

Paderewski Festival

Nov 6 & 7, 2020

{ Virtual }

paderewskifest.com

Paderewski Festival

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PADEREWSKI IN PASO ROBLES



Ignacy Jan Paderewski was a frequent visitor to Paso Robles between the years 1914 and 1939. He stayed at the El Paso de Robles Hotel (now the Paso Robles Inn), and took cures in the hot springs. He also bought 2,864 acres on the West Side of Paso, and established his San Ignacio and Santa Helena ranches. A pioneer almond grower and winemaker, Paderewski transformed Central Coast agriculture and was one of the first to cultivate Zinfandel grapes in California. Wishing to enlarge his holdings and hoping to find oil, Paderewski also acquired 2,626 acres of ranchland near Santa Maria in September 1917. Although several geological explorations and test drillings were carried out, oil was not discovered at that time and the land was eventually sold in November 1933.

To commemorate Paderewski's association with the area, the Paderewski Festival was launched in Paso Robles in 1993 and its annual concerts proved a resounding success. Tours of vineyards, wine tasting, and presentations of Polish culture and history were held in a variety of venues around town. The death of one of the Paderewski Festival organizers and a destructive earthquake in 2003 suspended the Festival.

In 2006, under the leadership of the Polish Music Center at USC, the Festival was re-launched as the "Paderewski Reprise" with a solo recital by English pianist, Jonathan Plowright. Held at Cass Winery, the event brought many individuals, organizations, and local businesses together, proving that there is a continued interest in preserving Paderewski's legacy in Paso Robles. Since then the Festival has gained new supporters among such well-known Paso Robles institutions as the Carnegie Library, Main Street Association, Pioneer Museum, Park Ballroom, Paso Robles Inn, Paso Wine Alliance and Rotary Club, as well as leading industry sponsors, including Cass Winery, Derby Wine Estates, Epoch Estate Wines, Firestone Walker Brewing Company, Pear Valley Winery, and Tablas Creek Vineyard, among others.

Comprised of various community leaders, the new Paderewski Festival Board of Directors has expanded the Festival by offering more concerts and launching a Youth Piano Competition. A February 2007 letter of Frank Mecham, then Mayor of Paso Robles, suggesting a sister city agreement between Tarnów, Poland—the district encompassing Paderewski's former estate at Kąсна Dolna—and Paso Robles was favorably received at the

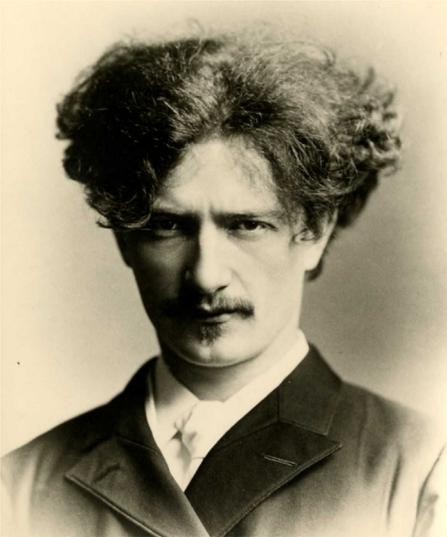
Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Poland. As a result, a Paderewski Festival Board of Directors delegation travelled to Poland in 2008. A visit to Kąсна Dolna and discussions with local officials, as well as meetings at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, in the Ministry of Culture, and with Poland's First Lady led to a reciprocal visit of Polish officials in Paso Robles during the 2008 Paderewski Festival and the signing of a cultural cooperation agreement between Paso Robles and Tarnów.

