

Friends in Europe



Fryderyk
(Frédéric François)
Chopin
(1810-1849)

Portrait by Delacroix 1838,
today in Louvre, Paris.
Chopin is the world's most
famous Polish composer; he
had friends all over Europe,
and so he has in our times.

A handwritten signature of Fryderyk Chopin in black ink on a white background. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Chopin's Birthplace



Chopins Geburtsort auf dem Skarbek-Gut in Żelazowa Wola.
Holzschnitt von Ignacy Chelmski

Fryderyk Chopin was born here on 1st of March 1810

Fryderyk's Parents



Nicolas und Tekla Justyna Chopin. Zeichnung von Ambroży Miroszewski

Fryderyk was the 2nd child of the married couple Chopin. Mr. Chopin was a French immigrant.

Fryderyk's first Teacher

Fryderyk startet
his piano lessons
in 1816 with
Albert Zwyny



Albert Zwyny
(1756–1842),
der erste Lehrer.
Ölbild von Ambroży
Miroszewski, 1829

Fryderyk's first Love

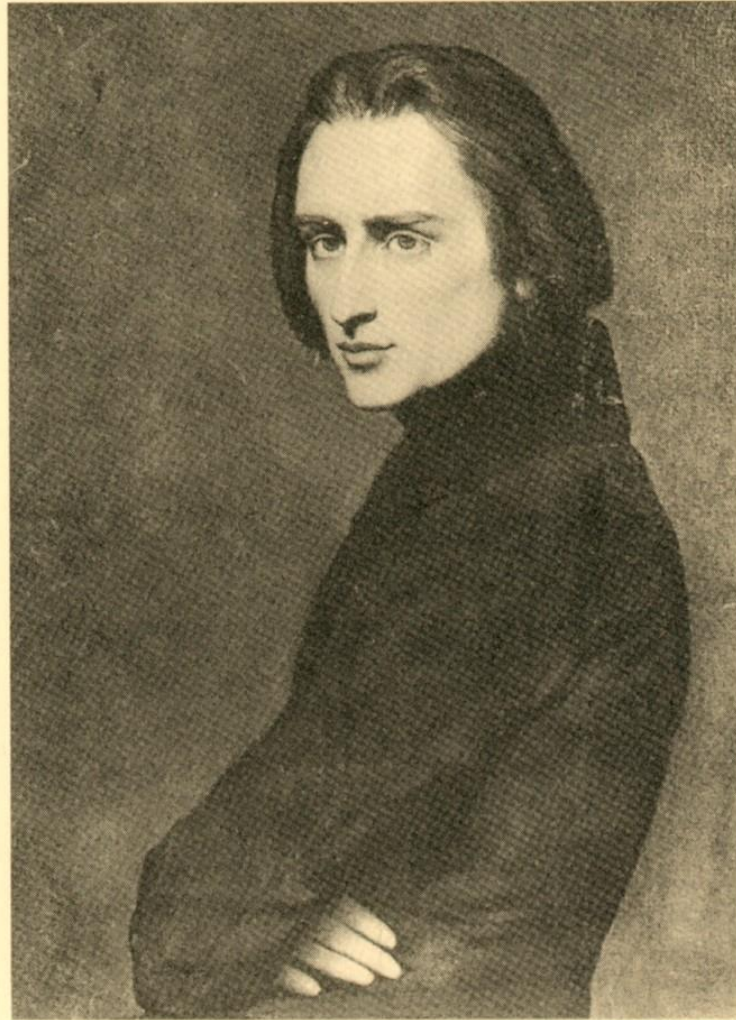
Fryderyk met
Konstancja, a singer,
daughter of an
administrative officer
of the royal palace,
when they studied
together at Warsaw
conservatoire. Fryderyk
never dared to confess
her his love.

Konstancja
Gładkowska
(1810–1889),
Chopins erste Liebe.
Zeichnung von
Wojciech Gerson



