

Polish Journey

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As spring approaches, it is time to begin thinking about our recommitment to charitable deeds and actions. Actions for the soul. Spring, a time of renewal and hope, is an ideal time to join like-minded others and simply helping out. The PCC has been blessed to have a cadre of volunteers over the years that we can count on to help, regardless of the project. These angels are the heart and soul of any non-profit organization and without them, an organization

ceases to exist.

As we begin to wind down the COVID barriers, you will find the PCC increasing the activities in which we are involved, as well as reviewing various exhibits and lectures that we want to curate and sponsor. Our executive director, Maria Staszekiewicz, has her hands full not only in administering the PCC, but also in reviewing and planning each and every activity that we pursue. The time for your commitment, the time to get

involved is now and we welcome you.

To become an active PCC member, please contact Maria. Her email is pccorg.ms@gmail.com. She will be more than happy to fill you in on the latest news and actions. We are in the planning stages of a number of fun and cultural activities, so we think 2022 will be a busy year. From our board, we wish a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all of our members.

—Rick Pierchalski

Midsummer's Night Magic Sunday, June 19, 2022 A Whimsical Evening In the Park 5:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Close your eyes and envision a midsummer celebration. What comes to mind? Fantasy? Alluring fascination? Whimsical delight? Enchanted forests? Magnificent feasts? The Polish Cultural Council promises all of that and more at our first annual summer solstice and Noc Świętojańska celebration. The outdoor, evening festivities will take place in a park nestled in the rustling woods of the Avonworth Community just north of the city. Surrounded by wooded trails with foot bridges and a babbling creek, the venue boasts of the perfect setting for an enchanted evening beyond the hustle and bustle noise of urban sprawl.

The festivities include dancing to the harmonious Continental Dukes.

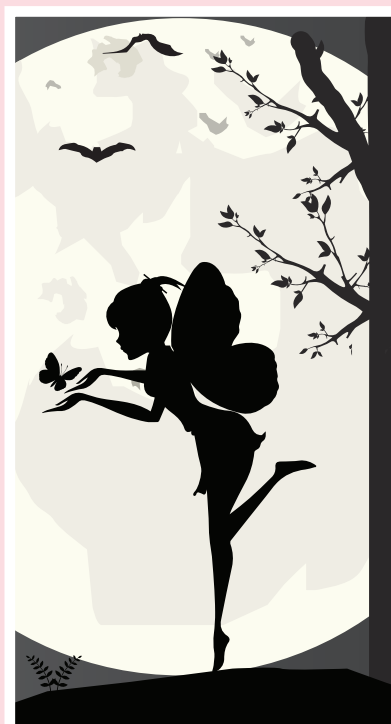
Join in the lure of prancing around the Maypole, the excitement of the magical scavenger hunt, the celebration with fire and lights, and the twilight floating of the candle-lit wreaths down the babbling brook. The food fare will be the renowned, bountiful feasts prepared by the PCC. The culinary spread is guaranteed to tingle your taste buds and satisfy your every craving.

Save the date and join us.

Bring your friends and relatives for an evening filled with the magic of a whimsical summer's night.

Watch for details on our website and Facebook. Reservations will be limited. We look forward to sharing the evening together on a magical summer night.

—Evanne Addams



The EXCITEMENT of the International Chopin Piano Competition: Bruce Liu victorious!

By Jakub Polaczyk

In October last year, the long-awaited **18th International Chopin Piano Competition** in Warsaw took place. This prominent international event, which originated in 1927 and, since 1955, had been held every five years, had to be postponed from 2020 because of the pandemic. Would we have had the same results if the competition had been held a year ago? Probably not. For the first time in history, the winner of the competition was a Canadian pianist, **Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu**. As the artist mentioned in interviews, during lockdown he had more time to be better prepared being able to concentrate only on Chopin and the upcoming competition. The pianist was already well known to the Polish public, as he had participated in the Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz a few years ago.

The 18th Chopin competition was one of the first events to be held at the Warsaw National Philharmonic after the closing of the concert halls in 2020. It was very well attended. Just a few days before the competition, the famous pianist, Martha Argerich cancelled her participation in a jury because of the illness of another juror, and her friend, Brazilian pianist, Nelson Freire. Another Brazilian pianist, and audience favorite from the 1970 Competition, Arthur Morei Lima took their place. It was his first appearance in the jury.

