

PIANIST AND PATRIOT

*Ignacy
Jan
Paderewski*

New Zealand Chapter

PIANIST AND PATRIOT

Ignacy Jan Paderewski was one of the most outstanding figures in Polish history and a character, without whom regaining of Poland's independence could have not taken place. He was also special as he was an unusual mix of pianist and statesman. Born in 1860 in Kuryłówka, he'd been evincing a musical preoccupation from his childhood. He followed his musical education in Warsaw, Berlin and Vienna.

His life path was far from easy. At the age of 20 he married his friend from university, although in 1881, just after a couple of months, he became a widower. He has become a great artist not by travelling the easy road of luxury and wealth, but through a path touched by suffering and poverty. All that he attained, he owed to hours of practice, efforts and sacrifices.

Thanks to his talent and personality, Paderewski captured huge popularity and appreciation in the whole world – he was giving performances in Western Europe, United States, Australia and also New Zealand – which he visited twice.

Paderewski at the age of 10



INTERNATIONAL STAR



The Polish pianist was an international superstar and his unrealised Australia - New Zealand tour in 1893 was a cause of huge interest in domestic press. NZ Times repeatedly informed about efforts of Kiwi agent R.S. Smythe, who was insistent that the widely-known artist comes to the antipodes. His first visit took place when he was at the zenith of his career in 1904, the second - in 1927. Reading the New Zealand daily paper allows to see how great a reputation and glory Paderewski was granted.

People were looking forward to his arrival, his image was put onto advertisements and in 1937 he even starred in the movie Moonlight Sonata, cooperating with "Queen of her profession", the great Marie Tempest.

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1904

TOUR - ROUTE MAP

AUCKLAND

31 August
2 September

WELLINGTON

12 September
14 September

CHRISTCHURCH

19 September
20 September

DUNEDIN

22 September
23 September



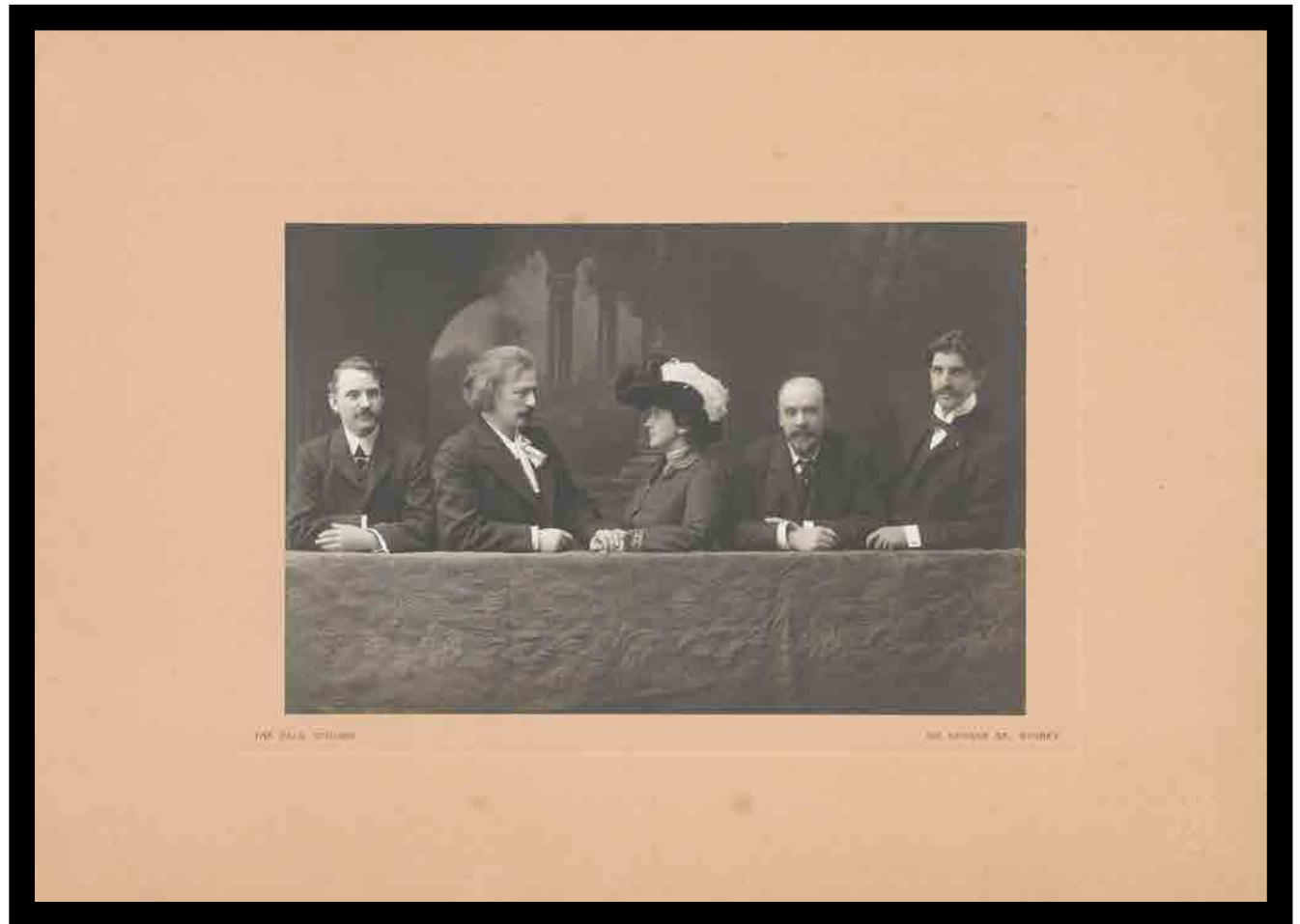
Lothar Mendes, director, instructs three-year-old Bin'ky Stuart in a scene of the English film Moonlight Sonata



