

Pre-review: « Dreaming about Chopin »

New book on one of the greatest secrets in the history of music

The Brussels-based association Icons of Europe will announce the forthcoming publication of its new book *Rêve de Chopin* (Dreaming about Chopin) on 6 October 2010 during a prestigious Chopin event organized by Société Chopin à Paris and Hôtel Prince de Galles. The book is written in French by Cecilia Jorgensen in collaboration with Christine Lemaître.



Based on Icons of Europe's research conducted since 2002, the new book chronicles the secret romance of two of the greatest musical Icons of the era: Chopin and Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale. Their relationship commenced in 1841-1842 during Jenny Lind's singing studies in Paris, which made her pursue a dream. It ended abruptly at the composer's untimely death in 1849.

Beyond the romance itself, *Rêve de Chopin* provides evidence on a series of related and surprising discoveries – concerning notably: Zelazowa Wola, Chopin's birthplace; Jenny Lind's parentage and her engagement to a Swedish prince in 1848; the history of Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*; Chopin's apartment set at the heart of today's Hotel Prince de Galles; and a last marriage attempt in Paris in 1849.



Jenny Lind
(1820-1887)
in 1844

The book also offers new insight on works by George Sand, Clésinger, Kwiatkowski, Liszt, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Oscar Wilde, Stravinsky and others, as well as on one of the most famous monuments in the world, and on the cultural activities of the distinguished Boston Saturday Club, John Pierpont Morgan, Sr., and Princess Winnaretta de Polignac née Singer.

The evidence of *Rêve de Chopin* comprises a large volume of original period material, much of which has not been studied before. Chopin and Jenny Lind's romance has always been guarded as a secret by a vast network of monarchs, artists, biographers and friends.

In parallel with their research project, Cecilia and Jens Jorgensen, founders of Icons of Europe, contributed to the production of the new BBC Four TV documentary, *Chopin – The Women Behind The Music*. The premiere is set for 15 October 2010.



The cover of the new book:

Polonez, Rêve de Chopin
watercolour / gouache on paper
marouflé on canvas, 62 cm x 126 cm
by Teofil Kwiatkowski, 1859
with permission by the National
Museum at Poznań, Poland.