

View “Windows to Poland” in Cultural Village

The Cultural Village will host three exciting exhibits this year. The first, “*Windows to Poland: Costumes and Customs*,” will include displays about five different regions of Poland highlighted by folk costumes that illustrate Poland’s great regional diversity. The costumes are on display courtesy of the Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Milwaukee.

The second exhibit is “*Joseph Conrad: Twixt Land & Sea*,” financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland which is appearing at Polish Fest courtesy of the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. “*Twixt Land & Sea*” tells the story of Conrad’s life in Poland, at sea, and in England, where he eventually settled. In addition to illuminating Conrad’s writing, the exhibit shows his private life and personality.

This special exhibit from the Adam Mickiewicz Museum of Literature in Warsaw celebrates the life of Joseph Conrad – Polish nobleman, British seaman, and English novelist. Born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, Conrad left Poland at the age of 16 to escape conscription into the Russian army and fulfill a childhood dream of going to sea. He embarked on a series of



French merchant voyages before serving in the British merchant navy for many years. His adventures provided material for his later novels – *Lord Jim*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Nostromo*, *The Secret Agent*, and others. Although he did not speak English until the age of 21, Conrad is recognized as a master of English prose and a precursor of modernist fiction. More than fifty movies have been based on his books, including *Sabotage*, *Lord Jim*, and *Apocalypse Now*.



The third exhibit, returning to Polish Fest this year, is the Jamestown Float, a mobile exhibit that tells the story of America’s first Polish settlers who came to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608. It includes replicas of a glass house, wood mill, and a blacksmith shop.

In addition to these fabulous exhibits, a Polish Forum will feature scholars and writers speaking throughout the weekend on timely Polish topics. Speakers include John Gurda, Lidia Kaminska, Neal Pease, Angela Pienkos, Jeff Poniewaz and Tom Tolan.

This year’s Cultural Village will



once again feature local craftsmen and folk artists who

will demonstrate a variety of techniques including pisanki (decorated eggs), wianki (floral head wreaths), wycinanki (Polish paper cuts), and more.

The Cultural Village will also include experts on genealogy, Polish Tatra Sheepdogs, information from Polamer Travel on planning your next trip to Poland, and local Polish artists displaying and selling their work in a recreated market square representing Kazimierz Dolny, a picturesque artists' colony on the banks of the Vistula River.



You can also visit the U.S. Postal Service truck to have your stamped envelopes canceled with this year’s Polish Fest cancellation designed for Polish Fest 2008.

Celebrate Mass at Polish Fest

A Catholic Mass will be held at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday morning in the covered Cultural Stage Pavilion just north of the main entrance. Gates for the Mass will open at 9:30 a.m. and will close at 11:00 a.m.



The Presider will be Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and Cardinal George’s liaison to Polonia. He is also on the Board of the Polish American Association.

All are invited for the musical prelude at 10:00 a.m. The readings and music will be in English and Polish.

Tickets into Polish Fest are only \$4.00 after attending the 10:15 a.m. Mass.

Learn to Cook with Polish Flair

Polish Fest will once again feature cooking demonstrations in the Food Demo tent just north of the Main Gate. Local Polish cooks walk you through the steps to make pierogi, mushroom soup, and other traditional dishes. Demonstrations start at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

10th Annual Chopin Youth Piano Competition

By Lidia Sobierajski, Polish Fest Director

It is my great pleasure to announce that the 10th Annual Chopin Youth Piano Competition will take place on Sunday, June 22, 2008. As a co-founder of the competition with my sister, Monika Sobierajski, I am incredibly proud to see how the Chopin Youth Piano Competition has grown into an established part of Polish Fest. This year's competition will take place on the Cultural Stage from 12:30-4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The Chopin Youth Piano Competition is divided into two age divisions: Junior Division (ages 14 & under) and Senior Division (ages 15-18), with the youngest competitor to date having been only 7 years old. Today, the competition awards over \$1,000 in monetary prizes and trophies to the winners. The

Chopin Youth Piano Competition receives financial support from School-Pak, Steinway Piano



Gallery of Milwaukee, and Polanki, the Polish Women's Cultural Club of Milwaukee, as well as other individual contributors. Additionally, the Chopin Youth Piano Competition has received "in-kind" donations from very generous supporters of the

competition. Polish Heritage Alliance member and past member of PHA's Board of Directors, Michael Krass has designed and very generously donated crystal competition trophies to the 1st-3rd place winners in both categories. Frank Keppler, owner of Brew City Beer Gear, supports the event with a donation of an original "work of art" t-shirt to each of the finalists.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to listen to these fine young pianists, make this the year to attend! For more

information about the Chopin Youth Piano Competition, please visit our website at: www.geocities.com/chopin_competition or simply follow the link provided on the Polish Fest website at www.polishfest.org.

