

DeChant Art Consulting, LLC

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Chopin is coming back to Cleveland, Ohio...again! The restoration of the bronze bust of Chopin in the Polish Cultural Garden is almost complete. Studio Foundry's Mark Olitski has cast the bronze .

The re-created Chopin sculpture by Frank Jirouch will be ready early June celebrating Chopin's Birthday Celebration in the Polish Garden. The plaster model of the original bust done by Jirouch is on display at the Polish Cultural Center in Slavic Village. Having the original plaster ensured an accurate reproduction. Ethnic groups sponsoring the Gardens often commissioned Frank Jirouch. It is thought he did as many as 25 of the busts, statues, and commemorative plaques, the greatest contribution of any single sculptor.

The Polish Cultural Garden, was dedicated in 1934, and is located in Rockefeller Park on Cleveland's east side. The Polish Garden contains a hexagonal sunken court with colorful flower-beds and shrubs and trees imported from Poland, including a tree from Chopin's Polish estate. A graceful stairway at the back of the Polish Garden leads to the lower level trails to the Cultural Gardens' chain.

Originally, six busts of internationally famous Poles were placed in the outer circle of the garden. All of the busts were destroyed by vandals and sold for scrap in the 1970's. The replacement of them over the years has been through significant donations. Three bronze busts of prestigious members of the Polish nation are currently mounted on granite pedestals. They are of Copernicus, Curie; and Sienkiewicz. Future restored busts over the next three years will be Chopin, Paderewski, and Mickiewicz.

The dedication of the Chopin Bronze in the Polish Cultural Garden in June will include an outdoor Chopin Piano Concert. Details will be announced closer to the date of the ceremony. For information and to make a donation for the restoration of the Chopin or other Busts please contact Ben Stefanski 216 431 0913 or email dechantart@gmail.com.

"The site of the Polish Garden was dedicated on October 28, 1934, with the setting out of an elm tree from Poland. County Judge Frank A. Piekarski of Pittsburgh was principal speaker. "Long before America was discovered," he said in part, " Poland had universities and was leading in world education. Long before England's Magna Charta was forced on the king, Poland had freedom of religion and freedom of speech. The purpose of this garden is better to acquaint not only the American people, but others, with the attributes of Polish culture." (clevelandmemory.org)

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens are the world's only Peace Garden representing 23 nationalities. It is a unique collection of landscaped, themed gardens each representing a different ethnic group in Cleveland. The gardens span two miles

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of parkway. Some of the gardens included are the Rusin, Hebrew, Czech, Irish, and Slovenian. In the last three years over one million dollars has been donated to develop new gardens and enhance gardens in existence since the Great Depression.

They reflect the history of twentieth-century America, and aspects of Cleveland's social, economic, political, and cultural history. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens publicly immortalize the history of immigration to, and migration within, the United States.

Websites that you may go to for further information on the Polish Garden and all other gardens:

www.culturalgardens.org

www.clevelandseniors.com/people/ben-stefanski.htm

www.clevelandmemory.org/gardens

Frédéric François Chopin, christened **Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin** sometimes written *Szopen* in Polish; (March 1, 1810 – October 17, 1849), was a Polish composer and virtuoso pianist who became one of the greatest masters of Romantic music.

He was born in the village of Żelazowa Wola, in the Duchy of Warsaw, to a French-expatriate father and Polish mother. Chopin was considered a child-prodigy pianist. At age twenty, on November 2, 1830, he left Warsaw for Austria, intending to go on to Italy. The outbreak of the Polish November Uprising 27 days later, and its subsequent suppression by Russia, led to his becoming one of great expatriates of the Polish Great Emigration.

In Paris, Chopin gave few public performances, however he made a comfortable living as a composer and piano teacher. Most of his life Chopin suffered from poor health; and he died in Paris in 1849, aged thirty-nine, of tuberculosis.

Chopin's wrote his compositions primarily for the solo piano concerts. His musical scores were technically demanding, emphasizing nuance and expressive depth rather than sheer virtuosity. Many new musical forms were invented by Chopin; such as the instrumental ballade. Chopin was known for combining national music with popular folk themes, creating a distinctive and original style in Polish music which appealed to a universal audience.

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**Restoration of the Chopin Bust by
Jirouch In Process at Studio Foundry**