In his time, Paderewski contemplated establishing a music school in Paso Robles and since 2007 the Youth Piano Competition is the Festival's embodiment of that vision. Young Central Coast pianists are encouraged to pursue their musical passion through auditions, workshops, master classes, and concert performances in California and Poland. Every two years since 2009, selected winners of the Youth Piano Competition in Paso Robles are invited for a two week Cultural Exchange Program of chamber music workshops and piano master classes in Poland led by Paderewski Festival Artistic Director, Marek Zebrowski. Young Californians perform in joint public concerts at historical venues linked to Paderewski, such as the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. This unique program is jointly supported by the Paderewski Festival, Central Coast wineries and many local civic organizations, as well as by the Polish-Ukrainian Paderewski Foundation and diplomatic representatives of the Polish government in the United States.

In 2017, the Paderewski Festival launched the annual Paso Pops, an open-air patriotic-themed concert celebrating July 4th Independence Day. With the San Luis Obispo Symphony and various soloists—including winners of the Paderewski Festival Youth Competition—performing for several thousand listeners, these concerts are another way the Festival supports local artists and brings music to Central Coast audiences.

The Paderewski Festival also cooperates with the Paderewski International Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz, Poland, and its First Place winners are often featured at Festival Gala concerts in Paso Robles. There is no doubt that performances of classical music given by the world's most prominent artists and concerts showcasing young talent during the Festival will continue to enhance the cultural atmosphere of Paso Robles, preserve Paderewski's legacy and love for the region, and enrich all who participate in this annual music feast in Paso Robles.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) a virtuoso pianist, composer, politician (the first Prime Minister of independent Poland after World War I), humanitarian and orator, was universally acclaimed as a “Modern Immortal” by his contemporaries

- 1860** Born on November 6 in the village of Kuryłówka, in the Podolia Province of southeastern Poland (now Ukraine)
- 1872–1879** Studies piano, harmony, counterpoint and trombone at the Music Institute in Warsaw. First published composition, *Impromptu for Piano*, appears in the journal *Echo Muzyczne* in Warsaw in 1879
- 1880** Marries a fellow-student, Antonina Korsak, who dies a year later in childbirth. Paderewski's son, Alfred, is an invalid throughout his life
- 1881–1886** Studies composition with Friedrich Kiel and Heinrich Urban in Berlin; befriends Anton Rubinstein, Richard Strauss and the music publisher Hugo Bock. Studies with Teodor Leschetizky in Vienna. Teaches at the Strasbourg Conservatory in 1885 and appears in solo and chamber music concerts
- 1888** Triumphant debut at the Salle Érard in Paris in March followed by recitals in major European capitals
- 1891** Performs in New York City for the first time. Gives over 100 concerts in U.S. and Canada during a four-month period. Initiates international annual concert tours of North America
- 1897** Purchases Kąсна Dolna estate about 60 miles southeast of Kraków (sold 1903)
- 1899**  Marries long-time companion, Helena Górska and honeymoon at Kąсна Dolna. Purchases a villa, Riond-Bosson, near Morges, Switzerland, that becomes Paderewski's principal residence until 1940
- 1901**  Death of Alfred Paderewski. Premiere of Paderewski's only opera, *Manru*, in Dresden. American premiere at the Metropolitan Opera follows in 1902
- 1906** Makes his first piano-roll recordings for Welte-Mignon. Also records for Aeolian Company and HMV
- 1909** Symphony in B Minor, Op. 24, “Polonia,” premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Later performed in Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore

BRIEF TIMELINE OF PADEREWSKI'S LIFE, CONT.

His charismatic personality and popular appeal made him one of the most cherished figures of the 20th century. Although his bold political vision for a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural United States of Poland was never realized, his musical legacy continues to inspire generations of musicians all around the world

1914 – 1916

Purchases ranch land in California: Paso Robles (2,864 acres) and Santa Maria (2,626 acres)

1915 – 1918

Gives over 300 speeches and lecture-recitals on behalf of Polish independence. Raises millions of dollars in aid for Poland, working with U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and the political elites of Europe

1918-1922

As the representative of Poland signs the Versailles Treaty, restoring Polish sovereignty after 123 years. Serves as the first Prime Minister of Poland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Poland's representative to the League of Nations. Resigns from all political posts and resumes international concert tours in 1922



