



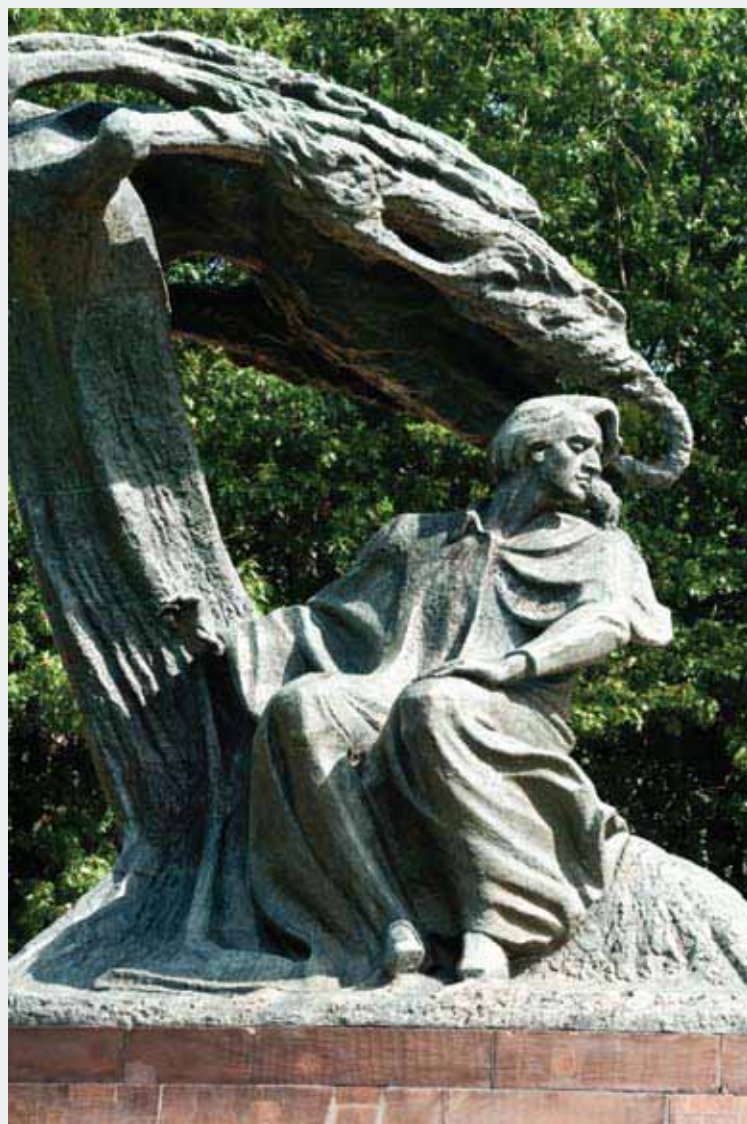
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHOPIN

WARSAW – KRAKOW – PARIS

30 SEPTEMBER – 14 OCTOBER 2010 (15 DAYS)

TOUR LEADER: DAMIEN BEAUMONT

2010 sees the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin – arguably the world's greatest composer for the piano – and the 16th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.



Join the Friends of the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia (SIPCA) to Warsaw – and beyond – for the Opening and First Stage of the Competition and special associated events in 'the Chopin year'.

The tour will begin in Warsaw with a recital by acclaimed pianist Mitsuko Uchida, followed by the Opening Concert of the competition, featuring Martha Argerich and Nelson Friere (available only for the first 20 bookings received). Then follows the First Stage of the competition, one of the most prestigious in the world. In between the concerts, you will visit Zelazowa Wola (where Chopin was born), the Chopin Museum in the Ostrogski Castle and the Royal Łazienki Park to see the famous Chopin Monument and the Belvedere – where Chopin used to give concerts as a young boy.

Travel via Częstochowa, home of Poland's most revered holy shrine, the Black Madonna, to Krakow, the royal capital of Poland from 1038 to 1596, and one of Europe's leading academic and cultural centres. Discover the well-preserved medieval city centre and fascinating sights such as the former Jewish quarter of Kazimierz and the Wieliczka Salt Mine.