Paderewski and Marie Tempest in Moonlight Sonata

ARTIST'S ENTOURAGE

Ignacy Paderewski gave his first New Zealand recital in Auckland on 31st August 1904 in His Majesty's Theatreⁱ. The Pianist's tournée included concerts in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. All of the pieces were performed on his own piano, Erard. Together with Paderewski arrived his wife, Helena, as well as 37 trunks of wardrobe and general luggage, a piano, and a talking parrot named Cockey Roberts. During his tour an artist was accompanied by Doctor Ratyński, a medic and a friend of Paderewski, William Adlington, a manager of general affairs linked to the Pianist, and John Lemmone, one of Paderewski's representatives, as well as a friend and a world-famous flautistⁱⁱ.



Ignacy Jan and Helena Paderewscy in the company of William Adlington (1867-1957), secretary of the pianist (second from the right), dr Marcin Ratyński (first from the right) and John Lemmone (1861-1949), flutist and composer, Paderewski tour organizer in Australia and New Zealand (first from left)

A GREAT "TONE POET."

„PADEREWSKI BOOM“

Music-lovers will have the rarest experience of their lives in listening to the MARVELLOUS PERFORMANCE of this WONDERFUL ARTIST.

A WAVE OF ENTHUSIASM.

P A D E R E W S K I
P A D E R E W S K I.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS GENIUS OF THE
PIANOFORTE.

THE PADEREWSKI SEASON.

THE PADEREWSKI BOOM.

In Wellington a crowd of people had waited outside the booking office for hours in drenching rain just to buy a seat for one of Paderewski's recitals. Due to this opening, as The Evening Star informed: "There was quite an unprecedented rush" in the cityⁱⁱⁱ. That day, within an hour approximately 600 tickets were taken.