The competition could be watched online in all its stages on the YouTube Channel of the Chopin Institute. What might come as a surprise is that the competition did not have that many participants from Europe. Poland

was represented by a large group of pianists. There were memorable performances of Aleksandra Świgut, bright and joyful; Waldemar Pawlak's, for his clarity; and Andrzej Wiercinski's, who shaped beautiful nuances. His Sonata in b-minor was (in my opinion) one of the better renditions in the semi-finals. Many Poles advanced to the semi-finals and we heard Piotr Alexewicz, Krzysztof Krzyżowski (who prior to the Competition won the Rubinstein Prize in Bydgoszcz), and acclaimed Polish pianist Szymon Nehring, who always possesses the ability to create big arches of forms. Unfortunately he did not advance to the finals. In the finals there were only two pianists from Poland: Jakub Kuszlik and Kamil Pacholec.

The other group of pianists who impressed me very much was the Japanese representation. Two of them won top prizes. **Kyohei Sorita**, currently studying in Warsaw, won the 2nd prize, ex aequo with **Alexander Gadjević** (Italy/Slovenia), playing Chopin "con bravura", with unusual fresh phrasing and masterful pedalling. **Aimi Kobayashi**, from the Curtis Institute, won 4th prize ex aequo with **Jakub Kuszlik** (Poland). It was her second-time appearance in this competition. Her cycle of preludes was extraordinary, bringing many listeners to tears, including myself. It is also important to mention the mazurkas by another Japanese pianist, Hayato Summon. They were, in my opinion, splendid, as was the sonata by Yasuko Furumi.

The United States did not have many candidates this year, but **Talon Smith** and **Avery Gagliano** presented very solid, mature programs. Gagliano's recital at Carnegie Hall a few days before received great reviews. He is a pianist of nuances and also a great sense of architecture in music. Very well-remembered are the performances of **Martin Garcia Garcia** (3rd prize) from Spain, but studying currently in New York, and **Eva Gevorgyan**. Garcia is a kind of a visionary pianist, full of new ideas of playing Chopin, spontaneous, shaping musical pieces like stories, always grasping attention with his colorful rendition. His Concerto was a new outlook into that piece. On the other hand, Gevorgyan is a volcanic pianist whose Sonata in b-flat minor was really breathtaking. Unfortunately she did not get any prize at the competition. Despite



that, she has been invited after the competition to many concerts, also in Poland. Among the other laureates were **Leonora Armellini**, 5th prize (Italy) and **JJ Jun Li Bui**, 6th prize (Canada).

Bruce is a pianist of outstanding imagination, articulation, contrasts and elegance. I think he was one of the pianists in the competition who was born to play "style brillante". His Variations, Waltzes and Concerto were spectacular and stunning. Surprisingly he did not get any special awards for particular pieces. The pianist plays each time differently; that was proved in the post-competition concerts with the Concerto in e-minor op.11. He is a pianist who also allows himself space for spontaneity, which is so important for the music of Chopin. We are awaiting his next CDs, as the one from the competition has been already released by Deutsche Grammophon. We are looking forward to his concerts in New York, Pittsburgh and other cities on the East Coast. As a student of the 1980 Chopin competition winner, **Dang Thai Son**, he repeated his master's triumph, but for the first time as Canadian. Dang Thai Son, himself, got Canadian citizenship many years after his success at the competition. Bravo tutti!

The 18th International Chopin Competition was especially memorable and on a very high level. It had probably the longest jury deliberation. The results were announced after 2 AM and not around midnight as we got used to in the past. Let's wish all the laureates and the victorious Bruce a great pianistic career.

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"The opinions expressed by authors do not always reflect the views of the PCC."

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Remembering Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, Consul General in Vancouver, Los Angeles and New York

By Eva Tumiel-Kozak

The year 2021 brought us so much sad news. Our long-time friend, Wojciech Mały, professor at Carnegie Mellon University passed away. Dr. Andrzej Stróżyński is writing about him in this issue. PCC has also lost a long-time friend, the Consul General in New York (2005 – 2010), **Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk**.

I officially “met” the new Consul General on his first day of duty. PCC and some members of our community were taking care of a young Polish woman, who was a victim of a horrific car accident. Following her long time for recovery, she was ready to leave for Poland. Since her stay here was prolonged illegally, I called the Consulate General to help her to leave, to advise her on her future therapy in Poland and of her rights as a citizen. The new Consul General, Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk, exceeded our expectations, not only advising her on various aspects of medical action and her legal problems, but also taking her personally to the gate of Kennedy International Airport.

Since that time, PCC and the Consul General became real friends. He visited us on many occasions, officially establishing the Honorary Consulate in Pittsburgh for Pennsylvania, represented by Dr. Jan N. Saykiewicz; bestowing on various members Crosses of Merit from the President of RP, and even participat-



Presentation of the Crosses of Merit to the PCC members: (from left) Rick Pierchalski, Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland; Hon. Consul, Dr. Jan N. Saykiewicz & Eva Tumiel-Kozak, both Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland; Consul General, Krzysztof W. Kasprzyk; Col. Merle Addams, Gold Cross of Merit.

ing in our Bal Polonaise. He was also the first Consul General to give our organization an official grant for PCC's various projects.

