Karol Jozef Lipinski (30 October 1790 – 16 December 1861) was a Polish virtuoso violinist and composer.

Lipinski was born in Radzyn Podlaski. In 1810 he became the first violin and two years later the conductor of the opera orchestra at Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). In 1817 he went to Italy in the hope of hearing Niccolò Paganini. The two met in Milan, met daily to play, and even performed two concerts together in April 1818, which added immensely to Lipinski’s reputation. Paganini dedicated his Burlesque Variations on “La Carnaval de Venise”, Op. 10 for unaccompanied violin to Lipinski. Later, in 1827, Lipinski returned the honour by dedicating his “Three Caprices for Violin” to Paganini.

In 1818 on his return to Germany he stopped in Trieste to receive instruction from Dr Mazzurana, a very elderly former pupil of Giuseppe Tartini; Mazzurana was ninety years old, and could no longer play himself, but gave his criticism of Lipiński’s performance of one of Tartini’s sonatas.
In 1820 he travelled to Berlin where he met Louis Spohr, and to Russia. In 1829 he went to Warsaw, and played a series of concerts with Paganini that summer that were attended by the nineteen-year-old Frédéric Chopin. However, a rivalry developed between Lipinski and Paganini which destroyed their friendship. Thereafter, whenever Paganini was asked who the greatest violinist was, he would say “I don’t know who the greatest is, but Lipinski is certainly the second greatest”. ---last.fm