Fryderyk's Friends

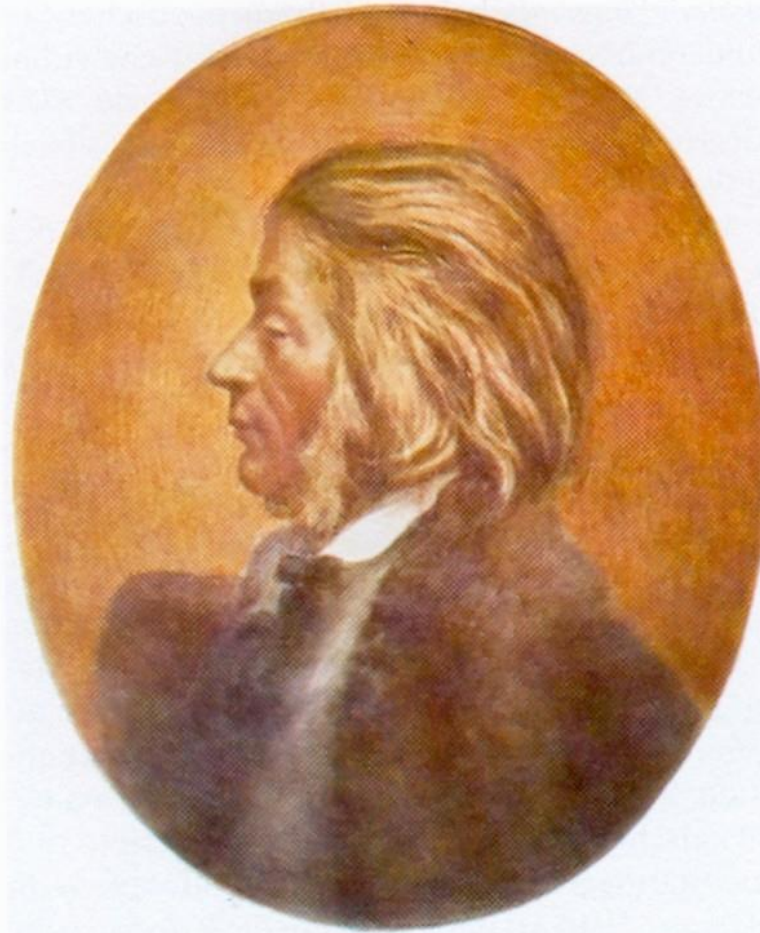
Franz Liszt was a very famous piano-player and composer; he was born in Hungary in 1811 and died in 1886 in Bayreuth (Germany)



Franz Liszt
(1811–1886).
Ölgemälde von
Ary Scheffer,
1837

Fryderyk's Friends

Adam Mickiewicz
(1798-1855)
famous Polish poet
and patriot, fought
for the political
independency of his
country



Adam Mickiewicz, dargestellt in einem Gemälde aus dem Todesjahr des polnischen Nationaldichters, der zuletzt vorwiegend publizistisch tätig war.

Fryderyk's Friends

Eugène Delacroix, famous French painter, was one of Fryderyk's best friends in Paris.