Krzysztof Kasprzyk had an especially colorful career and personality. He was a graduate of the Jagiellonian University with a degree in nuclear physics. He was a journalist during “Solidarity”. Journalism was his special forte; he became the president of the Krakow Journalists Association, later teaching journalism at the Institute of Political Sciences.

Following the transformation of Poland's political system, he got involved in diplomacy and was nominated as Consul for Public Affairs, Culture and Science in Los Angeles. He was also Consul General

in Los Angeles, Vancouver, Canada, and finally in New York. His five years of service in New York were marked by many worthwhile and lasting projects. His farewell, a humanitarian gesture, not typical for a high-ranking administrator, was to organize a fundraiser for an orphanage in the south of Poland. Upon returning to Poland, Kasprzyk was a professor of Diplomacy in Collegium Civitas. In 2013, he was recognized with the Knights Cross of Polonia Restituta for his many achievements.

Most of all, he will be remembered as a special friend, not only to PCC, but also to many Polonia organizations, and as a wonderful diplomat and human being dedicated to representing Poland abroad.



The Books of Jacob, by Nobel prize winner Olga Tokarczuk, a bestseller

Recently translated into English, the book was ranked 10th on the *New York Times* bestseller list and fifth on the list of American independent bookstores.

“Just as awe-inspiring as the Nobel judges claimed.” – *The Washington Post*

“Olga Tokarczuk is one of our greatest living fiction writers. . . This could well be a decade-defining book akin to Bolaño's 2666.” – *AV Club*

“Sophisticated and ribald and brimming with folk wit. . . The comedy in this novel blends, as it does in life, with genuine tragedy.” – Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

The Nobel Prize–winner's richest, most sweeping and ambitious novel yet follows the comet-like rise and fall of a mysterious, messianic religious leader as he blazes his way across eighteenth-century Europe.

A review from *The Washington Post* of *The Books of Jacob* can be found at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/books/2022/02/01/olga-tokarczuk-books-of-jacob-review/>.

An interview with Tokarczuk, which appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, can be found at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/10/books/review/olga-tokarczuk-by-the-book-interview.html>.

Professor Wojtek Mały – In memoriam by Andrzej Strójas



It is with an extremely heavy heart that I write about my dear friend and mentor, Professor Wojtek Mały, who passed away on December

20th last year. Wojtek has been a source of inspiration for me throughout my professional life. I am forever grateful for everything that he did for me and my family.

I met Wojtek in 1973, at the Warsaw Technical University, where I was a second-year student in the Department of Electronics and Wojtek was an Assistant Professor. Wojtek selected a small group of my classmates and proposed that we start research on statistical Integrated Circuit (IC) fabrication process modeling. It took quite a visionary to start leading edge research in this domain in Poland at that time. He arranged a collaboration with Polish semiconductor companies that allowed us to perform experiments in the semiconductor process, collect data, and most of all, gain valuable experience in IC technology, despite the many restrictions that existed at that time. I remember climbing over physical walls with Wojtek to get access to the IC testers at night and jumping to exit from the second-floor windows since everything was locked up in the middle of the night. That may sound like something out of a movie, but it is absolutely true. I am mentioning these

events to illustrate Wojtek's unbounded dedication to research and devotion to his students. As a result of this work, our research started to become noticed. Our conference papers were receiving enthusiastic reviews. As a result, Prof. Steve Director invited Wojtek to be a Visiting Assistant Professor to Carnegie Mellon University, and along with him, for me to finish my Ph. D. In the process we became not only colleagues for the next several decades, but also close friends. I knew I could always count on Wojtek professionally, or personally, whether it was for a family emergency in Poland or in Pittsburgh.

We continued to work together. As a result of our collaboration, we were able to start a new research area that is now called Design for Manufacturability and is still the hottest buzzword in the IC design and manufacturing field of research. Wojtek had always been full of creative ideas, which sometimes appeared to be unattainable, but at the end, resulted in truly novel and successful methodology. He had always been a pioneer not interested in jumping on somebody else's bandwagon, but instead in starting new research fields from scratch. One of the best relatively recent examples is his research in 3-dimensional IC's. He was again ahead of his time and proposed novel approaches that only now are being implemented in the IC industry. Even faced with illness, he did not slow down and had been exploring revolutionary ideas for new semiconductor device structures. He is viewed in academia and the IC industry as a true visionary, and is extremely well respected for the impacts he made

in the field.

