



Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

PRCUA'S 2009 OCTOBER - POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH COLORING CONTEST 100th Anniversary of the death of Frederic Chopin

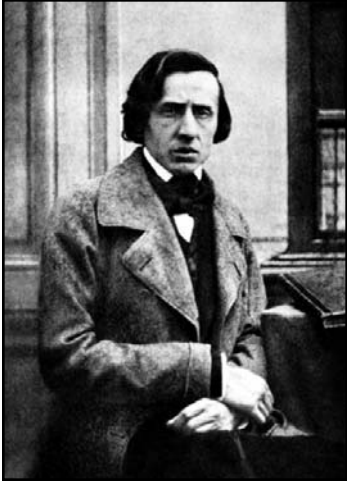
Contest is for PRCUA members. Only use crayons, pencils, markers or paint (no fabric, sequins, or glitter, etc.)
Age categories: 3 to 5 years; 6 to 8 years; 9 to 11 years, 12 to 15 years and 16 to 18 years. First and second prizes
will be awarded in each age category. Prizes will consist of age-appropriate gifts and a certificate. Deadline:
Coloring page must be received at the Home Office by Monday, November 2, 2009.

Please Print Name _____ Age _____
Street _____ Society # _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____ Grade _____

If you attend a PRCUA dance or language school, which one? _____

Sponsored by The Fraternal Department of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

Mail to: PRCUA Coloring Contest, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago , IL 60642-4101



Frederic Chopin was a Polish musical composer and pianist who was born at Zelazowa-Wola, near Warsaw, on the 22nd of February 1810. His father, of French origin, had married a Polish lady, Justine Krzyzanowska, therefore they resided in her homeland. Frederic was their third child. His initial music education was received from Adalbert Ziwny, a Czech musician, who is said to have been a passionate admirer of Johann Sebastian Bach. Frederic Chopin was a very gifted musician even at an early age. He published his first composition at age seven and began performing in the salons of nobility at the age of eight.

Frederic Chopin also received a good general education at one of the first colleges of Warsaw, where he was supported by Prince Antoine Radziwill, a generous patron of artistic talent, who was himself a well known composer of music. Chopin's musical genius opened many opportunities for him to play in the best circles of Polish society, at that time when artistic talent in all forms was greatly appreciated. These early impressions had a lasting influence on Chopin's development. While in college, he received thorough instruction in musical theory from Joseph Elsner, a learned musician and director of the Conservatory of Music in Warsaw.

The government rejected his father's request for financial aid to send the boy abroad, so on his own Chopin went to Vienna - Europe's great music center - to try to arrange for the publication of several of his works. After a successful debut in Vienna on August 11, 1829, Chopin returned home to prepare for a concert tour through Germany and Italy. At that time, he was in all respects a fully developed artist and composer. He did not go through a transition periods marked by gradual progress. His genius was apparent even at the beginning of his musical career. Chopin's music had an individuality about it and his style was different from everyone else's in Europe at that time. In 1831, he left Vienna with the intention of visiting London, but on his way to England he traveled to Paris. He was so impressed by the city and its people, that he settled there for the rest of his life.

In Paris, he again became the favorite and musical hero of society. His connection with Madame Dudevant, better known by her pen name of George Sand, is an important feature of Chopin's life. When in 1839 his health began to fail, she went with him to Majorca, and it was mainly owing to her tender care that the composer recovered his health for a time. Chopin declared that the destruction of his relations with Madame Dudevant in 1847 broke up his life. The association of these two artists has provoked a whole literature on the nature of their relations, of which the novel *Un Hiver à Majorque* was the beginning. The last ten years of Chopin's life were a continual struggle with the pulmonary disease from which he died in Paris on the 17th of October, 1849. The year before his death he visited England, where he was received with enthusiasm by his numerous admirers. Chopin died in the arms of his sister, who hastened from Poland to his death-bed. He was buried in the cemetery of Père Lachaise.

The wonder of Chopin's music is the way he conjured up new sounds from the piano. His pieces explore the full expressive range of the piano, and he had the ability to create a kind of musical poetry. The freedom with which he played is reflected in his extensive use of tempo rubato. He also extended the harmonies of the Romantic style, not by bold leaps to new chords and tones, but by subtle side trips that take his pieces to those new tone areas. Chopin is remembered as one of the first nationalist composers because he used the themes and dances of his native Poland as the sources for his pieces - especially the Polonaises and Mazurkas. In every way, Chopin was the finest "Romantic" composer.