

Celebrating Poland's 1791 Constitution Through Words, Song and Imagery

**Sponsored by
The Milwaukee Society
of the Polish National Alliance**

**in Cooperation with the Polish Center of Wisconsin and support
from the Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress**

Thursday May 2, 2024 7 p.m.

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The Evening's Program

**A Word of Welcome
CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls**

**'The May Third Constitution -
A Remarkable Document'
Donald Pienkos**

**Celebrating the May Third Constitution in Song
Bernadette Swider and Julian Kosacki
accompanied by John Pienkos**

**A Wine and Cheese Reception, Socializing
and Viewing the Exhibit follows.**

The Songs with some English translations

"The Third of May Mazurka" "Welcome May - your morning sun brightly shines over Poland - Let's sing happy and sprightly songs and drink a toast to our Maytime - Welcome May - golden May - for all Poles a glorious day!" (based on a folk melody)

Poland's National Anthem - " Poland is not lost so long as we live - what the foreign powers have taken from us we'll regain by sabre ... March March Dabrowski! -from Italy to Poland - Under your command we'll rejoin the nation!" (mazurka, words by Jozef Wybicki, 1797)

"Our Chlopicki" - "Our General Chlopicki - he fights hard and will lead our heroes to victory and glory! With cannons and flashing sabre - our enemies he'll belabor - Onward brothers, in God's name, help us in our fight!" (folk melody, words by Jędrzej Slowaczynski, 1830)

"Warszawianka" - "Today's a day of blood and glory - Let it be our deliverance! Glancing at France's rainbow our White Eagle soars high! Poland! Break your chains today - bring us victory or death! To your Bayonets! Live Poland live! Let our battle cry resound to our foes!" (Karol Kurpinski, 1831, words by Casimir Delavigne)

"Boze Cos Polske" - "Oh God who through so many centuries granted Poland splendor and glory, whose shield protected her from misfortune and worse, before Your Altar we offer our prayer - Return to us our free Fatherland!" (Jan Kaszewski, words by Aloyzy Felinski, 1818)

"Goralu czy ci nie zal" - "My boy! Are you not sad to leave our fair native land - its pine forests, fir crested hilltops, clear waters, flowered valleys - My boy, why must you leave us?" (Michal Balucki)

"Jak Szybko Mijaja Chwile!" - "How swiftly the moments pass - how quickly time goes by! A year, a day, a moment from now - we'll not be here you and I!" (folk melody)

"Rota" - "We'll hold onto our land, our fathers' land, we'll keep alive our tongue - our Polish nation, our gallant race - renowned in poem and song! Do keep our precious holy sod - Do help us now Oh God!" (Feliks Nowowiejski, words by Maria Konopnicka, 1910)

Przybyli Ulani" - "Lancers came riding and saw a maiden at her window - 'Open your window fair maiden,' they called! 'Welcome!' she replied, 'but come tomorrow!'"

"Wojenko Wojenko" - War, what is your great magic? That young men are dying beneath your banner?" (soldiers songs from World War I)

"Czerwone Maki na Monte Cassino" - "Do you see our enemy on the peak? They're like rats! Grab them by the neck and pull them down from the clouds! Instead of the morning dew, the red poppies of Monte Casino have drunk our Poles' blood. Years and centuries will pass but those poppies will remain redder still! (from 1944, music by Alfred Schultz, words by Feliks Konarski)

"Plynie Wisla Plynie" - "It flows, the Wisla flows, through the Polish lands - So long as it flows, Poland will always be! So charming is our Poland - who falls in love with Poland will never forget!" (folk melody, words by Edmund Wasilewski, c. 1846)

"Third of May Mazurka" reprise

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The Participants

CoryAnn St. Marie Carls is President of the Milwaukee Society of the Polish National Alliance. Elected in November 2023, CoryAnn succeeded Janine Adamczyk. Her extensive record of community involvement includes her past service as the Mayor of St Francis.

Donald Pienkos is Professor Emeritus (Political Science) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Our Singers

Bernadette Sedlak-Swider's mother came to Milwaukee from Poland after the Second World War. As a youngster Bernadette was active in Polish Scouting, Dance, and Language groups. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Polish Heritage Alliance and is a co-founder of the Syrenka Children's Folk Dance Ensemble, which celebrates its 25th Year in 2024. Bernadette and her husband proudly share their heritage with their children and grandchildren.

Julian Kosacki's immigrant parents came to the U.S. in 1993. Born In Boston, Julian is a member of the Syrena Dance Ensemble and plays the violin too. He and his family enjoy their annual visits to his Grandfather's home near Radom and their get-togethers there with relatives and friends.

Our Pianist

John Pienkos, an attorney in Intellectual Property, is Vice President of the Milwaukee Society of the PNA and a past National Director of the Polish American Congress. As a youngster he studied the Piano under the legendary Adelaide Banaszynski. In 2012 John and his family were in Poland to celebrate a great family reunion that marked the 100th Anniversary of his Great Grandfather's departure for America.

Special Thanks go to Mr Jeff Kuderski, Executive Director of the Polish Center and his staff for our splendid Poster Exhibit.