Wojtek's dedication to teaching is also legendary. Since he was not happy with the quality of textbooks in IC fabrication technology, he wrote an atlas in which he generated all "3-dimensional" figures by himself on his beloved Macintosh. This took incredible dedication and resulted in a book that has been used by many universities for many years. He has always been appreciated not only by his graduate students but also by the undergraduates. They recognized his devotion and although he was always quite demanding, they responded to him quite well. The best indication of his excellence in teaching is his receipt of the Aristotle Award from the Semiconductor Research Corporation, the most prestigious recognition for university professors.

Wojtek never accepted compromises. He consistently sought perfection and expected the same from his students and collaborators. His creativity and relentless pursuit of excellence resulted in ground-breaking research that has been adopted by leading semiconductor companies all over the world, and was shared in numerous publications and conference keynotes.

I remain extremely impressed and moved that, even towards the end of his battle with Parkinson's disease, he remained optimistic and never complained about his struggles. Quite to the contrary, he was always saying that he is at peace and very grateful for such a fulfilling life. He was truly a remarkable man, and was loved and respected by many. He is already missed.

RUTH SLENCZYNSKA 97 year-old pianistic legend



Ruth SLENCZYNSKA, the world renowned American pianist of Polish origin, just signed a landmark record deal with DECCA at the age of 97! It is her 10th recording with Decca in her over 66 year-long artistic career. She debuted at the age four as a child prodigy and is the last surviving student of Rachmaninoff. Her friends included Samuel Barber and Vladimir Horowitz.

Her most recent performance was at the Consulate General of Poland last fall, as the honorary guest of the Chopin and Friends Festival.

Pittsburgh hosted her as a judge of the National Three Rivers Piano Competition under the auspices of the WQED-FM.

Her album, *Life in Music* will be available in March and can be pre-ordered at <https://RuthSlenczynska.lnk.to/Listen>.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY! STO LAT – IS NOT ENOUGH!!!

Theatre without Borders

by Eva Tumiel-Kozak

Not all the events of the year 2021 were sad. We're happy to mention a milestone in Polish culture, the 30 years of the existence of the **Jerzy Pilitowski Canadian-Polish Salon of Poetry, Music and Theatre, known as the Polish Theatre in Toronto**, Canada. Why write about the theatre in Toronto? PCC and our members were many times happy recipients of the talents of the brilliant initiator of the theatre, the Polish actress from the Slowacki Theatre in Kraków, **Maria Nowotarska** and her daughter, **Agata Pilitowska**. Both wonderful actresses proved to us with their hard work, determination, enthusiasm and their great talents that it is possible to have professional theatre beyond the borders of Poland. Thus the nickname: *Teatr bez Granic* or Theatre without Borders., which has given over 100 performances and traversed Canada, the U.S.A, South America and most of Europe over 300 times.

The Salon of Poetry, Music and Theatre was created in 1991 by Maria Nowotarska, the former actress of the Juliusz Slowacki Theatre in Kraków, Poland. She is also the Salon's artistic

director and script writer, and frequently performs in the Salon's productions. It is the only theater in the world which presents works about emigration written specifically for the theatre. The author of the works, **Kazimierz Braun**, professor at the University of Buffalo, has a rich background as a director, a playwright and a writer, both in Poland and the U.S. His famous series of plays, *Polish Women on Emigration*, were specifically created for those Nowotarska and Pilitowska. Many of us at PCC vividly remember: **Helen**, about the famous Polish actress Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska): **Radiation** (Promieniowanie), which tells the dramatic story of Madame Curie-Sklodowska;



Secrets of Ordonka (Sekrety Ordonki), the Polish singer, dancer and actress, **Hanka Ordonówna**; or **Pola Negri**, the famous, the most colorful and exotic Polish actress of silent movies. Those unforgettable plays beautifully underscored the pain of existence, everyday problems, experiences or emotions in the lives of

many on emigration.

Both actresses continue their passion



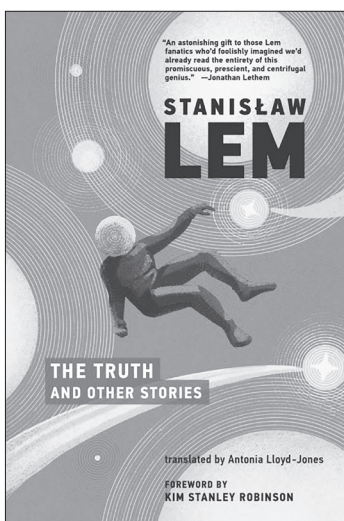
Maria Nowotarska and Agata Pilitowska

and love for the theatre even during pandemics, creating *Theatrical Conversations on Emigration* (Emigracyjne Rozmowy Teatralne), easily available on YouTube.

