



*Gala Concert & British Premiere  
of the recently discovered 19th century masterpiece*

Dedicated to  
His Majesty Don Luis I, King of Portugal

**Mass in F**  
AD 1867

FOUR VOICES & CHORUS  
with accompaniment for the  
organ, harmonium or pianoforte

COMPOSED BY

**Prince Joseph  
Poniatowski**

*27th June 2015  
Westminster Cathedral Hall*



H. M. Stanisław August Poniatowski, last King of Poland

Stanisław Poniatowski  
(1667–1762)

Casimir  
(1721–1781)  
Cancellor of Poland

Stanislaus August  
(1732–1798)  
**Last King of Poland**  
**(1764–1795)**

Andrew  
(1735–1773)  
General in Austrian Army

Michael  
(1736–1794)  
Archibishop of Gniezno  
Primate of Poland

Stanislaw  
(1757–1833)  
Treasurer of Lithuania

Jozef Antoni  
(1763–1813)  
Field Marshal in Napoleon's Army

**Jozef Michal Ksawery**  
**Franciszek Jan Poniatowski**  
**(1816–1873)**

Born in Rome: Giuseppe Michele Severio Francesco Luci,  
Principe di Monte Rotondo, Tuscan Plenipotentiary  
(Brussels 1849, London 1850–53, Paris 1854), Senator French  
Parliament (1854–1871). Opera Tenor and Composer  
of 12 Operas and Mass in F





In the presence of  
His Eminence  
**Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

The Association of Polish Knights of Malta UK  
supported by The Polish Heritage Society UK and  
The Embassy of the Republic of Poland presents:

# **Prince Joseph Poniatowski's Mass in F**

under the Patronage of

His Excellency  
**Mr Witold Sobków**

*Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of The Republic of Poland  
to The Court of St. James's*



**Aid to the Church in Need**



ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON SW1P 1QJ



*Dear Friends,*

*It is a privilege that tonight for the first time Prince Josef Poniatowski's Mass in "F" is going to be performed here in Westminster Cathedral Hall in London. When I was approached by the Polish Knights of Malta UK and The Polish Heritage Society UK to be Patron of this historic event, I accepted immediately. I look forward to hearing this newly discovered piece of truly European music. I hope that it will serve to deepen our love of the Lord who gives himself to us without reserve in every celebration of Holy Mass.*

*I wish the artists appearing tonight all success, and congratulate the organisers on reaching great heights in the attainment of their charitable objective.*

*I wish you all a splendid evening.*

*May God bless you all.*

+ Vincent Nichols

+Vincent Nichols  
Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster



*It is a great pleasure to be involved with The Polish Knights of Malta and The Polish Heritage Society on a project devoted to commemorating and promoting the vivid contribution of Poles to international cultural and historical heritage in the UK.*

*The unexpected discovery of Prince Josef Poniatowski's Mass in 'F' has lead to the hosting of the British Premiere in Westminster Cathedral Hall, providing a forum to present the music of this great man to a new generation of music lovers.*

*The Mass in 'F' was written and dedicated to the King of Portugal. It will be performed by an international cast from countries connected with Prince Josef Poniatowski's life, as a true homage to Europe's musical culture.*

*The Embassy of the Republic of Poland is proud to support these endeavours particularly as all proceeds from this concert are going directly to the Hospital for the Incurable in Barczewo, Poland. I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Polish Knights of Malta and The Polish Heritage Society for giving freely of their time, skills and talents.*

*I wish you all a most enjoyable musical evening.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Witold Sobków". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "W".

**Mr. Witold Sobków**  
The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Court of St James  
in London



*Dear Friends,*

*In 2013 the Polish Heritage Society UK discovered and restored the dilapidated grave of the composer, Prince Joseph Poniatowski, (1816 Rome – 1873 Kent). This was followed by a concert of his opera arias in March 2014 at The Polish Embassy, received with great acclaim. Subsequent research into the life of Prince Poniatowski led to the discovery of his Mass in F, which was written in the Bel Canto style. The Mass in F was dedicated to His Majesty Don Luis I, King of Portugal*

*The Association of the Polish Knights of Malta (UK) supported by The Polish Heritage Society (UK) decided to help bring this historic composition to London in 2015. Today, June 27th, the Gala Concert and **British Premiere** of the Mass in F will be held at Westminster Cathedral Hall. It promises to be a unique musical experience. The Mass in F features both Latin and English liturgical texts. There is an international cast inclusive of four voices representing the countries of the composer's birth, life and death. The choir and a pianoforte will be under the baton of the English International conductor, Stephen Ellery.*