1923



Receives the honorary Doctor of Law degree from the University of Southern California for his political achievements. Also honored by Lwów, Yale, Jagiellonian, Oxford, Columbia, Poznań, Glasgow, Cambridge, and New York Universities

1932

Performs for 15,000 at Madison Square Garden, raising \$37,000 for unemployed American musicians

1934

Paderewski's wife, Helena, dies in Switzerland after a long illness

1937 – 1938

Appears in British film, *Moonlight Sonata*, portraying himself in a 21-minute recital of works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and his own *Menuet*. Performs a 40-minute radio recital, broadcast live around the world and carried in North America by the NBC Network



1939

Last American tour cut short as Paderewski becomes ill in New York and sails for Europe on May 30

1939–1941

Conducts anti-Nazi campaign from his home in Switzerland, but does not join Polish government in exile. Evacuated via France, Spain, and Portugal, he reaches New York in November 1940. Dies in New York on June 29, 1941, and receives a state burial at the Arlington National Cemetery

1992

Paderewski's body is returned to Poland and buried in the Royal Crypt of the Warsaw Cathedral in a ceremony attended by the presidents of Poland and the United States.

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FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
6
7:00 P.M.

LIVESTREAM
FROM UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO
AT GREELEY

Gala Concert

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata quasi una Fantasia, Op. 27 no. 2
Adagio sostenuto
Allegretto
Presto agitato

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Barcarolle, Op. 60

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941)

Variations et Fugue, Op. 11

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Three Preludes (1926)
Allegro ben ritmato e deciso
Andante con moto
Agitato

Oscar Peterson (1925-2007)

Goodbye, Old Friend
(arr. Don Thompson/Adam Piotr Żukiewicz)

ADAM ŻUKIEWICZ, PIANO

EVENT
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UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
COLORADO**



Adam Piotr Żukiewicz is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed concert pianist who has performed across Europe, Canada, South America, Asia and the United States. He has appeared in some of the most important concert venues, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Palau de la Musica Catalana in Barcelona, Residenztheater in Munich, Goldensaal at the Musikverein in Vienna, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, and many others. Highlights of Mr. Żukiewicz's recent performances include recitals at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London, Royal Łazienki Theatre in Warsaw, and the Chicago Cultural Center, concerts with the Greeley Chamber Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Sinfonietta, Toronto Concert Orchestra, and Celebrity Symphony Orchestra.

Adam Żukiewicz is also a frequent contributor to Colorado Public Radio, where his broadcast recordings can be heard on air and online in Colorado and beyond. His innovative programming—focused on exploring connections between the popular and the lesser-known gems of the traditional and contemporary repertoire—continues to engage and inspire audiences around the world.

Mr. Żukiewicz's debut album, *The Beginnings*, explores musical ideologies and languages of the great masters of the past and present, and is rooted in the artist's musical

inspirations and artistic philosophy. Opening with the music of Ludwig van Beethoven and Fryderyk Chopin, Mr. Żukiewicz presents the music and cultural heritage of such modern masters as Krystian Zimerman (Poland) and Jacobus Kloppers (South Africa/Canada), closing the album with a stunning work by the legendary jazz musician Oscar Peterson. *The Beginnings* was released to critical acclaim by the DUX label in November 2018, and selections of the album are broadcast regularly on Colorado Public Radio.

Award recognition includes several first prizes at competitions in Poland, First Prize at the 2012 Shean Piano Competition in Canada, First Prize at the 2011 TD Canada Trust Music Competition, and Second Prize at the 13th Pacific Piano Competition in 2011 in Richmond, BC. Mr. Żukiewicz is also a medalist of the 2014 Maria Canals International Piano Competition in Barcelona, Spain. An avid performer of new music, Mr. Żukiewicz regularly presents modern works and premieres new compositions, including Krystian Zimerman's 2018 *Obrazy* [Paintings], Oscar Peterson's *Goodbye Old Friend* (arr. Don Thompson/Adam Piotr Żukiewicz), Brooke Joyce's *Lament for Orlando* (2016), Stefano Sacher's *La memoria di Medea* (2016), Zdenek Trnka's *Cervnova Nokturna* (2015), and John Beckwith's *Follow me* (2013) with clarinetist Peter Stoll (recorded for the album *Calling* released on the Centrediscs label).

