



## KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION – OHIO

Announces

### 2010 Essay Contest

### *Chopin's Poland*

The year 2010 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin, one of the greatest romantic composers. Born in 1810 in Żelazowa Wola near Warsaw, Poland, Chopin studied piano performance and composition at the Warsaw Music Academy. He grew up at the time when Poland was partitioned between Russia, Prussia and Austria. In October 1830, young Chopin embarked on an artistic tour throughout Europe. While performing in Vienna, he learned that an uprising had broken out in Warsaw. On November 29, 1830, all his relatives and friends took arms against the Russian occupying forces but after an uneven fight the uprising was brutally crushed. As a result, Chopin was never able to return to his homeland. From Vienna he travelled to France and settled in Paris. Throughout most of his adult life, he longed for Poland, for his family and friends left behind. His nostalgia for Poland and grief over the failed Uprising of November 1830 is expressed in many of his compositions.

**Please discuss one of the following topics:**

- 1. *How the Uprising of November 1830 impacted Chopin's adult life and his music.*** Explain why Chopin could not return to Poland from his European tour in 1830. In your analysis discuss the history of Poland between 1768 and 1849. Please specifically address the following events: partitions of Poland in 1772, 1773 and 1795, Constitution of May 3, 1791, Kosciuszko Insurrection of 1794, and November Uprising of 1830. Discuss Polish immigration to France after 1830 and Chopin's support for Poland.
- 2. *Analyze selected compositions written by Fryderyk Chopin in the aftermath of the Uprising of November 1830.*** The compositions are: a) Mazurka in E major, Op. 6 no. 3, b) Polonaise Heroic in A-flat major, Op. 53, c) Ballade in g minor, Op. 23. In your essay first provide a historical overview of the Uprising of November 1830. Then, listen to all three piano pieces listed above. They can be found on YouTube. Performances by Artur Rubinstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Krystian Zimerman and Martha Argerich are recommended. Please discuss these compositions and how they relate to the November Uprising. Finally explain how this music appeals to you, which piece you like the most and why.

Eligibility: 2010 Historical Essay Contest is open to all Ohio high school juniors and seniors.

Format: The essay should not exceed **2,000 words**, excluding bibliography. The text should be written in 12 point font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins. Either Chicago or Modern Language Association (MLA) writing styles are recommended.

Deadline: **February 16, 2010** (postmark date).

Awards: First Prize \$1000, Second Prize \$500, Third Prize \$250, and Special Awards.

Procedure: At the end of the essay please write: **“I certify this work is mine alone”** and **sign your name** below this statement. Mail the essay with the application form by due date to the following address:

2010 Historical Essay Contest  
Kościuszko Foundation—Ohio  
6501 Lansing Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44105

Essay guidelines & application form are posted at [www.thekf.org](http://www.thekf.org). Go to: ‘About us’ then ‘Chapters.’