New Children's Activities Debut

2008's Polish Fest will offer a new selection of activities designed to keep the hands and minds of our youngest visitors busy.

An arts and crafts area will feature activities like color the Wawel Dragon, make a wycinanka bookmark or amber-like bead bracelet, decorate a flower pot and make creepy crawlers. You can sign up children for specific crafts at various times throughout the weekend. There will also be a games area with a lizak (lollipop) pull, kaczk (duck) pond, misio (teddy bear) toss, bean bag toss, and much more. The children's area will also include a face-painting booth, and for older children, an Adventure Rock wall will be located in the Children's Playground Area.

Of course the Children's Stage will feature music, magicians Julie Sobanski and David Seebach, Ronald McDonald, and Starlite the Clown. In addition, Radio Disney will be at the festival on Sunday afternoon, and our fireworks on Friday and Saturday nights delight children of all ages.



Visit the Sukiennice

For many people, one of the best parts of Milwaukee's ethnic festivals is the shopping – where else can you find so many specialty items from around the world?

As you browse the Sukiennice Marketplace you'll find a wide selection of traditional Polish items such as Boleslawiec pottery, amber jewelry, Polish linens, hand-carved wooden boxes and plates, dolls, wycinanki, and much more. If you like your Polish items to have a more modern twist, visit one of the vendors selling an assortment of novelty T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers, flags and more. You'll also find a wide variety of books, CDs and DVDs in Polish and English.

Finally, you can't visit Polish Fest without a stop by our souvenir booth for your Official Polish Fest items. This year's selection includes T-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, golf umbrellas, seat cushions, key chains and more.



Food Vendors Offer Tastes for Everyone

Hungry for that Polish food you have been waiting for all year? Polish Fest food vendors can take care of that! Twenty-five local restaurants offer Polish cuisine and more.

Polish Fest offers a wide array of food and beverages to suit your every need. With over 25 vendors lined up, you'll have lots of delicious places to choose from for lunch, dinner or a quick snack. You can enjoy favorites such as pierogi, bigos, Krakus Polish ham, Klement's Polish Sausage, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, czarnina, and more. Make sure to stop by Polish Fest's Kawiarnia Bakery Café for some pączki, chruściki, sernik and other tasty treats.

Six restaurants will be serving Polish food this year: Charcoal Grill, Europe Deli, Filippo's Pizza, Kiszka House, European Kitchen, Old World Deli and Polonez Restaurant.

Filippo's Pizza will be serving a zapiekanka which is an open faced pizza type sandwich typically served by street vendors in Poland.

American European Foods will feature a Friday Fish Fry for only \$8.75!

Charcoal Grill will be highlighting a new item which is an old favorite, Zwijany Boczek which is bacon-wrapped water chestnuts. They will also feature a pig roast at 3:00 p.m. Saturday and noon on Sunday.

Newcomer Original Rainbow Cones offers a Chicago tradition starting with the neon cone on the roof and ending with licking the last drop of the creamy cone. The five flavored cone contains Orange Sherbert, Pistachio, Palmer House with Cherries and Walnuts, Real Strawberry and Chocolate.

Other vendors include Almond Hut, Anderson Corn, Catalano Produce, Cedar Crest, Coffee Bean, Country Time Kettle Korn, Cousins, Culvers, Dippin' Dots Ice Cream, Hawaiian Shaved Ice, Koepsell's Popcorn, Lemon Chill, Milwaukee Donut, Roasted Nuts, Saz's and Root Beer Barrels.



Mały Sklep (Little Store) at Polish Fest!

A new general store will debut at Polish Fest this year. Located next door to the Saz's food stand in the middle of the grounds, the Mały Sklep will feature "dry" goods found in a typical Polish general store, such as dill pickles, canned and dry soups, jams, juices, bread mixes, cookies and candy, among other Polish delectables from Milwaukee, Chicago,

Detroit and Philadelphia. The Mały Sklep will also serve a special blend of coffee developed specially for Polish Fest by Stone Creek Coffee. Be sure to stop by, "test drive" the goods (samples will be available throughout the weekend), and stock your pantry!