Then, as Chopin did, travel from Poland to Paris. Visit the Chopin Society and pay tribute at his grave at the Père Lachaise Cemetery as well as enjoying a concert at the Salle Pleyel (where Chopin performed his first – and also his last – Paris concerts), ballet at the Palais Garnier and opera at the Opéra Bastille.





PHILHARMONIC HALL, WARSAW



RESTORED HOUSES, WARSAW



ZELAZOWA WOLA

ITINERARY

WED 29 SEP 2010

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Depart Australia on overnight flights to Warsaw (please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance).

THU 30 SEP 2010

ARRIVE WARSAW

Arrival at Warsaw's appropriately named Fryderyk Chopin International Airport. Make your way to the hotel and check-in (taxis readily available, approx PLN40-50 = AUD16-20).

This evening, join Damien Beaumont and fellow music lovers for a welcome dinner. (D)

FRI 01 OCT

WARSAW

Morning tour of Warsaw, the political, financial and cultural capital of Poland. Largely destroyed in World War II, Warsaw is today undergoing a renaissance and a building boom similar to that in nearby Berlin. Visit historical sites such as the Ghetto Memorial, the Warsaw Uprising Monument, drive through Royal Łazienki Park-Palace Complex and see the Belvedere Palace, and follow the Royal Route to the wonderfully restored Old Town.

After lunch, the afternoon is at leisure before this evening's recital by the internationally acclaimed Japanese pianist, Mitsuko Uchida, on the occasion of the International Day of Music (programme to be announced).

Tonight's performance – and the Chopin Competition events – will take place in the Warsaw Philharmonic Hall, a few minutes from your hotel. The Warsaw Philharmonic Hall was founded in 1901 on the initiative of a group of Polish aristocrats, financiers and representatives of the music world. The architect, Karol Kozłowski, designed the building in an eclectic style, modelling it on the Paris Opera. The first concert was held on November 5th, 1901. The orchestra performed under the baton of

Emil Młynarski while the featured soloists on this occasion were Wiktor Grabczewski (bass) and Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the world famous pianist, composer and future statesman.

In addition to being the permanent home of the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonic Hall has played host to the Fryderyk Chopin International Piano Competition since the first competition in 1927.

With the outbreak of World War II, the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra suspended its activities and its building was subsequently destroyed. After the war, the ensemble was reassembled in time to perform during the 1947/48 season. Reconstruction of the Philharmonic's building, in an entirely different style, was completed in 1955. (BL)

SAT 02 OCT

WARSAW

Morning drive out of Warsaw to the small town of Zelazowa Wola, where you will visit the birthplace and childhood house of Fryderyk Chopin (1810-49), Poland's greatest composer and pianist. The museum is housed in a late eighteenth century manor where Chopin spent his early childhood together with his French father, Nicolas Chopin, the private teacher and trainer of Countess's Skarbek children, and his mother, Tekla Justyna Krzyżanowska, a poor relative of the Countess. Return to Warsaw via Brochów village, famous for its Gothic parish church which witnessed many important events in the Chopin family life.

Afternoon at leisure before this evening's opening concert of the 16th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition, with the participation of pianists Martha Argerich and Nelson Freire (available only for the first 20 tour bookings received). Argentinean-born Argerich rose to international prominence when she won the seventh International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1965, at age 24. To mark the 150th anniversary of Chopin's death in 1999, Brazilian-born Freire gave a triumphant performance of the composer's Concerto No. 2 in Warsaw. (BL)

TOUR LEADER: Damien Beaumont

Damien Beaumont was raised on a dairy farm in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia. He is the only son and youngest of four children, all of whom, like his parents are musical and theatrical! Damien initially started his Bachelor of Science degree at Adelaide University, but eventually the lure of studying music saw him switch to a Bachelor of Music Performance degree at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide University.