His talent was undeniable, but so was his astonishing charm. One of New Zealand's journalists, Malcolm Ross, wrote: "During my career as a journalist it has been my privilege to meet and to interview many notable and interesting people - Premiers and politicians, Governors and Admirals, artists and litterateurs. From Mark Twain, with his charming personality, to uncrowned King of Samoa (...), but never before have I met a man with such splendid character, personal charm, and magnetism as Paderewski". Interviewing Paderewski itself was a hard thing to do - a famous pianist

used to deal with interviewers by proxy, with a help from his secretary, Mr Adlington. Furthermore, there was also a difficulty with photographing Paderewski, as he hated publicity. One of the journalists responsible for arrangements in Wellington for the appearance of Paderewski wrote to Mr Lemmone, wishing to know if he desired to arrange a formal reception for a famous artist. As the correspondent wrote: "Back came the reply - <<There will be no necessity for any reception for Paderewski. I know he prefers to be modest. He is so unassuming that he avoids anything approaching display>>". It had nothing to do with arrogance; meeting famous pianist made a big impression on bevy of Wellington's reporters: "The famous musician made a striking picture as he rose to greet us with a warm cordiality and a courtliness reminiscent of the Old World. Paderewski is like no other man"^{iv}.

"The newspapers of all the civilised world are unanimous in asserting that PADEREWSKI is to other pianists what Mount Everest is to other mountains."— Bulletin.

IMPRESSIONS OF NEW ZEALAND

In spite of the fact that it was hard to make direct contact with the Star, one of the New Zealand Times journalists succeeded in having a small talk with Paderewski. Asked what he thought about New Zealand, he answered: "I marvel at New Zealand. The country itself is magnificent, the scenery is grandiose. (...) What I do marvel at, and find myself lost in admiration before, is the development of your cities and towns."

Paderewski also addressed many warm words to New Zealand's audience. "Again I marvel. I have been amazed and delighted to find how cultured, how educated, how appreciative, how critical are the people of New Zealand. I have met everywhere real connoisseurs of music - in Auckland, in Wellington. I can well see that New Zealanders know music - understand music". Paderewski during his journey had an



Maggie Papakura

opportunity to visit the nearby area of Rotorua, where he stayed in hotel Nelson. The astonished artist wrote in his mémoires, that there was no other place in the world where could they ever enjoy such a "quiet, pleasant and undisturbed peace".

"(...) What I do marvel at, and find myself lost in admiration before, is the development of your cities and towns."

*"Paderewski's pilous photograph -
Prido of each Maud and Nancy -
Is not so rare a thing by half
As interviewers fancy."*

A recent interview with Paderewski set out that the great pianist had been only photographed four times. He was most averse to being photographed. Nevertheless, he graciously permitted a Wellington camora-man to "snap" him. A few days afterwards the following paragraph appeared in a northern newspaper:—"M. Paderewski, the great pianist, left Rotorua on Tuesday for Wanganui by the overland route. Whilst in the wonderland he was shown round by Maggie, the guide, and at Whakarewarewa was entertained to a haka. Paderewski was photographed in Maori costume, and in return for the manner in which the wonders of the district were shown to him, is said to have played for his entertainers on a piano in his guide's whare." Pass the lyre:—

Paderewski's pilous photograph —
Prido of each Maud and Nancy—
Is not so rare a thing by half
As interviewers fancy
The idol of the soulful throng,
E'en of domestic helps named Lizer,
Was "snapped," alas, while led along
By Maggie to the geysers.

At Whakarewarewa's brink,
'Midst Maori maids dishevelled,
Whilst Paderewski watched their feetlet
twink,
The camera was levelled.
Each terpsichorean Maori maid
In him found easy quarry;
The god unbent, and even played
Pianos in the whare.

Sorrow for all doth here arise—
Alas the grievous day—
Salt Tears Fall Fast From Many Eyes:
Even he has Feet of Clay.