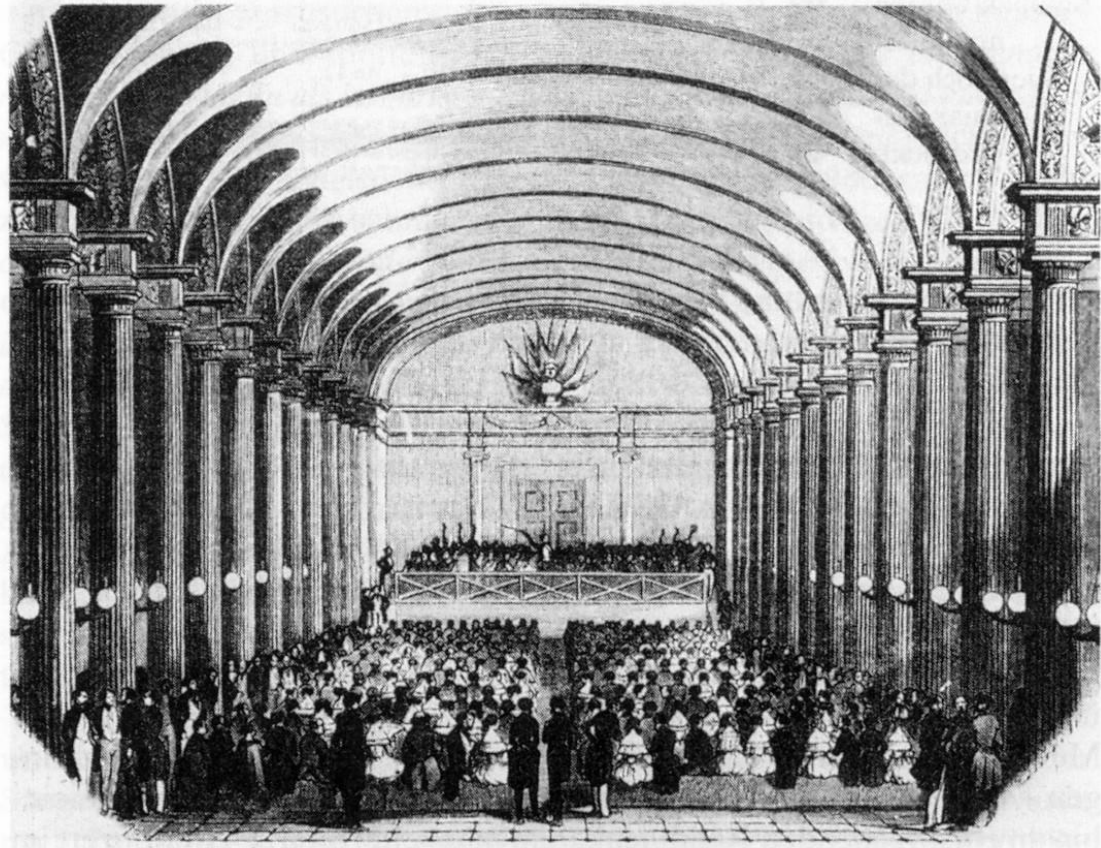


Der Maler Eugène Delacroix (1798–1863), einer der Pariser Freunde Chopins. Selbstbildnis um 1837

Paris

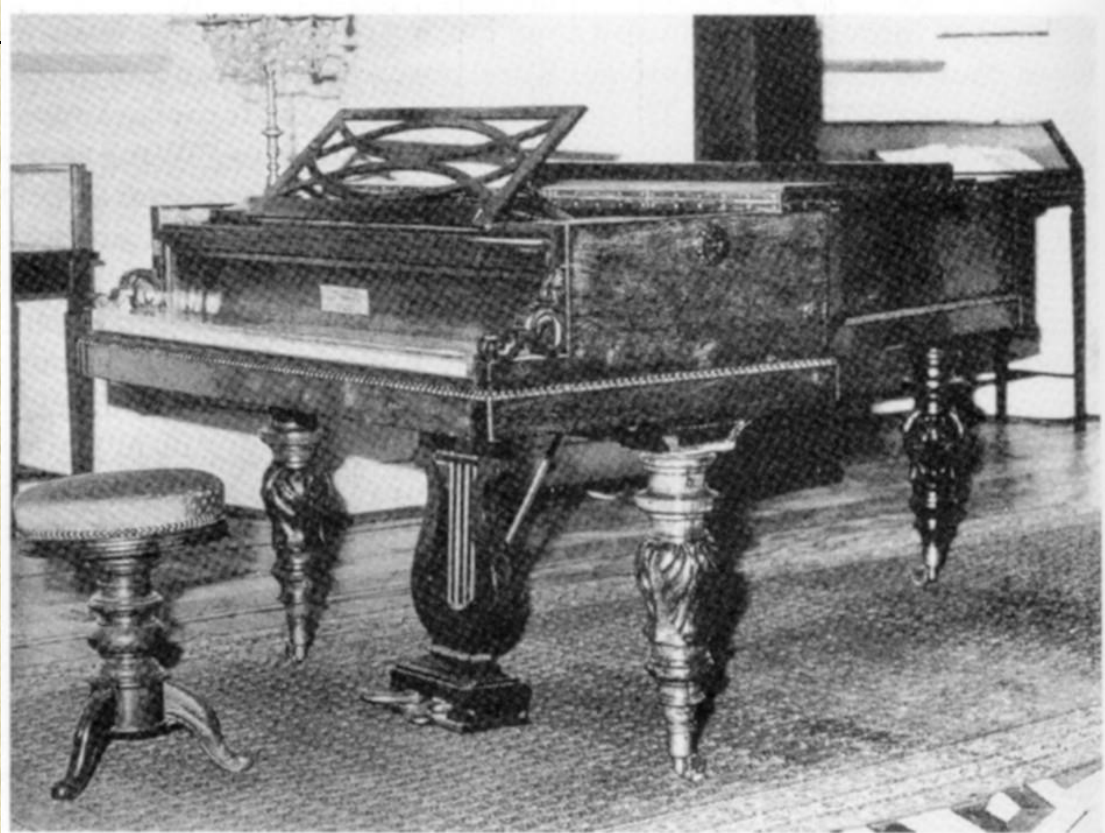
Einer der frühen Pariser Konzertsäle im Hôtel de Ville. Xylographie von 1844

An early concerthall at Paris (1844). Fryderyk hated playing in concerts; most of the time he presented his music in private salons of his benefactors, often in the houses of Polish emigrants.