*Prince Poniatowski was born in Rome. He worked in Paris as an Honorary Senator, during the times of Napoleon III and as head of The Theatre Lyrique. After the Franco-Prussian war, Napoleon III had to leave France for exile in England and was accompanied by Prince Poniatowski. They both lived in Chislehurst, Kent where Prince Poniatowski spent his last 2 years. Our charitable goal is to raise funds for the Polish Association of the Knights of Malta's Hospital in Barczewo in Poland, in order to provide much needed medical equipment.*

**Dr Mark Stella-Sawicki MBE KM**

Chairman, Association of the Polish Knights of Malta (UK)

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# Prince Poniatowski as a composer in the Bel Canto Style of Romantic Opera and the Mass in F

Following on from the discovery of the historic grave of Prince Poniatowski in Chislehurst, The Polish Heritage Society UK, in partnership with The Embassy of the Republic of Poland and Father Briggs, the Parish Priest of St Mary's R.C. Church in Chislehurst, undertook its entire restoration.

Prince Poniatowski, (1816–1873), son of Stanisław Poniatowski and Cassandra Luci, is well known in Italy and France as a composer of the romantic generation, six years younger than Fryderyk Chopin and three years younger than Giuseppe Verdi. During his life he composed some 12 operas (8 in Italian and 4 in French), performed over the years in La Scala, Milan, the Paris Opera and the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. In London, he staged one of his operas at Covent Garden and like Fryderyk Chopin before him suffered from a spiteful music critique from The Times. His music is in the space of Italian music theatre, with the heritage of Monteverdi, Bellini, Donizetti, Rossini and Giuseppe Verdi. It is distinguished in its diversified melodic instrumentation and falls squarely into the Bel Canto genre. Manuscripts and published works of Prince Poniatowski can be found in the Bibliotheque de l'Opera in Paris, The British Library, major Italian libraries and the National Library in Warsaw where they still await some further research. The most authoritative research to date can be found in Professor Golianek's recently published work in Poland in 2012<sup>1</sup>.

Prince Poniatowski was also a politician and he settled in Paris in 1854 where he became plenipotentiary for Grand Duke Leopold II of Tuscany. He was awarded an honorary Senatorship to the French Senate by Napoleon III. The failure of the 1870–71 Franco-Prussian War initiated the end of Napoleon III's reign in France.

When Napoleon III was exiled and left for England, Prince Poniatowski accompanied him.

Poniatowski and Napoleon III were buried in St Mary's R. C. Church Cemetery but later the Empress Eugenie moved the body of her beloved husband to St. Michael's Abbey in Farnborough.

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<sup>1</sup> Ryszard Daniel Golianek, *Opery Józefa Michała Ksawerego Poniatowskiego*, ISBN 978-83-62558-43-8, DUET and Ryszard Daniel Golianek, Toruń 2012



## Prince Poniatowski's<sup>2</sup> Mass in F

The Mass in F by Prince Joseph Poniatowski was composed in Paris in 1867, as confirmed by Professor Ryszard Daniel Golianek, Prince Poniatowski's biographer<sup>3</sup>.

The Prince was a prominent figure in the political and musical life of Italy, France and finally England, with an illustrious ancestry directly linking him to Stanislaus Augustus, the last King of Poland, whose brother was his grandfather.

It is unknown how the dedication of the Mass in F to His Majesty Don Luis I, King of Portugal was initiated, it is probable that Poniatowski in his dual role as the Composer and French Senator could have met His Majesty Don Luis I on one of his many missions to Europe. The first published edition of Mass in F with the Leon Escudier, the original publisher was between 1867–1870. In the later years, the UK publishers Boosey & Hawkes published this composition in 1876<sup>4</sup>.

Professor Golianek's research has not found any further published editions of the Mass in F.



<sup>2</sup> Giulio Carlini 1849, charcoal drawing, Fondazione Levi, Venice

<sup>3</sup> Ryszard Daniel Golianek, *Opery Józefa Michała Ksawerego Poniatowskiego*, ISBN 978-83-62558-43-8

<sup>4</sup> Source: Prof. Golianek, correspondence of December 2014





Grand Master Philippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam (44th Grand Master, 1521–1534) adoring the Angus Dei to which Saint John the Baptist, the Patron of the Order of Malta is pointing (British Library<sup>5</sup>).

