

## Farewell to the Homeland – The Romantic Spirit of Polish Piano Music (2014)

### Pożegnanie Ojczyzny - Romantyczny Duch Polskiej Muzyki Fortepianowej



1. Michał Kleofas Ogiński - *Polonaise in A minor* Karol Kazimierz Kurpiński: 2. *Polonaise in D minor* 3. *Polonaise in G minor* 4. *Polonaise in F minor* 5. *Polonaise in C major*  
Maria Szymanowska:  
6. *Polonaise in F minor* 7. *Nocturne in B flat major* 8. *Waltz in F major* 9. *Etude in F major*  
10. *Nocturne in A flat major* 11. Józef Elsner - *Rondo à la Mazurka in C major* 12. Fryderyk Chopin - *Mazurka in A flat major op.7 no.4* 13. Karol Kazimierz Kurpiński - *Mazurka in D major*  
14. Maria Szymanowska - *Mazurka in D major* 15. Ignacy Feliks Dobrzyński - *Mazurka in A minor op.37 no.2* 16. Józef Władysław Krogulski - *Mazurka in E minor à la Chopin* 17. Karol Mikuli - *Mazurka in F minor* 18. Karol Żalski - *Mazurka in D minor* 19. Ignaz Friedman - *Mazurka in C minor* 20. Fryderyk Chopin - *Mazurka in F minor op.68 no.4*  
Tobias Koch - fortepiano [Pleyel, 1848; Erard, 1849; Erard, 1838; Pleyel, 1854]

During Chopin's time, Poland had it really going on musically. I suppose that during the 19th century, Poland having been divided into three by its powerful neighbors, it was through the subversive efforts of the musical artist that Polish identity could be preserved and flourish. The first half of this century heard the craze of Mazurs and Polonaise that swept the cafes, bourgeois salons and manor houses. It was out of the milieu that Chopin arose, and this collection contextualizes a bit of musical history.

Mr. Koch faithfully presents an excellent sampling of this musical genre on one of four perfectly maintained fortepiano appropriate to the age of the piece. But when I say faithfully preserved this is not, as far too much classical music is, music as museum piece. This is music made to bring forth all the vitality and energy as though it were the most modern, au courant thing. Sometimes when hearing music played on old pianoforte, I long for the far richer sounds of a

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modern grand. Here under the sensitive digits of Mr.Koch, we get to appreciate the nuance and timbre of each instrument, more supposedly sonorous ebony and ivory be damned! Most of the composers here were new to me and even the two Chopin tracks are pretty rarely played (but when you hear them you will wonder why). So put this on, drink a Zywiec, wash it down with a shot of Wodka and let the music work its magic. --- head-fi.org

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