

A close-up photograph of magnolia flowers in shades of pink and white, with green leaves and branches visible in the background.

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A photograph of a garden scene featuring a large bush of pink azaleas in the foreground, a green hedge in the middle ground, and various trees in the background.

Happy Mother's Day

**The Kupala Night
Greater Poland Uprising
Stanisław Moniuszko**

Happy Father's Day

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STANISŁAW WYSPIAŃSKI "Motherhood" 1904, Pastel on paper. National Museum in Warsaw

MATKA

Upadł jej z kolan kłębek włóczki.
Rozwijał się w pośpiechu i uciekał na oślep.
Trzymała początek życia.
Owijająca na palec serdeczny jak pierścionek, chciała
uchronić.
Toczył się po ostrych pochyłościach, czasem piął się pod
górze.
Przychodził splątany i milczał.
Nigdy już nie powróci na słodki tron jej kolan.
Wyciągnięte ręce świecą w ciemności jak stare miasto

Zbigniew Herbert

Happy MOTHER'S DAY

May 12, 2019, US

May 26, 2019, Poland

MOTHER

He fell from her lap like a ball of yarn.
He unwound himself in a hurry and beat it into the distance.
She held onto the beginning of life.
She wound it on a finger hospitable as a ring; she wished to
shelter it.
He rolled down steep slopes, sometimes labored up
mountains.
He came back all tangled up and didn't say a word.
He will never return to the sweet throne of her lap.
Her outspread arms glow in the dark like an old town.

Translated by Alissa Valles "The Collected Poems"



Zbigniew Herbert 10/29/1924—07/28/1998

Poet, essayist, writer, columnist, author of plays and radio dramas. Herbert won many Polish and foreign literary awards, including the Kościelski Prize (1963), the Austrian Nikolaus Lenau Preis (1965), the Herder Prize (1973), and the Jerusalem Prize (1990). He is one of the most frequently translated Polish writers.



Stanisław Moniuszko

the Father of Polish National Opera

By Malgorzata Mroz Ph.D.

Stanisław Moniuszko was a Polish composer, organist, conductor, and teacher.

In Poland, he is known as the “Father of the Polish National Opera” as he wrote over 267 songs, operas, operettas, ballets, religious compositions, cantatas, and ballads. His two most famous operas are *Halka* and the *Haunted Manor* (*Straszny Dwór*). His stage works are filled with Polish folklore and patriotic themes.

Stanisław Moniuszko was born in Ubiel near Minsk (now Belarus) on May 5, 1819. His father, Czesław Moniuszko, was an officer in the army of Napoleon, and his mother, Elżbieta Madżarska, was his first piano teacher. When he was 18 years old, he started his formal music education in composition and choral conducting in Berlin, Germany.

After graduation, he obtained a position as an organist in Vilnius (now Lithuania), and he married Aleksandra Müller, with whom he had 10 children. The marriage

gave him financial stability, and he started to flourish as a composer and conductor. In 1843, he published the collection of songs with piano accompaniment titled *Songbook for Home Use* (*Śpiewnik Domowy*). Six years later, he wrote the first version of his famous opera, named after its heroine, *Halka*. However, due to a political climate, Moniuszko had to wait 10 years to be able to perform this patriotic opera again. The time has come in 1858, and the new version of *Halka* was successfully premiered in Warsaw, and later in Prague, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. The success allowed Moniuszko to travel to France, Germany, and Czech Republic, where he met several international composers, including Gioachino Rossini, Daniel Auber, Bedřich Smetana, and Franz Liszt.

Moniuszko moved with his family to Warsaw in 1859, as he was appointed principal conductor of the Polish Opera at the Grand Theatre in Warsaw. During that time he composed more operas: the *Raftsmen* (*Flis*), the *Countess* (*Hrabina*), *Verbum Nobile*, and the *Haunted House* (*Straszny Dwór*). The *Haunted House*

was premiered a year after the collapse of January Uprising (Polish rebellion of 1863 against Russian rule in Poland) and was received as a patriotic work written to hearten and raise Polish people’s spirits. It is considered Moniuszko’s best and most original opera; nevertheless, after only three performances it was banned by the Russian Empire, which controlled Poland at the time. It was never performed again during Moniuszko’s lifetime. Moniuszko died of heart attack on June 4, 1872 in Warsaw.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Stanisław Moniuszko, the Polish government together with UNESCO named 2019 “The Year of Stanisław Moniuszko”. As part of the celebrations, Warsaw Central Station (*Warszawa Centralna*), the primary railway station, was renamed after Stanisław Moniuszko at the beginning of this year. And last month, we could have heard some of Moniuszko’s most famous songs and opera arias in Carnegie Hall in New York City. There will be many more musical performances and celebrations held to commemorate the famous composer in Poland and around the world.



