

## Chopin concerts attract piano aficionados

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by George Leposky, [Miami Travel Examiner](#)

[← Previous](#)



Concert in Granada Presbyterian Church © The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

Talented young pianists and appreciative audiences share a harmonic convergence in South Florida through the winter and spring at a series of free monthly concerts, *Chopin For All*.

The series' name is a misnomer; it should be *Chopin... and More*. The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc., presents the series, and works by the preeminent Polish composer Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) are always on the program – but so is music from other composers of the classical piano

repertoire.

At the November 2008 concerts, Polish-born pianist Hubert Rutkowski performed. His program included works by Julian Fontana, a pupil and friend of Chopin who lived in Cuba during the 1840s and presented Chopin's works there for the first time.

The next performer in the series will be Howard Na, a native of Taiwan and a graduate student at the University of Miami. He was a finalist in the 2005 National Chopin Piano Competition.

Na will play Chopin's Nocturne in c minor, op. 48 No. 1; Fantasia Impromptu, op. 66; Barcarolle, op. 60; Preludes Nos. 20-24, op. 28; Ballade No. 2, op. 38; and Ballade No.3, op. 47.

Also on the program will be Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata in f minor, "Appassionata", op. 57, and music by two Russian composers: Alexander Scriabin's Sonata No.5, op. 53; and Nikolai Medtner's Two Fairy Tales, op. 20.



Hubert Rutkowski performing © The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

These concerts are scheduled for 7 PM on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale; and 3 PM on Sunday, Dec. 7, at Granada Presbyterian Church, 950 University Dr., Coral Gables.



Signing CDs after the concert © The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

The Sunday afternoon concerts in the church are a special multi-sensory treat, with sun streaming through stained-glass windows as the performers fill the cavernous space with melody, cadence, rhythm, and energy.

### Famous some day

Most of the pianists featured at these concerts are highly skilled professionals in their 20s, some from the U.S., some from Poland and elsewhere. Because they aren't yet widely known, they need

concert appearances to flesh out their resumes and attract a following.

"We help young talented American artists in their career development," says Jadwiga Gevert, the foundation's executive director.

"In addition to performance opportunities, we offer master classes, international exchange programs, scholarships, and grants.

"Our most important program is the National Chopin Piano Competition solely devoted to American pianists and held in Miami every five years. The next National Chopin Piano Competition will be in 2010, the 200th anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth.

"In addition to receiving substantial cash prizes, its top winners are sent – all expenses paid – to the prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland, and the first prize winner receives a national concert tour arranged by the foundation."

**For more info:**  
[The Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.](#)