Majoring in vocal studies, he then went to England to further his studies in 1989. Whilst in London he worked for a music publishing company and was mentored, advised and taught by such leading musicians as Leslie Howard, Andrew Field and Geoffrey Parsons. Damien returned to Australia and moved to Sydney, where he still resides. He ran a music related supply business before joining the ABC in 1999.

As a radio broadcaster, Damien started presenting ABC Classic FM's

Music Overnight before moving to the weekday evening shift, In Performance, and has for the last few years presented the weekday program called Just Classics. This successful program for ABC Classic FM has now two CD releases. Just Classics (2008) with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Just Classics 2 – The Gold Collection (2009) with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Damien also presents many of the network's direct broadcasts from the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall and Opera Theatre and other concert venues around Australia.





KRAKOW MARKET SQUARE



WIELICZKA SALT MINE



PALAIS GARNIER, PARIS

SUN 03 OCT

This morning begins the First Stage of the 16th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition. One of the richest and most prestigious in the world, the competition is open to pianists of all nationalities born in the years 1980–1993 and a list of the 80 participants admitted to the Competition will be announced on 22 April 2010. Over the next three days, you will have the opportunity to attend morning and afternoon sessions and hear up to 16 competitors each day. (B)

WARSAW

MON 04 / TUE 05 OCT

16th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition. (B)

WARSAW

WED 06 OCT

Depart Warsaw for a leisurely day's drive to Krakow. Stop en route in Częstochowa for lunch and a visit to the Jasna Góra Monastery, the third-largest Catholic pilgrimage site in the world. Home to the beloved icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa, the monastery is also the national shrine of Poland and the centre of Polish Catholicism. Arrive in Krakow in the late afternoon. (BL)

WARSAW – KRAKOW

THU 07 OCT

A full day of sightseeing in Krakow. Begin with a visit to Wawel Castle with its extraordinary collection of 16th century tapestries and Wawel Cathedral, where four centuries of Polish kings and queens are buried. Then to Main Market Square one of the largest town squares in Mediaeval Europe surrounded by palaces and old town houses including the Renaissance Cloth Halls and the Gothic Church of St. Mary's.

KRAKOW

After lunch visit Kazimierz, the former Jewish quarter. Established in 1335 by the great Polish King Kazimierz Wielki who appreciated Jewish talents and usefulness for developing the country, Kazimierz is surrounded by defensive walls and has its own Town Hall. The district soon became one of the European centres of Jewish religion, learning and culture. (BL)

FRI 08 OCT

Morning visit to the astonishing Wieliczka Salt Mine. Spread over nine levels, it has 300 km of galleries with works of art, altars, and statues sculpted in the salt.

KRAKOW

Afternoon at leisure to further explore Krakow on your own. Tonight, subject to performance schedules (announced mid-2010) attend a concert (or opera or ballet) at the Krakow Philharmonic Hall or Slowacki Theatre. (B)

SAT 09 OCTOBER 2010

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Paris (2 hr 20 min).

KRAKOW – PARIS

After arrival at your hotels and lunch, there will be an afternoon walking tour which will introduce you to the area surrounding your hotels. Mid-afternoon check-in at your hotels.

Evening performance at the Palais Garnier of three ballets by Roland Petit by the Paris Opera Ballet. (BL)

SUN 10 OCT

Full day excursion to Versailles. Start the visit with a tour of the King's Kitchen Garden and see the newly renovated Hall of Mirrors and State Apartments. After lunch, visit the Queen's Hamlet, the rustic retreat that was built for Marie Antoinette. It is situated in the private section of the park of Versailles, in a secluded spot within reach of Ange-Jacques Gabriel's Petit Trianon, which Louis XV had built for Madame de Pompadour, and which his successor Louis XVI subsequently gave to his queen. (BL)

PARIS

MON 11 OCT

Enjoy a full day tour which will introduce you to the 'City of Light'. Commencing from your hotel on the 'Left Bank', pass through Saint-Germain to St Sulpice, the Luxembourg Gardens, Le Senat and past Les Invalides (tomb of Napoleon). On the 'Right Bank', from the Palais de Chaillot with its spectacular view of the Eiffel Tower, you will see the Arc de Triomphe and drive along the Champs Elysées to the Place de la Concorde, Jardin des Tuileries, past the Louvre and the Palais Royal. Finish with a leisurely cruise along the Seine River.