*New Zealand Times, Volume LXXVII,
Issue 5384 (17 September 1904)*

"(...) they showed me so much respect and affection, and such courtesy as I've never really found elsewhere"

The Pianist, while being a guest in Maori village, was impressed by the level of education among Maori, and he was elated by their great kindness. As he wrote: "(...) they showed me so much respect and affection, and such courtesy as I've never really found elsewhere"^{vi}. Mr and Mrs Paderewski

had some special relationship with Maggie Papakura, a Maori girl with a "poetic name", who was artist's guide, philosopher and friend during his stay at Whakarewarewa. It is worth mentioning that Papakura published her own guide book - Maggie's Guide to the Hot Lakes, which was

a great success^{vii}. Ignacy Paderewski expressed his deepest appreciation by giving her and some of her relatives a private concert. "It is well known that Paderewski do not favor many by playing before them, other than those who attend his advertised performances, but Maggie, the guide,

was honoured in his respect, as, after the great kindness and attention she had bestowed in the pianist and his party, he intimated that it was his intention to play for her". As the journalists wrote, he played pieces which he had the honour of playing before Queen Victoria^{viii}.



Ignacy Jan Paderewski and Maori people in traditional clothing at Maori village

HUSTLE AND BUSTLE

The artist's great charm was a subject of gossip columns, which wrote about the crowds of women who wanted to catch sight of the Pianist in the Arcade each night. That fascination with the figure of a famous musician wasn't domain of the fair sex only. Unlucky music lovers, who couldn't take part in concert because of their financial situation as

well as because of the limited number of tickets, tried to find a different way to hear the world-famous pianist. We can find information about a number of people enjoying the Paderewski recitals at the Opera House without payment. "In corridors and staircases they stood, listening to the world-famed player, but they were found by

an enquiring usher"^{ix} - wrote Evening Post. That was obviously not the only one amusing incident connected with Paderewski's recitals. "Both nights a few people made a practice of hanging about near the doors in the hope of catching stray passages of melody. One gentleman was conspicuous by his musical ardour. (...) From diminuendo

the player passed to piano and from piano to pianissimo. At last the listener could stand it no longer. He threw out his chest, inflated his lungs, and shouted <<Play up! (...) We can't hear you!>>^x.

The whole fuss gathered around Paderewski and his 1904 tourn e (the peak of his career) didn't turn into either conceit nor arrogance. Paderewski was a demiurge artist, who spent 4-8 hours for practice, working very earnestly. "Yesterday, for instance, after the long journey overland from Auckland, it might be expected that he would enjoy a rest. Any ordinary mortal would have done that. Not so Paderewski! The people of Wellington were to hear him play on Monday, and he would play to them at his very best, or not at all. (...) It does not matter that it is only a Wellington audience away at the other end of the world that he has to play to - Wellington or London, Napier or Vienna, it is all the same".



WITH HEAD THROWN BACK, AND EYES HALF CLOSED, HIS DELICATE FINGERS ALMOST CARESSING THE KEYS, PADEREWSKI INTERPRETS THE BEAUTIFUL "BERCEUSE" OF CHOPIN.



BEETHOVEN "APPASSIONATA"



"A PAUSE," INDICATED BY A MOMENTARY RAISING OF THE HANDS.

PADEREWSKI, THE WORLD-RENOWNED PIANIST, AT THE SYDNEY RECITAL, IN THE TOWN HALL, ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1904.

Otago Witness, Issue 2633 (31 August 1904)

BEGINNING OF THE NEW CHAPTER



Ignacy Paderewski and U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, postcard reproduction

When the war came along, Paderewski, the great patriot, set himself a new goal - helping his distressed countrymen. Since then he sacrificed every moment of his life to the raising of relief funds and promoting the reconstitution of Poland. During his stay in the United States of America he threw up a big contract in order to organise a 4-million-strong army consisting of Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks to help the Allies as a national force fighting for the liberation of Poland, as well as other objects of the war. New Zealand's press kept an eye on taking the position of prime minister by Ignacy Paderewski. Opinion columns expressed a huge enthusiasm and hope, as well as appreciation. "In spite of the fact that his earnings were something like £500 an hour, Paderewski gave up all for the sake of helping his country (...); Paderewski is the only case where a public performer has left the stage to rule a great romantic land" - wrote New

Zealand Tablet; in Stratford Evening Post we can find a pronouncement by famous Australian opera singer, Nellie Melba, who named Paderewski a true patriot, as she also emphasised that Poland could not have chosen a better leader - the one who "had suffered in spirit and made sacrifices for his country". He introduced half-crowns paid for his autographs, and all amount of money he donated to a cause of building famous Chopin memorial in Warsaw. "He secured loans from President Wilson. He wasted his strength - a frail and delicate artist - at stormy public meetings. He wrote fiery propaganda, showing the glorious history of Poland for 1000 years. And how the Poland of peace would be a land nearly as big as Germany, with 30,000,000 people redeemed from Austria, Russia, and Prussia".