Quench Your Thirst at Polish Fest

Polish Fest is proud to announce Stawski Distributing as the exclusive spirits sponsor for the Festival. Stawski Distributing will be sponsoring both the Stawski Imports bar located at the Folk Stage and the Stawski Imports Cultural bar. Available at the Stawski Imports bar will be three high quality vodkas: Stawski Potato Vodka, Extra Zytunia Vodka and, ranked in the top 5 in the world, Stawski "Koneser" Vodka. These vodkas are rated 89 or better by the Beverage Tasting Institute. Vodka-lemonades, vodka-cranberry, and vodka-orange drinks will be available at both bars. We will also be serving the top Polish mead: Jadwiga Miód Pitny and if that's not enough, how about some Krupnik liqueur, a pleasant honey-flavored liqueur to peak your taste buds.

New to this year's festival will be Murfatlar wines. Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay will be served at the Stawski Imports bars. These delectable wines will be a wonderful complement to any of the tasty food offerings at the festival or enjoyable on their own.

Learn more about the Stawski products by attending one of the tastings which will be held at Polish Fest. Tastings will be held above Polonez Restaurant (near the Non-Stop Polka Stage) on each day of the Festival as follows: one on Friday at 8 p.m.; three on Saturday, at 2 p.m., 5 p.m., and 8 p.m. and two on Sunday, at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. For just \$10, you can learn about the differences in the vodkas and meads and also receive a tasting of each. What a great way to learn and experience the quality beverages of Poland!

And if vodkas, mead, or liqueur aren't your beverage of choice, we will also have Miller beer, as well as plenty of non-alcoholic beverages for your drinking pleasure!



Polish Fest 2008: World Class Entertainment

Whether you like traditional Polish folk dancing, non-stop polkas, jazz, pop, or rock, the entertainment at this year's Polish Fest will offer something for everyone.

The beauty of Polish folk costumes will come to life as ten different Polish dance groups from across the Midwest take to the stages of Polish Fest throughout the weekend. **The Kraków Polish Dancers of Milwaukee County** and the **Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble**

will be among the local representatives bringing our rich and vibrant dances to the forefront. The dance groups will also be featured on Saturday evening at 6 p.m. on the Cultural Stage when they will all perform during the Polish Folk Dance Association of America (PFDA) Folk Dance Gala.

Headlining this year's festival on the Miller Stage will be 17-time Grammy award winner **Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra** with two performances each on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. The fact that Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra are on the Top Ten list of the all-time Grammy Awards and have received more consecutive Grammy nominations than anyone in the history of musical awards has made the music industry sit up and take notice. Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) has awarded Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra its most valued award, the "Commendation of Excellence," the only one ever awarded in the polka field.

Back after many years will be **Those Darn Accordions** on Friday and Saturday night. This San Francisco-based, accordion-fueled, rock 'n' roll band pumps out quirky, catchy originals. The six-piece group -- fronted by lead singer/squeezebox wizard Paul Rogers and bellows-pumping babes Carrie Abrahms, Susie Davis, and Suzanne Garramone -- promises to forever change your understanding of the accordion. Those Darn Accordions mix solid keyboard playing with a groundbreaking use of

guitar effects pedals and amps to produce a super-cool sound like nothing you've ever heard emanating from an accordion.

If that's not enough, the Miller Stage will again feature the Polish contemporary sounds of



Marszałek Chicago Band, Rentgen, and Canadian band Korona.

Experience the true sounds of nightclubbing in Poland with the hot sounds that these bands play.

On the Non-Stop Polka Stage will be Grammy nominees

The Polka Family Band and Eddie Blazonczyk's Versatones. The premier polka band in the country, the **Polka Country Musicians**, will take the stage on Friday and Saturday night. Other top bands that will appear include **DynaBrass, Tony Blazonczyk's New Phaze, Jim Kilian & Honky Chicago**, and **The Polish Connection** along with many others.

The Cultural Stage will feature the Tenth Anniversary of the **Chopin Piano Competition** on Sunday, Jazz singer **Grażyna Auguścik** on Saturday, accordion virtuosos **Stas Venglevski** and **Lidia Kaminska**, and **Squeezebox** in their first appearance at Polish Fest on Friday.

Entertainment for children will feature **Magician Julie Sobanski "The Princess of Magic," Ronald McDonald, Discovery World "Fire and Ice," David Seebach's Wonders of Magic**, and the award winning **Polish Falcons Tumbling Troup** to name a few.

In addition, Polish Fest will again showcase some of the most talented young girls and young women in the Milwaukee area in the **Little Miss Polish Fest, Junior Miss Polish Fest** and **Miss Polish Fest Teen Pageants** on Sunday afternoon.



*Top Row: Those Darn Accordions, Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra.
Bottom Row: Lidia Kaminska, Syrena Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, Julie Sobanski, Grażyna Auguścik*