

## *Frederic Francois Chopin*

*(February 22, 1809 – October 17, 1849)*

Chopin's father was a French teacher. His mother was Polish. His boyhood summers were spent in the country where he heard the music of the peasants and danced the national Kujawiak. At the age of 18, his father sent him to Berlin to meet musicians and hear the music performed there. When Chopin returned to Warsaw he composed two piano concertos. Soon Chopin decided to leave home for Paris. Friends went with him to a banquet in a neighboring village and there presented him with a silver cup filled to the brim with Polish soil. They solemnly asked him never to forget friends and fatherland. When Chopin arrived in Paris, he was somewhat unknown and through the kindness of Franz Liszt — who got an immense satisfaction from discovering talent — was introduced into Parisian society. Chopin played at the house of Baron Jacob Rothchild one evening and that was the beginning of his great popularity! Soon "Opus Two" was published and the critique that Robert Schumann gave in his German musical publication was, "Hats off, gentlemen: a genius!"



Chopin told Schumann that he had been "incited to the creation of the Ballades" by the poetry of his compatriot Adam Mickiewicz. Chopin said that the G minor Ballade was suggested by the poem Konrad Wallrod. Schumann thought that the G minor Ballad, Opus 23, was "the most spirited, most daring work of Chopin."

## FRANÇOIS FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

Born 1810

Died 1843

When Chopin was a boy, his beauty rare,  
And genius, won him homage everywhere,  
Of Polish birth, his parents well-to-do,  
Within a gentle atmosphere he grew.  
Though long he lived upon a foreign strand,  
His thoughts turned over to his native land,  
Whose sufferings filled his loving heart with woe —  
And to his grief much of his work we owe.

Once at the piano Chopin sat and played  
To his young schoolmates, listening, half-afraid  
At the strange robber-tale his fingers told —  
How they all broke into a house for gold,  
And when the deed was done, ran far away  
Into the woods, to sleep until the day.  
And while sweet chords described their slumbers deep,  
His little friends fell one by one asleep —  
Then Chopin all with lively crash awoke  
The little sleepers, laughing at his joke!

Poor Chopin died at Paris, ere his prime,  
But left a name remembered for all time.

\*From "Musicians in Rhyme for Childhood's Time,"  
by Rebekah Crawford and Louise Morgan Still.

## FEBRUARY WEBZINE 2004

### WHO'S WHO AMONG THE MUSICIANS BORN IN FEBRUARY

February 1, 1859 Victor Herbert was born in Dublin, Ireland. After coming to America he became one of the founders of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) ASCAP was formally organized on February 13, 1914 in New York City under Herbert's leadership. Victor Herbert composed many piano solos and light operas and was honored to be on a U.S. postage stamp in 1941

February 2, 1669 Louis Marchand was born in Lyons, France. He was a composer and organist who challenged J.S. Bach in a competition to determine who was the finest organist. The competition never happened. Louis Marchand failed to show up!

February 3, 1736 Johann Georg Albrechtsberger was born in Klosterneuburg, Austria. He was a music theorist, composer and Beethoven's teacher.

February 3, 1817 Emile Prudent was born in Angouleme, France. He was an orphan who was adopted by a piano tuner. Emile became an outstanding pianist, teacher and composer.

February 4, 1893 Bernard Rogers was born in New York City. He was a composer as well as a composition teacher.

February 6, 1818 Charles Henry Litloff was born in London, England. He was a successful pianist, composer and music publisher.

February 7, 1883 Eubie Blake was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of former slaves. He became a song composer and jazz pianist.

February 7, 1873 Daniel Gregory Mason was born .He became the head of the music department at Columbia University . Daniel composed three symphonies, chamber music and Prelude and Fugue for piano.

February 10, 1788 Johann Peter Pixis was born in Mannheim, Germany. He was a pianist, teacher and composer.

February 12, 1780 Johann Ladislaus Dussek was born in Caslav, Bohemia. He was a composer and pianist. Dussek is believed to be the first pianist to have the piano sideways in a concert.

February 13, 1870 Leopold Godowsky Russian-American pianist is born in Soshly.

February 16, 1878 Selim Palmgren is born in Pori, Finland. He was a composer and conductor. One of his lovely piano compositions is "May Night"

February 19, 1858 Tobias Matthay was born in London, England. He was a great pianist, teacher and composer. Matthay authored many books on the art of piano playing, known as the Matthay Method.

February 20, 1781 Carl Czerny was born in Vienna, Austria. He was a great pianist, teacher and composer. He composed many piano works. Czerny was a pupil of Ludwig Beethoven.

February 21, 1844 Charles Marie Widor was born was born in Lyons, France. He was a composer and organist. For more than sixty years he served as organist at St. Sulpice in Paris. Widor was the teacher of the famous Albert Schweitzer who authored the scholarly biography of J.S. Bach.

February 23, 1817 Niels Gade was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. He was a composer of many piano works including the famous "Ring Dance". Gade was a close friend of Robert Schumann who composed the "Norse Song" using the four musical letters G-A=D=E as the theme of the song.

February 23, 1685 George Frederic Handel was born in Halle, Germany. His numerous compositions include the monumental work, "Messiah" and many keyboard works.

February 25, 1890 Dame Myra Hess was born in London, England. She was a great pianist and a pupil of Tobias Matthay.

The greatest composer of piano music with a birthday in February is Chopin

# MAZURKA

Named the "Endless," in C major

F. Chopin  
Op. 7, No. 5

Vivo

*f semplice*

*mezza voce* *fz*

1, 2, etc. End only *fz*

*Fine*

*sotto voce* *fz*

*fz* *cresc.*

*D.S. al Fine*