ATOM 'strikes' the twin cities

K. Litak on behalf of PACIM Concert Series

Photos DezajnTm

On the freezing Fat Tuesday, March 5th, 2019, we heard an energizing performance of ATOM String Quartet (ASQ). The group is based in Warsaw and performed in the Target Atrium in Minnesota Orchestra Hall as a part of their first US Tour. ASQ members: Dawid Lubowicz and Mateusz Smoczynski both on violin, Michal Zaborski on viola, and Krzysztof Lenczowski on cello, performed in Chicago, Madison, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Clark, New York City and Washington DC.

ASQ combines the sensitivity of a classical string quartet with a penchant for experimentation, with interpretations of classics, traditional Polish folk, jazz, and contemporary compositions. They are as comfortable playing classics as they are with the newer pieces. The crisp, witty, at times bluesy or nostalgic sound of a combination of two violins, viola and cello, not typically expected from a jazz quartet, is truly sensational. ATOM had a very warm and joyous presence on the stage, a welcome contrast to the surrounding snow and freezing temperatures of Minnesota's snowiest winter on record. They clearly enjoy playing together and gave emotional depth to the music. The musician's distinct personalities shine through the performance that was very consistent.

ASQ gave a passionate and dramatic performance of music from a wide range of genres. We heard music by renowned composers such as Krzysztof Penderecki the third Miniatures from the "Three miniatures for clarinet and piano", Krzysztof Komeda "Lullaby" from the "Rosemary's Baby" movie to "Two studies for piano" by Witold Lutosławski - all pieces arranged for the string jazz quartet by its members. ASQ members presented some of their own compositions. Dawid Lubowicz's folk-inspired "Ballad on the Death of Janosik" transported us to Tatra Mountains (Polish Alps), likely as snowy as Minneapolis this March. Michal Zaborski's serene "Meadow" was a welcome reminder that Spring is just around the corner. Sparkly performance of Zbigniew Seifert's "Quasimodo" that concluded the concert was very satisfying yet left us yearning for more.

We later found out that, during the tour, ASQ won the prestigious Polish music award, "Fryderyk" in 2018 Album of the Year - contemporary music category for "SUPERNOVA" recorded together with NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra from Wrocław, Poland. ASQ is well known in Poland and Europe but not so much in the US, but that seems only temporary. Wherever they went they were received very warmly. Our sources confirmed that Atom String Quartet considers the tour a great success. The group is planning to be back in the US for a tour in January 2020.





Vista and Field of Gold by Mary Welke

Mary Welke is a Polish American painter of nature with a specific focus on the process of nature. It's a process that speaks about time and the cycle of life. Her work is most notable for its dense textural surface quality. This is not a surprising subject from someone who grew up near the Mississippi River of Polish immigrant grandmothers from the farm country in Poland. Her early years were spent playing by the River and helping in the large family garden and flower beds. This is where she developed her love of nature.

Many members of PACIM have enjoyed Mary's beginning level folk art workshops such as Reverse Glass Painting and Zalipie flower painting over the past few years.

She pursued her art education to complete a B.F.A. from the Minneapolis College of Art & Design and a M.F.A. from Pratt Institute in New York City.

Mary exhibits and sells her work at Tres Leches Art Gallery on the first floor of the Northrup King Building in NE Minneapolis. You can visit Mary at the Tres Leches Art Gallery during Art-A-Whirl®. Mary's work is included in private and corporate collections. www.marywelke.com and Mary Welke Art on Facebook.



ART-A-WHIRL

May 17-19, 2019

Two of PACIM members, Mary Welke and Jeff Lohaus will present their work at Art-A-Whirl, an open studio tour in Northeast Minneapolis. It's a great opportunity to tour private artist studios and galleries, connect with the artists, and purchase original artwork. Over the last 24 years, it has become the largest open studio tour in the country. Art-A-Whirl takes place annually throughout Northeast Minneapolis, the third weekend of May.



Jeff Lohaus is a visual artist with a studio in the Northrup King Building. He is primarily a sculptor working in metal. He fabricates and cast fine art sculpture and regularly takes commissions.

Jeff also does fine metalwork for architects and designers, building metal fireplace surrounds, pot racks, vent hood, railings, dividers, and many other decorative elements.

More information at:
www.lohaus.com

Left and Right: Thais and Unnamed by Jeff Lohaus