LONG - AWAITED RETURN

1927 TOUR

Paderewski's second visit to New Zealand was announced in a very pompous way, even for beginning-of-20th-century standards. This time the country was going to be privileged to host not only by the world-known pianist, but also a statesman. The stubbornness of

Paderewski was stressed- it was him who, thanks to his glory and personality, imposed the US President Woodrow Wilson to accent the Polish issue in his "Fourteen Points" peace statement, which was very important for regaining independence.



The review of the Wellington concert in the Evening Post, titled "The Magic of a Name", resembles a panegyric: the arrival of someone special was expected, great musician and great patriot. "He had taken personal risks in the cause of pure patriotism (...) and the astonishing thing was seen in one day of a pianist made Prime Minister. And it was not a peaceful, stolid, prosperous, and easily governed people that Paderewski was called to rule, as it were, but over people inherently passionate, impulsive, possibly under certain strains even ferocious (...) But he did not quail or tremble, but went manfully on with his task just as if he were playing some colossal symphony, and what a performance!" – it was written.

The magic of his name had enchanted them. Here was one who had not held multitudes spellbound as he sat and played the works of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, most indeed the masters; but had taken personal risks in the cause of pure patriotism. Not even had the prescience to foretell the great changes in all the world that should follow on the assassination of an Austrian Prince in Serajevo. Then changes came, making him exceedingly rich in experience, if not in money, and the astonishing thing was seen in one day of a pianist made Prime Minister. And it was not over a peaceful, stolid, prosperous, and easily governed people that Paderewski was called to rule, as it were, but over a people inherently passionate, impulsive, possibly under certain strains even ferocious. On the Continent the unexpected is always happening, and it is not over-stating the case to-day that when he became Premier of Poland Redeemed, Paderewski first took his life in his hands.

But he did not quail or tremble, but went manfully on with his task just as if he were playing some colossal symphony, and what a performance!

This was the man people gathered in crowds last night to see. What in fact did they see? Rows and rows of eager faces were turned towards the curtained tunnel beneath the Town Hall organ; expectancy was written on every face. There was a subdued hum made by over 2000 voices, speaking softly and here and there the hum was punctuated by a cough or a sneeze. The crowd, however, looked towards that green curtain. The lights were lowered, the great electroliers were extinguished. Just one light shone down from the ceiling, into the crepuscular dimness over the hall, and its platform. There was very little colour in the crowd, no bright light but the British flag draped in front of a Party representing the King. Then the green curtain parted, and out of the tunnel with firm, quick steps came a man of middle height and slender build, his face and hair were grey, but it was not the face of an old man; on the contrary, that of a man essentially virile, strong in character as in muscle.