Fryderyk's Piano

Fryderyk's last piano he played from 1847 to his death in 1849. He loved the pianos made by Pleyel in Paris. „These pianos are non plus ultra“, he said when he lauded the quality of the instruments.



Der Pleyel-Flügel, den Chopin seit 1847 bis zu seinem Tod benutzte. *Die Pianos von Pleyel sind non plus ultra*, schwärmte Chopin über die Qualität dieser Instrumente, auf denen er vorwiegend spielte.

Fryderyk's Friends



*Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
Lithographie nach einem Gemälde von Th. Hildebrandt*

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 Hamburg-1849 Leipsic) shared with Fryderyk a high admiration of the music of Joh. Seb. Bach. The friends met several times at Paris, Aachen and Leipsic.

Fryderyk's Friends

Robert and Clara Schumann, née Wieck, both famous pianoplayers and composers, were Fryderyk's German friends together with Felix Mendelssohn. Also the Schumann couple estimated Chopin's music very much because of its originality. In his musical newspaper Robert introduced Chopin to the public with the words: „Hats off! gentlemen – a man of genius!“




Robert und Clara Schumann (geborene Wieck).

Fryderyk's Musical Work

Etude N° 12

*All.
con fuoco* M. M. 7-76.

Original Manuscript - Copied by Richard Praeger, Basel



The image shows a handwritten musical score for Chopin's Etude No. 12, Op. 10, No. 12. The score is written on four systems of staves. The first system includes the tempo marking 'All. con fuoco' and the signature 'M. M. 7-76.'. The second system has 'energico' and 'cres.' markings. The third system has 'appassionato'. The fourth system has 'f' and 'ff' markings. The score is written in G major and 2/4 time. The manuscript is a copy by Richard Praeger from Basel.

The beginning of Chopin's „Revolutionary Etude“, probably written in Stuttgart, when he got the information of the defeat of the Warsaw uprising in 1830

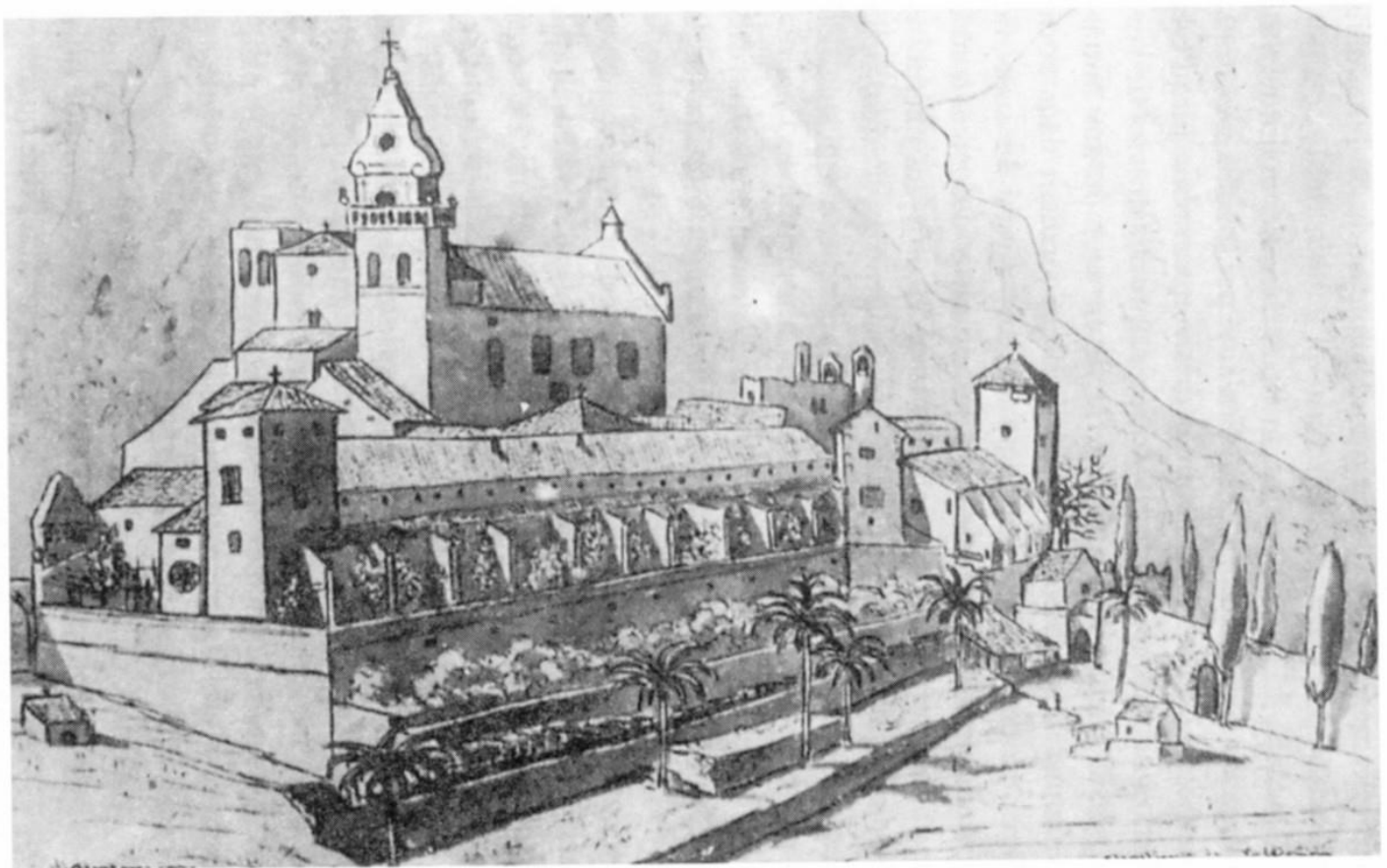
Beginn der *Etüde op. 10, 12*, der «Revolutionsetüde». Möglicherweise entstand das Werk in Stuttgart als Reaktion auf die Nachricht vom Zusammenbruch des polnischen Aufstands.