It is impossible to summarize in a short note 33 years of Maria Nowotarska's association with the Slowacki Theatre in Kraków, where her glorious 60th anniversary of her theatrical work was celebrated last year. It is impossible to give full credit to Nowotarska's and Pilitowska's 30 years of promotion of Polish culture, their accolades or the many awards bestowed on them.

Our admiration and congratulations to both actresses, with our heartfelt wishes for many more beautiful years, continuing their intellectual, artistic and cultural ambassadorship of Polonia. BRAVO!

Stories by Stanisław Lem translated into English



English-speaking fans of Polish science fiction master, **Stanisław Lem** (1921-2006), can rejoice in this volume of short stories, **The Truth and Other Stories**, newly translated from the Polish by Antonia Lloyd-Jones (MIT Press). Nine of the twelve have never before appeared in English, making this the first "new" book of fiction by Lem since the late 1980s.

People who have never heard of Stanisław Lem may perk up their ears when they hear that his works have been translated into over 40 languages and have sold over 45 million copies. In December 2020, the Polish parliament proclaimed the year 2021 to be the Year of Stanisław Lem. Several extraterrestrial bodies or features thereof have been named for him or for characters from his novels.

His works contain several recurring themes. One such theme is the impossibility of communication between profoundly alien beings

and humans, because they have no common ground. In his novel **Solaris**, humans struggle to communicate with a planetary ocean which is a single giant cell. Another theme is the shortcomings of humans. Having lived through Nazi occupation of eastern Poland, barely evading the Lwów ghetto, postwar resettlement to Kraków, and Stalinism in Poland, Lem became disillusioned with ideologies. He turned to science fiction as a way to avoid state censors while satirizing human limitations.

He said: "I wish immutable truths existed... But I am firmly convinced that there are no absolutes, that everything is historical, and that you cannot get away from history." In an autobiographical essay, Lem concluded, "I'm a disenchanted reformer of the world ... [but] not yet a despairing reformer. For I do not believe that mankind is for all times a hopeless and incurable case." by Richard Howland

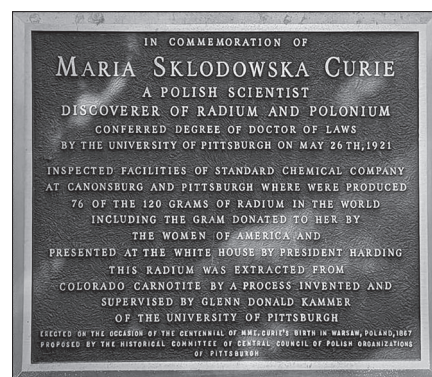
Maria Curie-Skłodowska's visit to Pittsburgh by Rick Pierchalski



Maria Curie-Skłodowska



Maria Curie-Skłodowska's Visit



Historical Marker at the University of Pittsburgh

I was recently at my ophthalmologist's office and he asked me if I knew that Madame Curie once visited Pittsburgh. I had a vague memory of it but the details escaped me so I thought it best to refresh my memory. After a brief Google search I came across a May, 2021 article in PittWire, as well as a few others, detailing the visit.

Maria Curie-Skłodowska, a native Pole, received two Nobel prizes, one in Physics in 1903 and then one in Chemistry in 1911, all related to research in radiation and the study of Radium and Polonium. Since the first Nobel Prize was awarded in 1901, only four individuals have won two Nobel prizes. Madame Curie sat in a unique position in 1921 when she first visited Pittsburgh as (perhaps) the premi-

erent scientist in the world.

She came to Pittsburgh for a couple of reasons. First, The University of Pittsburgh invented the process that isolated the 1 gram of Radium, donated by the Women of America and presented to her in the White House by President Harding. There was a nationwide fundraising effort to advance her radium research. The Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, William Jacob Holland, was chairman of the Pittsburgh branch of the committee. The cost of uranium at the time was incredibly high and private funds were needed to continue Curie's experiments. Another reason for her visit to Pittsburgh was the fact that a Canonsburg company, Standard Chemical Company, produced that radium by a process

invented and supervised by the University of Pittsburgh. She met the chemists, and toured the company's operation. Today, although the company is long gone, the site is managed by the US Department of Energy Legacy Management.

During her stay the Degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on her by the University of Pittsburgh on May 26th, 1921. On the occasion of the centennial of Mme. Curie's birth in Warsaw, Poland, 1867, a special historical marker was erected in 1967 outside Allen Hall at the University of Pittsburgh, commemorating the visit. The plaque was sponsored by the Central Council of Polish Organizations, which was succeeded by The Polish Cultural Council.

