

**Sponsoring the idea of Open Air Museum  
in the form of permanent exhibition  
in  
Skaryszewski - Paderewski Park  
in Warsaw**

To inform and teach the society about Polish famous and talented citizens who worked for Independent Poland in the first half of XX century and whose activity was the contribution to European Culture as well.

The Open Air form will invite EVERYBODY strolling in the Park to easy contact with European Heritage in Polish dimension. Old or young, men and women, Warsaw citizens or tourists, what more exhibition will be easily accessible for the people moving on the wheelchairs.

The topics to learn about:

Active international citizenship – The Political work of Ignacy J.Paderewski  
Poland and Poles participation in World Exhibitions in the years 1925- Paris, 1937 - Paris, 1939 - New York.

Why the period between the (two World) Wars? Because it was a time in Polish history very rich in active citizenship examples, worth to be known.



Why in this place? Because it is a magic place. Let me now to unveil the sponsored idea. Beautiful park spread on about 60 hectares area, now in the City Center. Established as a public park in 1905 under the name Skaryszewski, from the name of the place, was to be the place for sports and rest for inhabitants of Warsaw.

One of the best gardeners of this time, Franciszek Szanior, gathered here many kinds of trees and bushes with the aim to create diverse park landscape. Combination of ponds with a waterfall, picturesque perspectives, imitation of rocky charm hill and a peaceful views of the meadows with a groups of trees. The linden avenue for carriages enclosing the park completed the impression.

The time of prosperity for the Park came with the Independence of Poland, after 1918. As it was written in the Warsaw press, the Skaryszewski Park was to become “Le Bois de Boulogne” of Warsaw, thanks to the private subsidy from Ignacy J. Paderewski, world wide known Polish composer and piano virtuoso, and great Polish statesman who fought abroad, in Europe and United States for independent state of Poland. Soon

in the park appeared sculptures, realized by Polish sculptors. Dancing Girl set in the middle of Rosary Garden, Faun, Woman Taking a Bath, in the little modern fountain, placed on the hill looking at the pond. But also the monument of Edward House, founded by I.J. Paderewski to commemorate the work of American politic, very helpful in “Polish matter”.

Close to the Park a new town quarter start to emerge. The streets French, Parisian, Tchekish, Georgian, Estonian, Covenant of Nations Place, recall political changes on the map of Europe.

The streets of Defenders, The Brave and The Victors remind the events from Poles – Bolshevik battles.

In 1929, the sculpture “Rhythm” by Henryk Kuna , awarded on Exhibition of Decorative Art and Modern Industry in Paris 1925, was placed in the Park. Soon a special guide for tree lovers were edited...

In Paris the sculpture stand in the courtyard of Polish Pavilion and many of Polish artist and architects were engaged to presenting abroad the young Polish state. Polish and foreign press described largely this successful event.

After the (second World) War the names of previous hero were to be forgotten. The railing of Paderewski Park disappeared to make it to be more “opened to the public”...

The monument of Edward House also disappeared. The old name “Skaryszewski Park” started to be used. A little Faun was probably stolen, but happily the other sculptures waited for better times. The Dancing Girl danced in among old bushes of crimson and tea roses. The extraordinary scent was in the air, melting of roses and box leaves.

Classical Rhythm recalled the processions of antiquity during moonlight nights. But it was dangerous to stroll at night in the Park. Besides, who remembered the reason for which the Rhythm emerged in the artist mind.

That’s why these pieces of history are worth to be presented to the public just in the Paderewski Park...

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Warsaw 2010

P.S. After1980 the interwar history started to emerge openly to the public.

In 2005 the book “Polish Participation in World Exhibitions 1851 - 2005” was edited and in 2008 translated in to English.



## IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI'S LIFE (1860- 1941)

**World wide known as a pianist. The great statesman by historical and patriotic circumstances.**

Very talented as a pianist. In the age of eighteen professor of the Musical Institute. Married with one of his students, Antonina, who died giving birth to his son. On the beginning of his career he saw himself as a composer and took up studies in Berlin, where his first compositions were published. In this time he had serious financial problems. He had not enough to live on. In one of the letters young Paderewski wrote: *“I have not money even for the post marks”*.

In the age of 27<sup>th</sup> young artist was ready to make début on the concert halls of Vienna, Berlin, Paris and London. The great success came. Public called him the second Rubinstein. In 1891 Paderewski started to America. His success outshined all previous in Europe. He played the music of different composers, but first of all, Chopin compositions. After nine years abroad he returned to Warsaw as a very rich man and pianist of “number one” in the world.

In Poland artist made many donation for social aims.

*“The national affair it means the continuous work, sacrificially from g eneration to generation”* as he said in one of his numerous public speeches.

Paderewski owned the Hotel Bristol in Warsaw and founded the building of Panorama (panoramas – a round buildings with enormous panoramic paintings inside; very popular at the end of nineteenth century to widespread the great historical events). He also supported building of Philharmonic edifice in Warsaw.

Residence Riond-Bosson in Morges at the Lake of Geneva (Switzerland) became his beloved place to rest with his second wife Helena and incurably ill son.

His main works as composer are opera *Manru* and *Fantaisie Polonaise*.

*Minuet* written as a joke became a most popular composition of those times.

In 1910 the 500 years had passed from the great event in Polish history. It was the Grunwald Battle, when the crushing defeat of Teutonic Knights by the king Jagiełło took place. I.J. Paderewski funded *Grunwaldzki Momument*, which was unveiled in Cracow. *“A monument of love and gratefulness for these forefathers, who not for plunder but to defense the right cause went to fight”*.

1913 - Paderewski more and more engage himself in politic. He is giving charity concerts in U.S. After each he give a speech to the public, making lobby for Poland gained the independence.

1917- 1919 As a member of Polish National Committee in Paris Paderewski started political activity of rebirth the Polish State on international diplomatic forum. Thanks to



his personal engagement, president of United States of America, Woodrow Wilson added 13<sup>th</sup> point to his famous Peace Declaration published after end of I World War. The 13<sup>th</sup> point concerned the creation of Independent State Poland with a free access to the sea.

In 1919 Paderewski for one year performed a function of President of Ministers in the government of Independent Poland. Great artist became a great statesman.

As the result of high words with marshal Piłsudski his government collapsed.

In the age of 62 he started again to play concerts, to repay above 700.000 \$ of dept contracted for supply the young Polish State. After concerts he used to relax in his ranch St. Ignacio in California or in Riond-Bosson Switzerland. All the time he stay to be very respectable personage.

In 1934 I.J. Paderewski was asked by general Sikorski, general Haller and Wincenty Witos, to participate in political oppositionist action, known as the Front Morgues.

In the age of 78, in 1939 Paderewski gives the last concerts in USA.

In 1940 Polish Emigration Government was established under command of general Sikorski.

Paderewski died in 1941 in USA. 40.000 of people from Washington and other cities came to see him off. Was buried with military honors owned to the head of State.

Earnest patriot, for the world stayed eminent master for a piano.

In 1992 ashes of Paderewski returned to Poland to be committed in Warsaw Cathedral.