<sup>5</sup> British Library: The Gospel Lectionary, suggested probable French origin and dated at the early sixteenth-century. ©The British Library Board, BL: Add. MSS. 18,143





## Prince Poniatowski's Mass in F



No. 1

**KYRIE** *Soprano and Chorus*

No. 2

**GLORIA** *Chorus*

No. 3

**CREDO** *Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Bass & Chorus*

No. 4

**SANCTUS** *Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Bass & Chorus*

No. 5

**O SALUTARIS** *Tenor & Baritone*

No. 6

**ANGUS DEI** *Baritone & Chorus*

No. 7

**AMEN** *Finale*



The Mass in F is scored for an Organ, Harmonium or Piano-Forte, Four Voices and Chorus. The vocal forces include soprano, contralto, tenor, and bass soloists and a mixed choir.



## Biographies



JUSTINE VIANI, Soprano (Australian-British) studied at RNCM and made her stage debut singing the title role of Salome to great success in a new production at the Theatre der Stadt, Heidelberg in April, 2010. In July 2012 Justine performed the title role of Tosca at the Opera de Bauge, following on from her performance of the same role with Charles Court Opera in July 2011. She was a semi-finalist in 2012 at Placido Domingo's Operalia in 2012 competition and was engaged to sing the part of the Duchess with the New York City Opera in January 2013 in Thomas Ades' Powder Her Face and Gerhilde in Wagner's The Valkyrie for Fulham Opera in 2014. Her most recent role was Salud in La Vida Breve by Manuel de Falla for Opera North in 2015.



VIOLETTA GAWARA, mezzo soprano (Poland) born and studied in Silesia. At the Warsaw Autumn Festival she performed with every major Polish orchestra and recorded for Polish Radio. She made her London's debut singing Proserpina in Monteverdi's L'Orfeo under Laurence Cummings at Banqueting House, Whitehall. She has performed for English Bach Festival, Hampstead Garden Opera, Opera by definition, Pavilion Opera, Heritage Opera, ECHO, Grange Park Opera and Villa in Canto. Her operatic repertoire includes Hansel, Xerxes, Tamerlano, Idamante (Idomeneo), Sesto (La Clemenza di Tito), Olga (Eugene Oniegin), Paulina (Pique Dame), Alisa (Lucia di Lammermoor), Flora (Traviata), Maddalena (Rigoletto), Amneris (Aida).



ALBERTO SOUSA, Tenor (Portugal) was born in Madeira. He graduated in Vocal Studies at UA with Antonio Salgado and has recently finished the GSMD Opera Course. As an alumnus of the Solti Te Kanawa Academia di Bel Canto (2012), he recorded for a commemorative Georg Solti during the 100th anniversary of his birthday. In London, Alberto performed in La Cenerentola (Rossini) and in the title role in Faust (Gounod) with Swansea Opera. Critics have described him as a *"bright but unforced tenor"*, *"whose clear clean tenor was the best voice of the evening"* (Opera Magazine) and *"someone with bel canto potential"* (Opera Britannia).





**FERUCCIO FINETTI**, Bass (Italy), born in Fabriano, began his vocal studies in 2006 singing in the opera seasons of the theatre “*Pergolesi*”, Jesi (Italy) in Gianni Schicchi, Rigoletto, La Bohème and La Traviata. Until 2009 Feruccio alternated his study of roles and singing with famous choirs as the London Symphony Chorus under the conduction of Sir Colin Davis. He studied with Riccardo Serenelli where he sang in La Bohème in Tomsk (Russia), L’Elisir d’Amore at Curitiba in Saò Paolo (Brazil), Il Barbiere di Siviglia (Japan), Tosca in Bangkok (Thailand). He sings periodically in London with the “*Villa InCanto Association*” where he has already performed in Carmen, Madame Butterfly, La Bohème, Don Pasquale and La Serva Padrona.



**GRZEGORZ BIEGAS**, Pianist (Poland), graduated from the Academy of the Music in Katowice, where in 2001–2003, he completed his postgraduate studies with Professor J. Stompel. As a piano accompanist, he has taken part in dozens of national and international voice competitions, during which the soloists have many times won top prizes, among others in Bilbao, Oslo, Karlove Vary, Trnava, Sion, Pamu, Warsaw and Duszyniki. Grzegorz has collaborated with many distinguished voice teachers, including Prof. D. Lazarska, Prof. L. Spitzer, Prof. W. Berry. Since 2005, he has held the Professorial post at The Academy of Music in Katowice.



