

Jonathan Powell 'From Pole to Pole'

Friday May 23rd

4.30 pm

Palmers Hall, Ludlow College

Maria Szymanowska

Nocturne 'Le Murmure'

Fryderyk Chopin

Rondeau op.16

Nocturne op.15 no.2

3 Mazurki op.63

Tarantella op.43

Ignacy Jan Paderewski

Canzona

Polskie tańcy op.9, no.2: Mazurek

Humoresques de concert op.14, nos.2 & 6:

Sarabande & Krakowiak fantastyczny

Karol Szymanowski

Prelude op.1 no. 2

Metopy op.29

Etiud op.4 no.3

Mazurki op.50 nos.1 & 2

Programme shown may be changed without notice



An aficionado of Russian and Eastern Europe music from the 19th and 20th centuries, pianist and composer, **Jonathan Powell**, made his performing debut in the Purcell Room in London at the age of 20 and has since performed widely in Europe, as well as in Russia and the US.

Jonathan embraces composers who are normally unfairly overlooked and has appeared on radio in many countries and recorded more than 20 CDs. His 2015 recording of Sorabji's 'Sequentia cyclia' over seven discs (on Piano Classics) was rapturously received and was awarded the German Critics' Disc Prize.

His recent activities include the world première recording of rediscovered Czech composer Hans Winterberg's 1st Piano Concerto, with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra. And his recording of Scharwenka's 1st Piano Concerto, with the Poznań Philharmonic was released on the CPO label in Oct 2024. Also in 2024, Powell performed Paderewski's 'Fantaisie Polonaise' with the Mainz Symphony Orchestra and the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra in Poznań.

Masterclasses, lecture-recitals and coaching have taken Jonathan to the Janáček Academy (in Brno), Hogeschool (in Ghent), Oxford University, the Guildhall (in London), Cornish College of Arts (in Seattle), and Det Jyske Musikkonservatorium (in Esbjerg and Odense, Denmark).

Programme notes

Nocturne 'Le Murmure' Maria Szymanowska (1789-1831)

Szymanowska was known for her piano performances throughout Europe, and for her influential 'salon' in St. Petersburg. Her compositions, are considered to typify the *stile brillant* of her era, which precedes the works of Chopin.

Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849)

The **Rondo in E-flat major, Op. 16**, is characterized by its passionate introduction which is followed by a joyful main theme.

Nocturne op.15 no.2 is known for its emotional depth and technical demands, making it a favorite for pianists - and listeners.

3 Mazurki op.63 A set of three pieces for solo piano, each mazurka reflects the traditional Polish dance form in Chopin's innovative style.

Tarantella in A-flat major, Op. 43 is a lively and energetic piece. The tarantella is a traditional Italian dance, and Chopin's version captures its spirited, rapid tempo.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941)

Paderewski was one of the greatest pianists of his time. He was also a key figure in the movement for Polish independence and served as the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1919 and was instrumental in gaining international support for Poland during and after World War I.

Canzone in G major, also known as "Chant sans paroles" (Song Without Words), is a beautiful example of Paderewski's lyrical and expressive piano style.

Mazurek in G major, Op. 9, No. 2, is part of his collection of Polish Dances, Op. 9. This piece captures the essence of the traditional Polish mazurka dance.

Humoresques de Concert, Op. 14 is a collection of piano pieces that blend humour and virtuosity.

No. 2: Sarabande: A graceful and stately dance, inspired by the baroque sarabande.

No. 6: Krakowiak fantastyczny: This lively piece is based on the traditional Polish dance, the krakowiak.

Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937)

Szymanowski was a key figure in the modernist "Young Poland" movement and is considered one of the most important Polish composers of the early 20th century

Prelude Op. 1 No. 2 is part of his first published work: a collection of nine preludes composed while he was still a student. The piece reflects the influence of Chopin and Scriabin.

Metopy op.29 this work consists of three pieces, inspired by different female characters from Homer's *Odyssey*.

L'île des Sirènes (The Sirens' Island): Depicts Sirens who lure sailors to their doom

Calypso: Portrays the nymph Calypso, who kept Odysseus captive on her island for seven years.

Nausicaa: Portrays the daughter of the king of the Phaeacians, who helps Odysseus on his journey

Etuid in B-flat minor, Op. 4 No. 3 is one Szymanowski's four etudes.

Mazurki, Op. 50, nos.1&2 are the first in a set of 20 pieces inspired by Polish folk music and dance. Each piece captures the spirit and character of traditional mazurkas.