Fryderyk's Friends

George Sand was the pseudonym of Aurore Dupin, baronesse Dudevant, esteemed French author and emancipated woman; she lived with Fryderyk for some years. Both visited the Isle of Mallorca during the winter 1839 because of Fryderyk's disease (tuberculosis).



Mallorca



La Chartreuse, dessin de Maurice Sand.

The former Convent of Valldemosa, where Fryderyk and George Sand lived and worked during the winter 1839; designed by Maurice, George's son.

England and Scotland



The landscape of the Highlands

After Fryderyk's separation from George Sand in 1847 he went to England and Scotland the following year to give concerts in the houses of the nobility; he came back to Paris after half a year without having made any profit, and being hopelessly ill.

Jane Wilhelmina Stirling



Jane Wilhelmina
Stirling
(1804–1859),
die Helferin in der
Not, deren Liebe
Chopin nicht
erwiderte.
Lithographie
um 1842

Jane Wilhelmina Stirling had invited Fryderyk to give concerts in Scotland. The climate of the country in autumn aggravated his disease. Jane loved Fryderyk and wanted to marry him, but he refused considering his own health's situation.

A last photo



Daguerreotype by
Louis Auguste Bisson
1849

Frédéric Chopin, 1849. Daguerreotypie von Louis Auguste Bisson

Fryderyk Chopin's Deathbed

Frédéric Chopin auf dem Totenbett. Aquarell von Teofil Kwiatkowski



Fryderyk Chopin's death was caused by a pulmonary and larynx tuberculosis

Chopin's Tombstone

Fryderyk Chopin died on 17th of October 1849. He was buried on 30th of October on the cemetery of Père Lachaise, Paris



Chopins Grab auf dem Père Lachaise in Paris

Obituary notices



Heinrich Heine

Chopin was one of the first composer whose music can be understood with a political intention. It has a European orientation with an obvious national identity, which is not a contradiction to his work. He has connected the East and the West of Europe in his compositions in a deeply original synthesis. (Jürgen Lotz)

Heinrich Heine, On Chopin

Chopin was born by French parents in Poland and partly got his education in Germany. The influence of three nationalities formed his personality into a most imposing character; he has taken the best from the three peoples: Poland gave him his chivalrous character and his world-weariness, France gave him his gracefulness and charm, Germany his romantic melancholy... Nature gave him a small and slender figure, the most noble heart and the genius. Yes, there's no doubt, Chopin is a man of genius, in the full sense of meaning. He isn't a mere virtuoso, he is a poet, too, he is able to express for us the poetry living in his heart, he is a poet in music, and the delight he gives us when sitting at the piano and improvising is beyond compare. In those moments he is neither Polish nor French nor German, he seems to come from a higher sphere, you see his roots in the land of Mozart, Raffael, Goethe, his true fatherland ist the dreamland of poetry.

(H. Heine, Über die französische Bühne. Vertraute Briefe an August Lewald. On the French stage; Confidential Letters to A.L.; written in a village near Paris in May 1837)

All texts and translations made by Hans Hinterkeuser and Lucie Sommer

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