**PRZEMEK SALAMONSKI**, Artistic Director (Poland/UK), graduated from The Academy of Music in Cracow where he studied musical composition, conducting and theory of music. Whilst studying music he mastered keyboards and organ under Prof. Ewald Kooiman, Berlin. He established a number of music groups such as: *Pro Arte et Musica* and *18 Century Ensemble* in London. Concerts in Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Poland, Russia, Netherlands and UK. He played during the premiere of *The Organ Concerto* by Owen Bourne, specially composed for him. He was Director of Music of two productions at HR Opera and London Musical Theatre. Director of Music of Schola Gregoriana in London. He is the composer of many pieces of sacral music performed in USA, UK, Poland and Austria.

**Choirs: Coro dell’ Angelo, Islington and St Gregory’s Choir, Balham  
also Silesian Polytechnic Choir from Gliwice in Poland**

## Mass in F – 1867 A.D. European History, Politics and Music



Preparing the music for the performance of Prince Poniatowski's Mass in F was a journey through European history. The themes, musical ideas take us into the changing European world of 1850s, 1860s and 1870s, when Poniatowski, born in 1816 in Rome, would have been 50. In 1861, the Independent Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed under the Sardinian king Victor Emmanuel II. The 1866 Austro-Prussian War or Seven Weeks War, took place between Prussia, (allied with Italy), and Austria, (supported by Bavaria, Württemberg, Saxony, Hanover, Baden, and several smaller German states). It was deliberately provoked by Bismarck, over the objections of his king, in order to expel Austria from the German Confederation as a step toward the unification of Germany under Prussian control. The Mass in F was written in 1867. In the same year Russia sold Alaska to America, whilst Alfred Nobel patented Dynamite. In 1870/71, France lost its war with Prussia and the siege of Strasbourg became the first theatres of war to use *weapons of mass destruction*, when the Prussians used phosphorus artillery shells on a civilian population. The composer must have been influenced by such events and even by two of Verdi's operas being performed around Europe at that time. The *Ballo in Maschera* in Rome and other cities from 1859 and *La Forza del Destino* in Saint Petersburg in 1862, Rome in 1863 and New York and Vienna in 1865, a year later Buenos Aires in 1866 and London in 1867.

Both these works by Verdi were not only musical landmarks but also contained strong political allegories which had to be adapted several times to pass political censorship prior to performance. The fragment of the Gloria theme on page 16 of the Mass in F score is a very similar to the Destiny theme in *Forza del Destino* by Verdi. Page 61 of orchestral accompaniment to soprano solo "et incarnatus" and page 85 Sanctus are again very similar to Ulrica's mysterious seeing the future scene. The Mass in F has 7 movements – Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, O Salutaris, Agnes Dei and the final Amen. Poniatowski's music was described during his lifetime as similar to Donizetti though there are obviously strong influences of Verdi especially in the Gloria, Credo and Sanctus where the themes remind us of *Forza del Destino* (1862) and *Un Ballo in Maschera* (1859). Prince Joseph Poniatowski studied music under Ferdinando Ceccherini (1792–1858) at Florence.



STEPHEN ELLERY, Principal Conductor (United Kingdom) has worked with orchestras and opera companies and choirs in Japan, Latin America and Europe (Lublin Philharmonic, Silesian Philharmonic, Radom Chamber Orchestra, Plock Symphony Orchestra), Klaipeda Chamber Orchestra as well as further afield (Krasnoyarsk Academic Symphony, Calcutta Music Foundation Orchestra) and in the United Kingdom. Stephen conducts the Locrian Ensemble of London giving concerts at St Martin-in-the Fields and elsewhere. After studying in Cracow Conservatoire, Stephen speaks almost fluent Polish.

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Prince Poniatowski grave, March 2014



Prince Poniatowski original grave, prior restoration

The Prince Joseph Poniatowski grave restoration project in Chislehurst completed in 2014 by the Polish Heritage Society (U.K.), supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London

## Malta Hospital in Barczewo, Poland

The Hospital in Barczewo, run by the Polish Association of the Order of Malta, is dedicated to the long-term treatment of patients requiring constant and specialised care. Patients come from all over Poland to the hospital as it specialises in the treatment of those recovering from strokes and car accidents.