CONGRATULATIONS to KASIA BRUNIANY



Kasia Bruniany

Our previous graphic artist, Kasia Bruniany, was awarded the Silver Cross of Merit from the President of the Republic of Poland.

In 2013, our Honorary Consul, Dr. Jan N. Saykiewicz, with strong written support from the PCC, initiated the process of nomination. Many years passed before she received the award.

Kasia Bruniany, a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków, Poland, moved in the middle of her career to Pittsburgh. She worked here as a graphic artist, art director and artistic painter. She designed the present graphic look of the Polish Journey, worked on its technical aspects, and oversaw its production. Right from the beginning, she was active in all our

events, designing our stationary, invitations, occasional sets and offering her expertise pro bono.

She always loved painting. In 2013, she moved with her husband to Lakewood Ranch, Florida, deciding to concentrate on her paintings, experimenting with various techniques, from the realistic to the abstract. Her paintings have appeared in 18 solo or group exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe. As a Member of the Florida Artists Group, she is represented by the Dabbert Gallery, located on historic Palm Ave in Sarasota, Florida.

Always grateful for her work for PCC, we would like to wish her lots of success in all her future endeavours.

Our thanks and appreciations go to Jamie Clark for his service on our Board. We are very grateful and will miss him. Best wishes from all of us.

Speaking Polish – Piece of Cake by Veronica Wojnarowski

YES AND NO – Tak i Nie

TAK

Tak in Polish, means **yes**, in its simplest usage. It stems from a root in Proto-Slavic meaning **such, such a (kind of), that kind**. Belarusian, Russian, and Ukrainian also use tak for yes. Used alone, it is an interjection, an affirmation, an answer to a question. *Did you see the movie? Yes! Czy obejrzałeś film? Tak! Yes, the situation is serious. Tak, jest to poważna sytuacja.* When combined with *ależ*, in *ależ tak*, literally **but yes**, it means **of course**. When you want to say the imperative **say yes to**, you say *powiedz tak*.

Tak is also used as an adverb, and here its uses are many. As an adverb, *tak* means **thus, so, or in such a way**. Here are some phrases in which *tak* is used as an adverb.

tak jak	as
zrób to tak	do it like this
zrobił to tak, jak ja	he did it just like I did
zrobił to tak jak kazali	he did as he was told
i tak dalej	and so on
tak zwany	so-called
tak czy owak	anyhow, in any case
tak sobie	so-so
tak mocno, że	so strongly that

Tak morphs into a pronoun when it takes the adjectival endings: **taki** (masc.), **taka** (fem.), **takie** (neut.). Here are some examples:

taki sam	the same
taki jak	such as
jest taki jak chciałeś	it's just what you wanted
on już taki jest	that's the way he is
taki a taki	so-and-so
w takim razie	in that case
była taka mgła, że	it was so foggy that
ona jest taka młoda	she is so young
taki mądry człowiek	such a wise man
taka ładna pogoda	such nice weather
takie ładne dziecko	such a beautiful child

NIE

Nie, Polish for **no**, also derives from Proto-Slavic. It appears in many languages, meaning **no** or **never**. Just as with *tak*, used alone it is an interjection, an affirmation, or an answer to a question. *Did you feed the cat? No! Karmieś kota? Nie!*

As a negation particle for nouns it means **no**, although the pronoun **żaden** is more commonly used in this circumstance, and *nie* modifies the verb.

For example:

żaden człowiek nie jest samowystarczalny	no man is self-sufficient
w żadnym razie	in no case
w żadnym wypadku!	no way!

As a negation particle for verbs and participles *nie* means **not, don't, didn't isn't**, etc. So we have:

nie ma (go tutaj)	there isn't any, he isn't here
nie martw się	don't worry
nikt nie wie	no one knows

The word *nie* really shines as a prefix to adjectives and adverbs. There are pages and pages of these words in the dictionary. Seemingly, you can put *nie* in front of any adjective or adverb and you will have its negative. Here are a few:

niedobrze	unwell, sickly
niedawno	recently, not long ago
niefortunny	unfortunate
nieduży	small, not big
nieinteresujący	uninteresting



WHEN NO MEANS YES

And now for a little fun. Oh, the confusion which can ensue when a Polish word means its opposite in English. **No** in Polish means **yes**. Pronounced as **noh, with a longer o sound**, it means **yeah**. Mark Biernat, an American living in Poland, writing on his web page, describes this situation: "Sometimes while driving I ask my wife for directions. She says go right, I say right, she says 'no'... Then between the English word 'right' and the Polish word 'no' we miss the turn and I always say next time just say 'tak' or 'nie'."