Maestro Żukiewicz holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Toronto and Masters of Music degree from Indiana University. He has also studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and was a music scholar at the United World College of the Adriatic in Duino, Italy. His mentors and teachers include Arnaldo Cohen, Jerome Lowenthal, Vanessa Latache, James Parker, Marietta Orlov, Dario de Rosa, Alberto Miodini, and Paweł Zawadzki.

Adam Piotr Żukiewicz first served as faculty at the University of Toronto and St Michael's Choir School in Toronto. Currently, he resides in Greeley, Colorado where he is an Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Northern Colorado. He also serves as a Resident Faculty Pianist at the International Music Festival of the Adriatic in Duino (Italy), and is a founder and Artistic Director of the Intercollegiate Piano Competition of the West. In recognition of his teaching, he received the 2017 and 2018 Steinway & Sons Top Teacher Award, and is an adjudicator of the Steinway Piano Competition since 2018. Mr. Żukiewicz is a founding member of the Max Joseph Piano Trio and the Colorado Piano Trio.

Youth Competition Winners' Recital

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) Sonata in F major, KV 332
I. *Allegro*

SELA YARBROUGH, THIRD PLACE, JUNIOR DIVISION

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) Sonata, Op. 13
III. *Rondo. Allegro*

SURI KIM, SECOND PLACE EX AEQUO, JUNIOR DIVISION

Bela Bartók (1881-1945) *Suite for Piano, Op. 14*
III. *Allegro molto*

ANDY SHEN, SECOND PLACE EX AEQUO, JUNIOR DIVISION

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) *Fantaisie-Improptu, Op. 66*

NOELLE HADSALL, FIRST PLACE, JUNIOR DIVISION

Bela Bartók *Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm from Mikrokosmos, Vol. 6*
No. 6 (153)

ISABELLA OSGOOD, THIRD PLACE, SENIOR DIVISION

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) *Cracovienne fantastique, Op. 14 no. 6*

AIDAN PURTELL, SECOND PLACE, SENIOR DIVISION

Frédéric Chopin *Nocturne, Op. 32 no. 2*

Ignacy Jan Paderewski *Mélodie, Op. 8 no. 3*

HOLLY HADSALL, FIRST PLACE, SENIOR DIVISION

EVENT
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Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in Los Angeles



A classical music lover who has attended concerts since the age of four, **Sela Yarbrough (10)** attends the 5th grade at Monarch River Academy in Kingsburg, CA, and studies piano with Professor Andreas Werz. Her collection of famous pianists' autographs includes inscriptions in her scores by Garrick Ohlsson, Yefim Bronfman, Barry Douglas, and Rafał Blechacz, among others. She has also danced ballet since the age of three and performed with the Fresno Community Chorus Master Chorale. In addition to her music pursuits, Sela is also remotely attending the Central Valley Japanese School in Clovis and thinks of studying German as well. Her life goal is to travel the world and perform, discovering the countries from which the music she loves comes, and communicating with her audiences in their own languages.



Suri Kim (12) has studied piano with Dr. Lynne Garrett since the age of five. She is currently a 7th grader attending Orcutt Junior High. Suri was awarded first place at 2018 and 2019 Paderewski Festival Youth Piano Competitions. A 2015 winner at the Southwestern Youth Music Festival, Suri also won the CAPMT Honors and Contemporary Competition at the local level and placed first in the state in 2017. In summer 2019, Suri was chosen to perform at the Paso Pops outdoor concert in Paso Robles. She enjoys taking part in the Santa Maria Philharmonic Society Youth Showcase annually, playing for the St. Andrew's Methodist Church, and accompanying singers. Apart from the piano, Suri likes learning about culture, reading, writing, running, photography, and being with friends.



