

**CELEBRATING
100 YEARS**

**CONCERT TO HONOR
THE 100th
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH
OF ST. JOHN PAUL II
NOW AVAILABLE
ON LIRA'S WEBSITE**

The Lira Ensemble, which specializes in Polish music, song and dance, presented a concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of

the birth of the Polish pope on-line, for free, on the Polish Jesuit YOUTUBE Channel on May 17th - the eve of his birthday. The very popular St. John Paul II was born May 18, 1920.

Now, Lira is making this concert available anytime, for free, on its website: www.liraensemble.org.

The concert features the Lira Singers and the Lira Chamber Chorus performing sacred music, music written to texts by St. John Paul II, music dedicated to him, as well as folk songs from his beloved Krakow (Cracow) region in southern Poland.

It offers listeners an opportunity to hear ancient Polish music, music by master Polish composer Stanislaw Moniuszko, and late 20th century music by composers known and revered in Poland, but unknown in the United States, such as Irena Pfeiffer, Juliusz Luciuk, Jozef Swider, as well as Chicago composer Marek Rachelski.



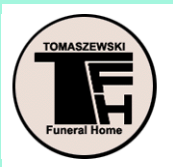
The Lira Singers and Lira Chamber Chorus are conducted by Paul Dijkstra and Philip Seward who were co-conductors of the Lira Ensemble in 2003 when the works to be heard on May 17th were recorded at WFMT, Chicago's Classical Radio Station, during the station's month-long programming honoring the 25th anniversary of the papacy of St. John Paul II.

This one-hour concert is available with an English narration or a Polish narration. The Polish narration is by the Reverend Pawel Kosinski, S.J. and the English narration is by Lucyna Migala, artistic director and general manager of the Lira Ensemble.

The Lira Ensemble is very grateful to the Polish Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago which made possible this concert to commemorate the **100th Anniversary of the Birth of St. John Paul II**.

Lira hopes to be performing "live" in the Chicago area soon, once the COVID-19 pandemic permits concerts to be presented. Meanwhile, music lovers are invited to hear the Lira Singers and Lira Chamber Chorus at www.liraensemble.org.

Tomaszewski Funeral Home



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**In recognition of donations to the
Polish American Cultural Center
Museum Exhibit Hall in Memory of**

**John Donnelly Michael (Mike) Howitz
Rev. Lucius Tyrasinski Joseph L. Zazyczny
Rev. Joseph J. Zingaro**

More details will be in the August Newsletter

Museum's Historic Reflections Project Part 5



July 21, 1935 - Myron "Moe" Drabowsky (Born)

Myron Walter "Moe" Drabowsky was born in Ozanna, Poland. He was a well known right-handed relief pitcher in Major League Baseball and played for several teams including the Chicago Cubs, Baltimore Orioles and the Chicago White Sox. In 1987, Moe returned to Poland as a baseball ambassador to help his birth nation form its first team for Olympic competition.

July 22, 1983 - Martial Law (Ended)

Martial law in Poland (Polish: Stan wojenny w Polsce, "the state of war") refers to the period of time from December 13, 1981 to July 22, 1983 when the government of the People's Republic of Poland drastically restricted normal life by introducing martial law in an attempt to crush the political opposition against Communist rule in Poland.



July 23, 1829 - Wojciech Boguslawski (Died)

Wojciech Boguslawski, born in Glinno, a village near Poznan, was a Polish actor, theater director and playwright. Known as the Polish-Enlightenment "Father of Polish Theater," he was the director of the National Theater (Teatr Narodowy), 1783-85, 1790-94 and 1799-1814. Boguslawski died in Warsaw in 1829.

July 24, 1909 - Jerzy Rozycki (Born)

Jerzy Rozycki was a mathematician and cryptologist who, along with fellow mathematicians Henryk Zygaliski and Marian Rejewski, made up the three-man team who cracked the German Enigma code during World War II.

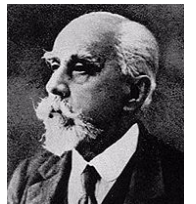


July 25, 1831 - Maria Szymanowska (Died)

Maria Szymanowska was noted as the first virtuosa pianist and also was considered by some as the best female piano performer ever.

July 26, 1844 - Stefan Drzewiecki (Born)

Stefan Drzewiecki was a Polish scientist and engineer who distinguished himself internationally in aviation and ship building. He also invented the kilometric counters for taxi cabs.

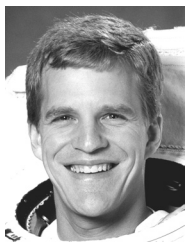


July 27, 1956 - Dave Dombrowski (Born)

Dave Dombrowski was the president, CEO, and general manager of the Major League baseball team, the Detroit Tigers. Dombrowski signed free agents such as catcher Iván Rodríguez, left-handed pitcher Kenny Rogers, and outfielder Magglio Ordóñez, whose ninth-inning home run in ALCS Game 4 catapulted Detroit to the pennant in 2006. He served as President of Baseball Operations for the Boston Red Sox from 2015-2019.

July 28, 1961 - Scott Parazynski (Born)

Scott Parazynski, from Little Rock, AR, is a distinguished Polish American and NASA astronaut. Dr. Parazynski has logged over 1,381 hours (over 8 weeks) in space, including over 47 hours of EVA (Extra-vehicular activity) during 7 spacewalks, and has traveled over 23 million miles.



July 29, 2002 - Charles Wysocki (Died)

Charles Wysocki was a Polish American artist famous for his primitive Americana artwork. Wysocki is well known for his posters, prints, greeting cards, puzzles and calendars.

July 30, 1619 - Polish Settlers (First Labor Strike)

The first Polish settlers in Jamestown, VA, organized the FIRST labor strike on July 30, 1619, to protest their lack of participation in the new Virginia government. The assembly realized the importance of the Polish settlers and granted them representation in the new government of the Virginia colony.



July 31, 1959 - Michael Bielecki (Born)

Michael Joseph Bielecki (born July 31, 1959 in Baltimore, Maryland) is a former professional baseball player who pitched in the Major Leagues from 1984-1997. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the first round (8th pick) of the 1979 amateur draft (Secondary Phase). He made his debut on September 14, 1984. His final game was on August 16, 1997.