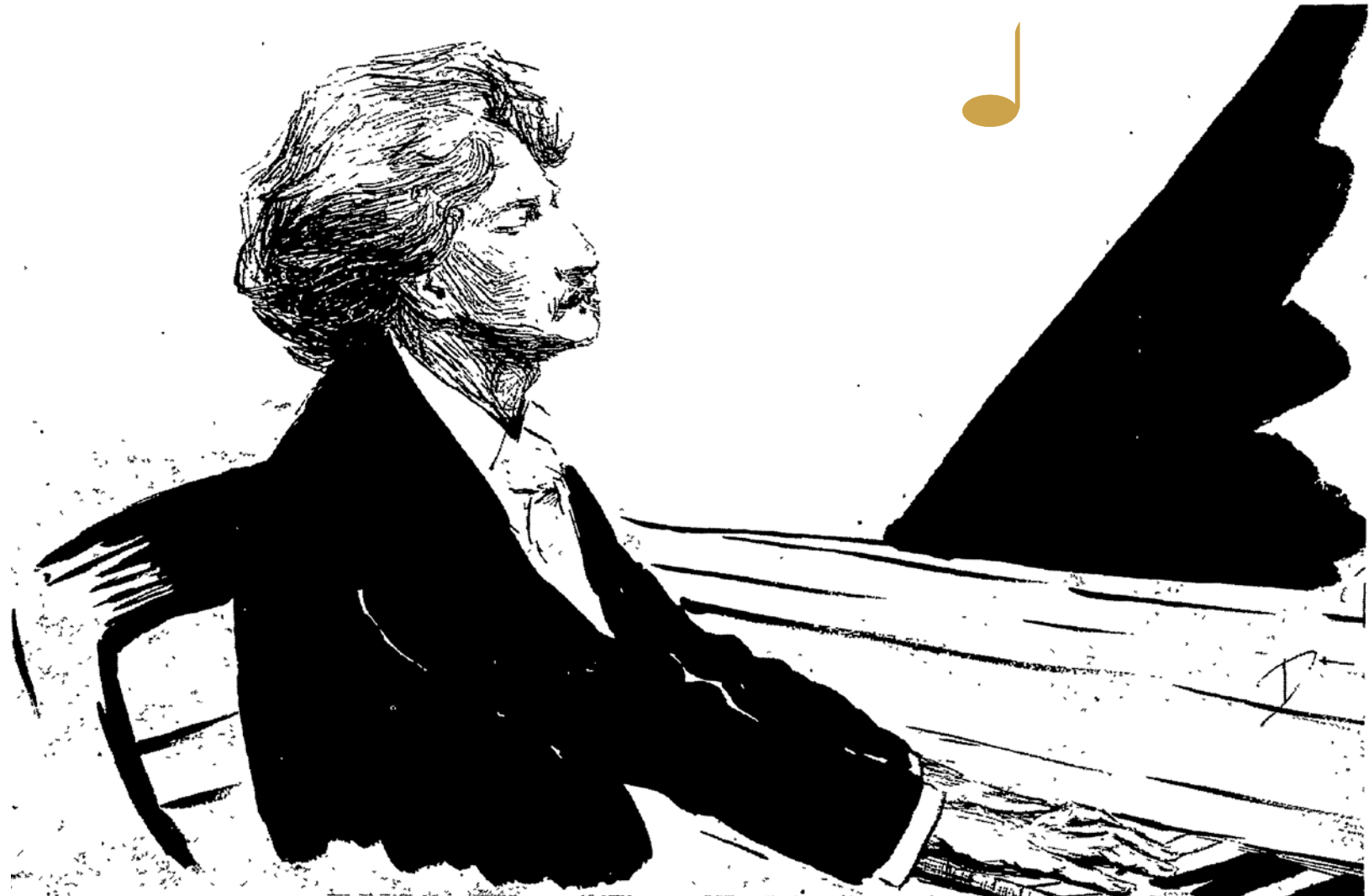
*Evening Post, Volume CXIII, Issue 134,
10 June 1927*

Ignacy Paderewski before opening of the Sejm, lower house of the Polish parliament