Andy Shen (14) began playing piano at the age of five and is currently a student of Alan Boehmer. A freshman at San Luis Obispo High School, he also enjoys biology and math. A bilingual speaker of English and Mandarin, Andy is legally blind and reads Braille. Fond of Bach, Mozart, Chopin, and Beethoven, Andy also likes to compose. He has participated in the Youth Piano Competition and performed in the winners' concerts during the Festival for four years. Last year, Andy won the First Place Award and the Grand Prize at the Contemporary Music Competition State Finals held by the California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT). Previously, he has won numerous awards in the district- and state-wide CAPMT Honors competitions and participated in the Santa Maria Philharmonic Youth Showcase. In his spare time, Andy also likes singing, traveling, reading, swimming, and learning foreign languages, including Spanish and French.



Noelle Hadsall (11) has been studying piano for six years, first with Lana Bodnar and now with Dr. Pascal Salomon. She has participated in the Youth Piano Competition for the past three years, winning First Prize in 2017, and Third Prizes in 2018 and 2019. Also in 2019, Noelle travelled to Poland on the Cultural Exchange Program organized by the Paderewski Festival and various sponsors and partners in Poland. She performed in historic venues in Warsaw and Kraków and participated in several master classes. Noelle is also a winner in the Junior Division of the Santa Barbara Performing Arts Scholarship Foundation competition in 2019 and a scholarship recipient from the Santa Barbara Music Club for several consecutive years. Last fall Noelle joined the Santa Barbara Strings as a chamber music pianist and she also studies voice. She enjoys hiking, skiing and playing soccer in her spare time.



Isabella Osgood (17), a senior at San Luis Obispo High School, has studied with Mrs. Becky Groves in San Luis Obispo (2008-2014), and Dr. Lynne Garrett in Orcutt (2014-present). She has competed in the Paderewski Festival Youth Competition, Santa Maria Arts Council Showcase, CAPMT Piano Auditions, and CAPMT Contemporary Music Competition at the Regional and State levels. Isabella is also a student of the violin and since 2017 has taken lessons from Mr. James Riccardo in Atascadero. She is a member of the varsity track and field team as well as the mock trial team, and co-founded her school's chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Fluent in Mandarin, Isabella plans to study international affairs in college, which will allow her to integrate her interests in politics, government, and social studies with traveling and East Asian culture. She also plans to join an ensemble to continue her lifelong passion for music and the arts.



Aidan Purtell (15) is a 10th grade student in the Clovis Unified School District. He began exploring music at the age of five, and has studied with Professor Andreas Werz since 2015. Recently, he received an Honorable Mention at the 2020 Music Teachers' Association of California Piano Concerto Solo Competition and was a semifinalist at the 2020 Henry and Carol Zeiter Piano Competition. An Honorable Mention recipient at the 2019 Sylvia M. Ghiglieri Piano Competition in Stanislaus, Aidan has performed throughout California and Germany. He earned First Place in the Music Teachers Association of California, Fresno Branch, Solo Piano Competition Intermediate Division in 2019 and in the Junior Division in 2017. Aidan has participated in piano master classes given by Nikolaas Kende and Michael Krikorian, and has also worked with Haewon Song, Vivian Li, Carl Cranmer, Greg Anderson, and Elizabeth Joy Roe as part of summer programs at Oberlin Conservatory and Colorado State University. Working with the Philip Lorenz International Keyboard Concert Series at CSU, Fresno, Aidan has expanded the scope of the series to include a photo documentation project of guest artists. He hopes to continue to merge the different arts with music.



