Polish-Canadian and Central-European heritage and history, as well as on arts and sciences in three languages: English, French and Polish. It has branches in Montréal, Ottawa and Toronto. It maintains the Polish Library at McGill University in Montréal. The Institute is supported by the general public through donations and also by limited government grants (at the provincial and federal level). Free donations are welcome.

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