RECITAL IN WELLINGTON

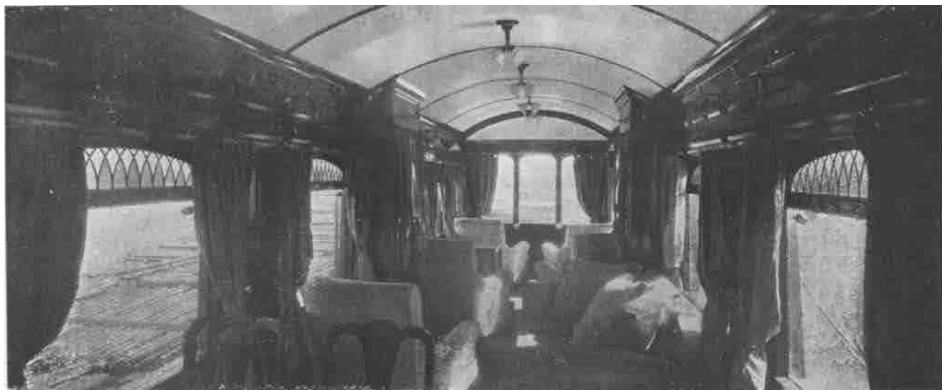
Over 2000 people gathered in the Town Hall to see the great artist, the New Zealand's governor wife Lady Alice Fergusson among them, and also the ones who had seen him 23 years before – in a review Paderewski was said to had been aged, but only as a precious wines did. By Evening Post: “The programme was opened with Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, followed by Beethoven's “Appassionata” sonata, which was succeeded by Schumann's “Carnival”, then a perfect feast of Chopin and concluding with Liszt's “Rhapsodie Hongroise No. 12”. The personal nature of playing Chopin's pieces was emphasized, as Paderewski, again quoting Evening Post's review: “(...) led the audience into emotional realm of Chopin. Here he seemed to make them tell the confidences of Chopin, to be sympathetic listeners to his sorrows, to be participators in his joys.”

“led the audience into emotional realm of Chopin. Here he seemed to make them tell the confidences of Chopin, to be sympathetic listeners to his sorrows, to be participators in his joys”





August, 1927, issue. Sir Ignace Paderewski, his wife and personal representative (Mr. Sharp) about to board the "Limited" at Wellington for Auckland, 27th June, 1927.



Interior of parlour car used by Paderewski in New Zealand.

*Ignacy Jan and Helena Paderewski travels in 1927 New Zealand tour
The New Zealand Railways Magazine, Volume 2, Issue 4 (August 1, 1927)*

"Then changes came, making him exceedingly rich in experience, if not in money, and the astonishing thing was seen in one day of a pianist made Prime Minister."

The magic of his name had enchanted them. Here was one who had not held multitudes spellbound as he sat and played the works of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, most indeed of the masters; but had taken personal risks in the cause of pure patriotism. Not even had the prescience to foretell the great changes in all the world that should follow on the assassination of an Austrian Prince in Serajevo. Then changes came, making him exceedingly rich in experience, if not in money, and the astonishing thing was seen in one day of a pianist made Prime Minister. And it was not over a peaceful, stolid, prosperous, and easily governed people that Paderewski was called to rule, as it were, but over a people inherently passionate, impulsive, possibly under certain strains even ferocious. On the Continent the unexpected is always happening, and it is not over-stating the case to-day that when he became Premier of Poland Redeemed, Paderewski first took his life in his hands.

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THE GREAT PHILANTHROPIST

Paderewski was famous for his patriotism and deeds, which he showed during his visit in New Zealand. The musician decided that the benefits from his last concert in Wellington shall be earmarked for help for New Zealand

soldiers, maimed in the Great War. The announcement was assumed with great appreciation, the press once again extolled Paderewski, naming his motion an expression of huge generosity and humanitarian spirit. A few days

after the performance, The Minister of Finance received a cheque from Paderewski for £538. In recognition of musician's act, the Returned Soldiers' Association presented him with a badge.

A PRESENT FROM THE R.S.A.

In recognition of his good services on behalf of New Zealand returned soldiers, the Returned Soldiers' Association will to-night present Paderewski with a gold badge. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. S. C. Reid, the presentation will be made by Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Milligan.



"(...) has earned him high honours in various countries (...)"

"(...) As he left the hall he was cheered by a dense crowd of admirers."



As the result of special benefit recitals in Great Britain, the United States, on the Continent, and more recently in Australia, M. Paderewski, the distinguished pianist, has been instrumental in raising many thousands of pounds for the benefit of ex-soldiers who were incapacitated in the Great War. The very practical means Paderewski has adapted of showing his earnest solicitude for the welfare of maimed warriors has earned him high honours in various countries, not least among them being the honour conferred by the King about two years ago following the raising of something like £8000 for the British Legion. At the close of his Australian tour in Sydney recently a special concert was held in aid of necessitous cases of Australians who served in the Great War, and the Sydney Town Hall was all too small to accommodate the immense crowd which sought admission. It was announced at the close of Paderewski's recital on Saturday night, that another such benefit concert is to be given in Wellington on Saturday, 25th June, and the audience demonstrated in no uncertain manner its appreciation of the great pianist's generosity and humanitarian spirit. As he left the hall he was cheered by a dense crowd of admirers.