Kącik Kulinaryny Polish Culinary Corner

by Dave Motak

Sources tell us that, when they weren't plundering and pillaging up and down the coasts of Europe, the Vikings enjoyed munching on horseradish roots as their favorite snack. Our Slavic ancestors were much more discriminating and preferred to use the pungent perennial plant to accentuate their prepared foods as well as for medicinal purposes.

Although it was known to the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, horseradish was cultivated by the Slavs as early as the 9th century. It is a long, coarse tapered perennial root belonging to the cabbage family that can often be invasive. Horseradish grows best in temperate climates, such as Central Europe. In the old Polish tradition, it was called warzęcha or warzucha and today it is called chrzan which is similar to the name used in other Slavic languages.

In the Middle Ages, it was highly regarded for its healing properties. As it helps to stimulate blood flow, it was used to relieve rheumatic pains, gout, swelling and frostbite. When dissolved in wine, it becomes a general stimulant and was used as a diaphoretic to increase sweating and to induce bactericidal and fungicidal effects. Horseradish is rich in antioxidants and is richer in vitamin C than most citrus fruit. It is also a good aid for digestion, especially of fatty foods and it also contains a large amount of fiber. The plant is also considered good for the respiratory tract.

In Poland, as in most of Central Europe, there are two varieties of chrzan. "Red" chrzan is mixed with beetroot juice and "white" chrzan contains no beetroot. Both Polish

In Praise of Chrzan



Chrzan - Root and Prepared

Christian and Jewish traditions utilize chrzan for Easter and Passover meals respectively, with Poles referring to the variety with red beetroots as ćwikła z chrzanem or simply ćwikła. This can be prepared with grated roasted beets and grated horseradish to which vinegar and sugar are added. This mixture is used as a condiment which has the distinctive Polish "sweet/sour" taste that is often found in Polish cooking. Chrzan is often referred to as the "king" of the Polish Easter table and many Polish families take great care and pride in grating and preparing their own homemade horseradish for their Święconka Easter meal of blessed foods. Ćwikła is an excellent condiment with cold Easter ham, kielbasa, cold cuts and hard-boiled eggs.

As in other parts of Europe, the Poles often mix horseradish with fresh cream, sour cream or mayonnaise to make a tangy sauce to serve with cold cuts or hard-boiled eggs. It also goes perfectly with the taste of fish and Polish cooks often serve these sauces with smoked trout.

Although horseradish now often grows wild throughout Europe, there are several varieties that are prized for their special qualities. One of these was brought to the Łódź Province in Central Poland in the 1920s and grown on an estate in Bresie Małe. After World War II this variety was more widely disseminated in other parts of Poland, including the village

of Osjaków which today hosts a very popular Horseradish Festival (Święto Chrzanu) in which visitors can sample numerous dishes featuring horseradish in the starring role prepared by professional chefs, culinary experts and area home cooks.

In Silesia in western Poland, horseradish was grown in almost every farm and kitchen garden, not only for health reasons, but also for cooking. It was used for pickling cucumbers, and also for making horseradish soup, often on a daily basis. Silesians have felt that this nutritious soup provides plenty of energy for daily chores and is good for your digestion.

If you want to try this tasty dish, here are the instructions:

Prepare a soup stock with 6 cups water and two medium sized ham hocks (or 8 oz smoked kielbasa). Let simmer until the meat flavor permeates the stock. Clean 3 horseradish roots and grate on a fine grater**. Add the grated horseradish to the stock and cook for about 1 hour. Remove and dice the meat. Whiten the stock with 1 cup sour cream, 2 tablespoons flour and 7 beaten eggs (add these items together then combine gradually with the hot stock to avoid curdling the eggs.) Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add the diced meat, sprinkle with diced parsley and serve.

This dish was prepared by the "Frykówka" Restaurant from Pszczyna during the VIII Silesian Tastes Festival (Śląskie Smaki), which took place in 2013 in Bielsko-Biała. The team took the second place in the professional category.

** Note: Some cooks put the horseradish in the freezer for a couple of hours to make it less irritating on the eyes when it is grated.

Smacznego!

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Witold Pilecki International Book Award for history



Witold Pilecki was a Polish cavalry officer, intelligence agent and resistance leader during World War II. He infiltrated the German concentration camp, Auschwitz, from which he escaped, reporting on the conditions which he found there.