A sophomore at San Marcos High School in Santa Barbara, **Holly Hadsall (15)** has played piano since she was six. A student of Lana Bodnar for eight years, Holly is currently studying with Dr. Pascal Salomon. Fond of chamber music, Holly has appeared with several musicians from the Santa Barbara Music and Arts Conservatory during the last four years. In 2019, Holly participated in the Cultural Exchange Program run by the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles and its partners in Poland. She performed in a variety of historical venues in Warsaw and Kraków and played for master classes with the faculty of Kraków Music Academy. Besides piano and chamber music, Holly has loved to sing since she was three. She has recently joined Madrigals, the advanced choir group at her high school and continues to study voice with Sharlae Jenkins. Interested in a career in medicine, Holly nonetheless wants to maintain her pianistic and singing skills. In her free time, she loves to paint watercolors, go on hikes, play with her bulldog and go to the beach.

2020 has proven to be an extraordinary year for everyone everywhere and for every endeavor, including this year's **Youth Piano Competition**—an annual fixture of the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles. During more normal times, live auditions took place in mid-October at the historic Park Ballroom and jurors listened to live performances by students from four Central California counties. All contestants were using the same Steinway grand and, after the results were announced, the finalists had a chance to participate in an impromptu master class and further refine their interpretations before appearing live at the Winners' Concert during the Festival in November.

Due to the pandemic-induced restrictions on public gatherings, this year's Youth Piano Competition auditions had to be held virtually, with participants submitting their performances on videos. As a result, students played on different instruments in a variety of spaces, and the quality of their video and sound recording significantly differed for each presentation. Nonetheless, the fifteen contestants who applied by the October 9 deadline (10 in the Junior category—ages 10-14 and five Seniors—aged 15-18), demonstrated very high levels of accomplishment and poise under admittedly much different and more difficult conditions. The jurors—Cal Poly professors India D'Avignon and Paul Woodring, and Paderewski Festival Artistic Director and USC Polish Music Center Director Marek Zebrowski—individually watched the students' performances and met by videoconference on October 17 to select the winners. The seven students above were selected for award recognition and cash prizes ranging from \$200-750.

We invite you to watch these performances and, since live applause from the audience isn't possible this time around, you can "like" these videos and share them with your friends. It is important to motivate young artists to continue their pursuit of music, especially when connections to their audiences are merely virtual. The Paderewski Festival is committed to fostering young talent and providing opportunities to deepen their pianistic skills, something that Paderewski himself contemplated almost a century ago when he planned to open a music school in Paso Robles.



November 3, 2020

**Consul General
of the Republic of Poland
in Los Angeles**

Jarosław J. Łasiński

Ms. Marjorie Hamon
President of the Board of Directors
Paderewski Festival
Paso Robles

Dear President Hamon,

As Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles, I have the honor to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and all the organizers of the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles as we participate, under these new circumstances, in the 2020 virtual edition of the Festival. This year the Festival will extend beyond its traditional spatial constraints appealing to new listeners. I would like to express my appreciation for the Festival's continuing commitment to promoting Polish music, culture and history. We recognize the Festival's important contributions toward marking the pianist's 160th birthday.

We are proud that through the Youth Piano Competition, the Festival gives center stage to young artists, for whom Ignacy Jan Paderewski, a brilliant composer, piano virtuoso and musical superstar of his times, could be a role model and inspiration. The Festival, and in particular the competition, will preserve his legacy as a statesman, a world stage politician and a great Polish patriot.

In this time of new challenges, may the hope for a brighter tomorrow, ignited by Paderewski's unwavering attitude and masterful performances to millions of Poles and Americans one hundred years ago, spread through the Festival to all its participants and viewers.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and successful Festival.