PARIS

Evening at leisure or optional performance of Tchaikovsky's opera *Eugene Onegin* at the Opera Bastille, including return transfers (price to be confirmed). (BL)

TUE 12 OCT

While Chopin is most closely associated with his native Poland, it was the decade and a half of his life based in Paris that brought Chopin fame as a virtuoso pianist and as a composer. This morning visit the Chopin Society of Paris, founded in 1911 by Édouard Ganche, Camille Le Senne and Maurice Ravel. Since its inception, the society has cultivated the memory and legacy of Chopin with concerts, exhibitions and other events. Then pay a visit to Chopin's grave in Père-Lachaise cemetery. Other notable personalities also buried in this famous cemetery are Baron Haussmann, Molière, Victor Hugo, Jim Morrison, Sarah Bernhardt, Isadora Duncan, Marcel Proust, Delacroix, Guillaume Apollinaire, Balzac, Oscar Wilde, Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas and Edith Piaf.

PARIS

Afternoon at leisure before a special farewell dinner. (BD)

WED 13 OCT

Enjoy a full day of leisure to explore Paris on your own (optional tours available via your hotel concierge, not included in tour cost).

PARIS

This evening, finish the tour with a concert by the Orchestre de Paris, conducted by Paavo Jarvi, with violinist Vadim Repin. (B)

PROGRAMME:

- Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- Saint-Saëns: Violin Concerto No. 3
- Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2

THU 14 OCT

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast. (B)

DEPART PARIS

YOUR HOTELS ****

Warsaw	Hotel Polonia
Krakow	Holiday Inn
Paris	Victoria Palace or Hotel Le Six

TOUR CODE: SIPCA

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

TOUR PRICES:

Per person, twin-share \$7,450

Single supplement* \$1,650

Plus international airfares.

* Single travellers may request to share.

Please advise at time of booking.

**SUGGESTED AIR FARES: Thai/
Austrian OR Singapore / Lufthansa**

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current fares and assistance.

TOUR PRICES INCLUDE:

- 14 nights accommodation with private facilities and daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including special Welcome and Farewell Dinners
- Economy class flights Krakow – Paris (20 kg luggage allowance)
- A-reserve tickets for five performances
- A-reserve tickets for three days of First Stage of 16th Fryderyk Chopin International Piano Competition
- Comprehensive sightseeing with local guides including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Musical introductions and talks with your tour leader
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (1 piece per person)

TOUR PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfares
- Airport portorage
- Transfers on arrival and departure
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, room service,
- beverages, optional tours etc.
- Travel insurance

TERMS & CONDITIONS

How to Book

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit of \$500 per person. Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place from Renaissance Tours.

Deposit / Final Payments

Deposit (at time of booking) \$500

Your deposit is used to purchase your performance and competition tickets and for hotel deposits and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Your final payment is due 60 days before departure (45 days for domestic tours). Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

Cancellation & Refunds

a) **Cancellation by You** – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more Forfeit of deposit*

59 – 45 days 25% of tour cost

44 – 31 days 50% of tour cost

30 – 15 days 75% of tour cost

Less than 15 days 100% of tour cost

*Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) **Cancellation by Us** – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure (45 days before departure for domestic tours). Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees.

No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

Travel Insurance

It is a **condition of travel** that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.

Fitness and Participation

While our tours do not require a special level of fitness, for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions

You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



TOUR ARRANGEMENTS BY



Renaissance
Tours

Level 4, 47 York Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001
Tel: (02) 9299 5801 Fax: (02) 9299 5805
Toll-free: 1300 727 095
ABN 14 069 591 448 Lic. 2TA4526
Email: info@renaisancetours.com.au
www.renaissancetours.com.au