This new award has honored three history books which explore Poland's experience of Nazism and communism. **Filip Gańczak** won the prize for best reportage with his

biography of **Jan Sehn**, an expert on Auschwitz who fought to bring Nazi war criminals to account. Britain's **Christina Lamb** received the award for best contemporary journalism, after exploring the female experience of war in her work ***Our Bodies, Their Battlefield: What War Does to Women***. American author **Eliyana Adler**'s book ***Survival on the Margins***, about Polish Jewish war refugees in the Soviet Union, was named best work of scientific research.

British-Polish violinist honored with MBE award

Violinist **Jennifer Pike** has collected her Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) award for her services to classical music from the Princess Royal in a ceremony at Windsor Castle. Pike, whose mother is Polish, has done a great deal to promote Polish music. Her latest album, recorded for the Chandos label with pianist Petr

Limonov, features a selection of rarely heard pieces by composers Karol Szymanowski, Grażyna Bacewicz and Irene Wieniawska. In 2017, Pike curated a series of three concerts at London's Wigmore Hall, devoted exclusively to Polish music. It included the UK premiere of Penderecki's *Capriccio* for solo violin.



Scientists win "Polish Nobel Prize"

Four leading scientists have won awards from the Foundation for Polish Science, sometimes called the "Polish Nobel Prizes". They are **Bożena Kamińska-Kaczmarek**, **Jacek Jemielity**, **Grzegorz Pietrzyński** and **Cezary Cieśliński** in

recognition of their outstanding achievements and scientific discoveries. The award panel decided that the four winners are leading lights of Poland's research and academic communities and mentors for many colleagues and students.

Pole on BBC's list of 100 inspiring women for 2021

Polish artist, **Barbara Smolińska** has been included on the BBC's list of the most inspiring and influential women around the world for 2021. Smolińska's company, Reborn Sugar Babies, produces life-like baby dolls that may be used as therapeutic aids in treating anxiety, depression and fertility issues. The dolls have been used in films and to train doctors, nurses and midwives in medical institutions.



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The OSCAR nominations

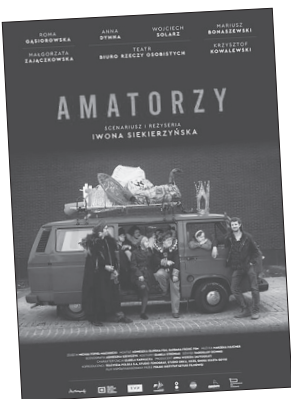
Polish cinematographer **Janusz Kamiński** was nominated for an Oscar in the Best Cinematography category for his work on Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*. Kamiński has been already awarded by the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences twice. He won an Oscar for the Best Cinematography for *Schindler's List* in 1994, and for *Saving Private Ryan* in 1999.



The film, **The Dress** (Sukienka), by **Tadeusz Łysiak** has been nominated in the Best Live-action Short Film category.

Gdynia joins UNESCO Cities of Film Network

Since 1987, the Polish Baltic city of Gdynia has served as the venue for the Polish Film Festival and it has also had a film school whose graduates have won numerous prizes at festivals both in Poland and abroad. It is the second city, after Łódź, to be named a UNESCO City of film. Gdynia is regarded as a city that has a modern approach to film, film producing and directing.



Polish film wins the Hollywood Eagle Award

The film, *Amateurs*, directed by Iwona Siekierzyńska won the Hollywood Eagle Award for best feature film at the Polish Film Festival in Los Angeles. It depicts people with intellectual disabilities. The main roles are played by actors with such disabilities. Amateurs tells the story of Krzysiek and his amateur troupe of actors with intellectual disabilities. It can be seen on Netflix until September, 2022.

Polish book to be filmed in US

How to Feed a Dictator, a book of reportage by award-winning Polish journalist and writer, **Witold Szablowski**, is set to be made into a film series by an American production company. The author has said that this is probably the first time that a Polish book has been sold to Hollywood. The book looks at Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Uganda's Idi Amin, Albania's Enver Hoxta, Cuba's Fidel Castro, and Cambodia's Pol Pot through the eyes of their cooks.

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Chopin forever



The **National Chopin Institute** has unveiled the first-ever and one-of-a-kind online exhibit, **Chopin Forever**. The exhibit was developed in association with 12 partners from six countries. The digital platform **Google Arts and Culture** hosts the exhibition at artsandculture.google.com/project/chopin.

Chopin Forever showcases the life and work of Poland's most famous composer, informing viewers about Chopin's timeless contribution to Polish and world culture.

At the same time, at the **Frederic Chopin Museum** in Warsaw, **Chopin's last piano** is being restored by a U.S. expert, Paul McNulty, from Texas. McNulty calls it "priceless" and "the best preserved Pleyel piano in the world".