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Polish American Cultural Center Museum
308 Walnut Street
in Historic Philadelphia

Celebrate America's Birthday

Beginning on Thursday, June 29, through Tuesday, July 4, 2017, the City of Philadelphia, in conjunction with Wawa Welcome America Philadelphia will be hosting many free events celebrating America's birthday.



In addition to the concerts, fireworks, and Independence Day Parade, you can visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, National Constitution Center, Kosciuszko House and much more.

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, in historic Philadelphia, will be highlighting Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution, the second oldest democratic constitution in world history, in conjunction with events at the National Constitution Center at 6th & Arch Streets, which highlight America's Constitution.

The Polish American Cultural Center Museum is on its summer schedule, open Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and will be open on the 4th of July.

For more information, call the Polish American Cultural Center Museum at 215-922-1700 or visit welcomeamerica.com or PolishAmericanCenter.com.

Celebrate America's freedom where it began - Philadelphia!

Congratulations

The Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia and Polonia wish to extend their Congratulations to the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Female Chorus #321 for achieving First place in the Female Chorus category on the national level at the 51st International Singers Alliance Convention which took place in Philadelphia, May 27-28, 2017. Kudos to the Chorus. The Chorus defended their title.

Our best wishes,
Executive Board, Directors and Members of the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia

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A Festival of Polish Song
Report presented by Debbie Majka, President
Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus

Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love and sisterly affection, welcomes many visitors to our historic city, and this Memorial Day weekend was no exception as the Polish Singers Alliance of America (PSAA) held its 51st Triennial International Convention at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in old City, May 25 through May 28, 2017. The convention, which was a year in the making, was hosted by Philadelphia's own Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus, members of District 7, PSAA. Incidentally, District 7, PSAA, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.



Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus and their Choral Directors David Zagorski (left) and Janusz Sporek (right).

More than 200 singers, hailing from Detroit, MI; Buffalo, Brooklyn and Staten Island, NY; Passaic, NJ; New Britain, CT and Edmonton and Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, participated in the three-day event, which included receptions, business sessions, a city tour, choral competition, a dinner/dance, Holy Mass and a Gala Festival of Polish Song at St. John Cantius in Bridesburg section of Philadelphia and lots of impromptu singing whenever the singers were gathered together.

The delegates to the business sessions enjoyed a welcome reception at the Polish American Cultural Center, 308 Walnut St. and were treated to a special welcome not only from the President of the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, Michael Blichasz, but also from Polish American Congress and Polish National Alliance President, Frank Spula.

Singers continued to arrive all day Friday as delegates met in business sessions to elect officers to govern the PSAA for the next three years. Re-elected President was MaryLou Wyrobek of Buffalo and a new General Choral Director, none other than our own David Zagorski, Choral Director of the Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Female Chorus.

On Friday evening, singers boarded a bus for a tour of historic Philadelphia. For many, this was a first-time visit to our fair city. District 7 President, Jadwiga Chudy, commented, "what a beautiful city you have. I'm sorry I hadn't visited sooner".

Bright and early Saturday morning, songs could be heard emanating from all around the hotel, as the choruses rehearsed their competition songs for 15 minutes only, according to the rules of the PSAA. Thirteen choruses competed in all; six Mixed, two Male and five Female. Each chorus sang the required compulsory song mandated by the PSAA for each category and an optional song from their own repertoire. They were judged on diction, interpretation, ensemble and intonation. After competition, it was rehearsal for Sunday Mass and the Gala Concert.

On Saturday evening, the singers partied and danced to the music of Chris and Ronnie at the gala dinner dance, all anxiously awaiting the results of the choral competition, which were to be announced at the Sunday morning breakfast. The long-awaited results of competition were as follows: First Place Mixed Chorus: Polonia Choir of Edmonton, Canada; First Place Male Chorus: Chopin Singing Society of Passaic, NJ; First Place Female Chorus: Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Chorus of Philadelphia, PA. Second and Third prizes were also awarded.

For many, the highlight of the Convention is not the competition, but rather Sunday Mass. All 200 singers gathered to pray for the living and deceased members of the PSAA and raised their voices in the traditional hymns of praise and thanksgiving—Gaude Mater Polonia and Bogurodzica Dziewica, to name just a few.

And finally, the concluding event of the 51st Triennial PSAA Convention was upon us—the Festival of Polish Song. Again, all singers joined together to present choral music in both Polish and English to a very receptive audience at St. John Cantius Auditorium. Thanks to Fr. Joseph Zingaro and Ks. Konstanty Pruszyński, who welcomed the singers to St. John Cantius. Thanks to Wojciech Hollender, who provided accompaniment at Mass and the Concert. Congratulations to the members of the Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Female Chorus, who not only planned and organized a successful convention—comments were—the best ever—but who also placed First in choral competition and to their Choral Directors: David Zagorski and Janusz Sporek.

Góra Piosnki Polska!