Yours sincerely,



JAROSŁAW J. ŁASIŃSKI
Consul General

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Spotlight on the Festival Gala Sponsor



BILL AND LIZ ARMSTRONG

Over the past fifteen years or so, the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles has grown from one-day, one-event affair to an annual extended weekend of celebrating music, history and culture and, of course, wine. Generous support of the Paso community and of several local wine producers has been crucial to the Festival's continuing success. Without a doubt, Bill and Liz Armstrong, owners of Epoch Estate Wines, occupy a very special place in the circle of Paderewski Festival sponsors as our most generous and steadfast supporters.

It is quite fascinating how the history of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, his links to Paso Robles, and the history of the Paderewski Festival are connected to what today is a very successful Epoch Estate Wines. Located on Paso's Westside, Epoch occupies the grounds of the former Ascension Winery, established by Andrew York in the early 1880s. Popularly referred to in the area as "York Mountain," in the 1920s and 30s this winery also processed and bottled wines from Paderewski's vineyards nearby. It was the oldest continuously operating winery on the Central Coast until it closed in the early 2000s and its period structures became condemned after the 2003 San Simeon earthquake.

Just as the community of Paso Robles began the slow process of rebuilding after this disaster and the Paderewski Festival was restarted in 2006, Bill and Liz Armstrong acquired large portions of the former Paderewski vineyards as well as the dilapidated York Mountain buildings together with a historic farmhouse across York Mountain Road. Within a few years both properties were lovingly restored—the Victorian farmhouse regaining its former elegance with a thoroughly modernized interior, and the aged brick structures of the former York Mountain Winery miraculously transformed into an ultramodern and architecturally stunning tasting room with a welcome centre for a steady stream of visitors.

Continuing their active role in revitalizing the local community, the Armstrongs also reached out to the Paderewski Festival, eager

to connect their operations with the Festival and its world-famous patron. Elegance and quality being of paramount importance to the York Mountain owners, everything from Epoch's logos (which echoed Paderewski's own penmanship) to the varietals cultivated by Epoch (including the restoration of Zinfandel vines from the original cuttings still found on Paderewski's former vineyards) received a detailed, well-researched and exceptionally affectionate treatment.

At the same time, Bill and Liz Armstrong followed up not only by sponsoring the annual Paderewski Gala concerts in the historic Paso Robles Inn, but also by organizing elegant and unforgettable vineyard picnics and wine tours of Epoch's vineyards for countless Festival artists, special guests, diplomats, and other sponsors. Likewise, Festival-related concerts were often held on the Armstrong properties—be it on the shaded verandah of the tasting pavilion (before the York Mountain buildings were restored a few years ago) or inside the spectacular new Tasting Room (where previews of the finalists in the contest for the best musical about Paderewski were showcased in 2018).

On several occasions, the charming York Mountain Road farmhouse served as the ideal site for several intimate gatherings and lectures on Paderewski and his life in Paso, his career in music and in world politics. And, throughout all of these happy events at York Mountain or downtown Paso, Epoch Estate Wines were generously donated for tasting by the Festival-going public.

The Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles is truly honored to have Bill and Liz Armstrong and Epoch Estate Wines as our preeminent sponsors. Their exemplary stewardship of the Paderewski legacy and their continued support of the Paderewski Festival also make us able to aim as high as possible in bringing exceptional music to California's Central Coast region. A rich catalogue of Epoch's beautifully handcrafted wines goes hand in hand with the Festival's annual offerings of concerts by world-class artists and local young talent, lectures, cultural exchange programs, exhibits and film screenings.

This year, when pandemic-induced uncertainty has dominated all kinds of public events and the Festival had to move its November 2020 presentations to the virtual realm, Bill and Liz Armstrong were the first to respond with their strong and unequivocal support of our mission. It is really thanks to these remarkable individuals that this year's Festival is possible. And, just as we have throughout the past fifteen years, we once again express our great appreciation to Bill and Liz for this unique partnership that allows us to thrive and continue to move forward.

Marek Zebrowski, Paderewski Festival Artistic Director

**PADEREWSKI FESTIVAL
2020**

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**THE 2020 PADEREWSKI FESTIVAL
IN PASO ROBLES**

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