Returned Soldiers Association Badge

THE PIANIST

For almost 50 years Paderewski toured the world in a literally royal style. We can find some examples of extraordinary words of appreciation for the Polish artist. "A genius is, as a rule, a most unpleasant person. In private life, and we New Zealanders, who live by faith and not by sight as regards famous personages, are apt to find our heroes possess feet of clay when we are brought face to face with them. We find them sometimes selfish, arrogant, gasping - as indeed success is apt to make its victims. But Paderewski is none of these, for through the world of music has been at his feet for years, sorrow's touch on his shoulder has made his heart yearn with sympathy for others, and taught him happiness is even better than fame"¹⁴ - wrote Wairarapa Daily Times. Te Ao Hou magazine expressed its great appreciation for the Polish musician and politician by publishing an article about Paderewski in year 1960, which was the centenary of Artist's birth. This marvellous feature includes a phrase, which allows us a better understanding of Paderewski's phenomenon - "He was the Pianist - as Caruso was the Tenor, as Picasso is now the Painter".

Paderewski died in 1941 at the age of 81 in New York.

Moonlight Sonata movie



PADEREWSKI'S LEGACY

Polish pianists performing on Paderewski's piano at the Whittaker's Music Museum Waiheke Island



Rafał Łuszczewski - October 2016

Jane Cooper of Whittaker's Music Museum: "It was indeed the performance of a maestro, and will live long in all our memories. It was a pleasure, as always, to have official representatives of Poland as well as other members of the Polish community in Auckland and on Waiheke."



Artur Dutkiewicz - April 2016

Jane Cooper of Whittaker's Music Museum: "A great delight for those of us from Whittaker's who were there at the concert! It was an electrifying performance and I can imagine Paderewski looking on in approval... a different era, a different genre, but plenty of Polish spirit and passion! Thank you very much for bringing Artur to Waiheke!"

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- ⁱⁱⁱ “The Paderewski boom”, *Evening Star*, issue 12291, 5-09-1904.
- ^{iv} “Paderewski-the Man. Interview with the Poet-Pianist”, *New Zealand Times*, volume LXXVII, issue 5379, 12-09-1904.
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- (4) Lothar Mendes, director, instructs three-year-old Bin'ky Stuart in a scene of the English film *Moonlight Sonata* | *Auckland Star*, volume LXVII, Issue 305, 24 December 1936, Supplement
- (4) Paderewski and Marie Tempest in *Moonlight Sonata* (*Press*, Volume LXXIII, Issue 22188, 3 September 1937)
- (5) Ignacy Jan and Helena Paderewscy in the company of William Adlington (1867-1957), secretary of the pianist (second from the right), dr Marcin Ratyński (first from the right) and John Lemmone (1861-1949), flutist and composer, Paderewski tour organizer in Australia and New Zealand (first from left) | National Museum in Warsaw
- (6) “The Paderewski boom” *Evening Star*, Issue 12291, 5-09-1904




Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Wellington

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- (11) *Evening Post*, Volume CXIII, Issue 134, 10 June 1927
- (12) *Otago Witness*, Volume 21, Issue 2636 (21 September 1904)
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- (14) *Auckland Star*, Volume LVIII, Issue 154, 2 July 1927
- (14) *Evening Post*, Volume CXIII, Issue 136, 13 June 1927
- (14) Returned Soldiers Association Badge | From the collection of Owaka Museum Wahi Kahuika The Meeting Place “a rest on your journey”
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This project is part of the commemoration of the centennial of the regaining of independence by the Republic of Poland

wiepodlega

POLAND
THE CENTENARY
OF REGAINING
INDEPENDENCE