The hospital was refurbished to the highest standard in 2012 and has specific rehabilitation rooms and also offers hydro-massages. It is also one of only four hospitals in Poland, which has the use of a “*cyber-eye*”, which enables communication with patients unable to communicate in any other way.

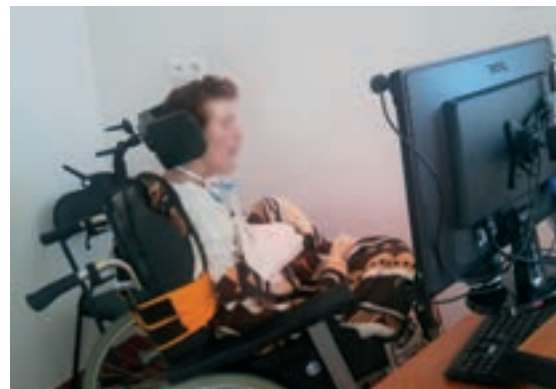
Supported by the Polish Order of Malta Volunteers, the Polish Knights are now raising money to buy critical medical equipment and help with further improvements in the hospital infrastructure.

**Please help us make this hospital a success, so that more of its kind can be established in the future. Your support and generosity are much appreciated.**





The Knights of Malta Hospital in Barczewo provides amongst other specialities rehabilitation and long term care to people with complex neurological disabilities caused by damage to the brain or other parts of the nervous system and high dependency treatment. This damage is often caused by traffic accidents or progressive neurological conditions. The Polish Knights of Malta UK wish to assist the hospital in reaching their goals of purchasing an additional medical equipment and the critical infrastructure which is necessary to improve the required patient care.



The Order of Malta is almost 1000 years old. The Polish Order of Malta continued its presence in the U.K., since WWII, because of communism which did not allow it to function properly in Poland. Despite the war and the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, the Knights of Malta Hospital in Warsaw was fully operational from the first to the last day of the Rising. Changes in Poland's political situation allowed the Polish Order to return home, however, because of the number of knights in the U.K., a separate arm also became a British charity organisation. Since 2002 the Association of the Polish Knights of Malta U.K. was re-established in the U.K. as APKM (U.K.) and continued its work here. The working goals of the Polish Order of Malta in the past included supporting a disabled children's hospital in Cracow (a day hospital with over 30,000 patients and their families a year), and a brand new Oncology Centre in Poznań. Some 8,500 patients per annum are treated there.

We also participate with visiting old people homes and other events. In 2008/9 we worked on the Polish Armed Forces Memorial Project at the National Memorial Arboretum in Shropshire. Every year to celebrate the feast of St. John in June when we hold a Mass in Balham or Brompton Oratory. We hold fundraising events once or twice a year. We are non-political; only charity work is on our agenda.

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Wednesday July 1st, 7.30pm, 2015

**Mozart – Clarinet Concerto**  
**Takao Kambe – “Love of 4,000 years”**  
(world premiere)

London Gala Orchestra, Stephen Ellery conductor,  
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The Polish Order of Malta Volunteers UK (POMV) was set up in 2008 to support the Polish Order of Malta UK in its work and particularly to further its fundraising efforts. Fundraising is crucial for the survival of the projects the Order operates and to this end we organise balls, cultural evenings and concerts. Recently the volunteers have raised money for the Order's Oncological Centre in Poznan and their hospital in Barczewo.

**If you would like to help us please contact**

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# The Polish Heritage Society (UK) and its Projects



Polish Armed Forces Memorial at NMA

The Polish Heritage Society was created after the WWII Polish Armed Forces Memorial unveiling at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire in 2009. Some members of the Polish Allied Forces Memorial Committee, a Polish Committee that won The Dziennik Polski's "Organisation of the Year Award" in 2010, decided that the synergy created for the Memorial project should be harnessed and used to the benefit of the Polish Community in the United Kingdom. The Polish Heritage Society (PHS) was subsequently created in 2010 and was officially established in 2011 as a Charity limited by guarantee.

## *Fryderyk Chopin*

PHS has either co-operated, designed, built or renovated four Fryderyk Chopin statues or busts, located in Deansgate, Manchester, the Royal Festival Hall, Ealing Town Hall and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Drama in Greenwich.

The Manchester Deansgate statue was created by Robert Sobocinski. PHS also renovated the Bronislaw Kubica Statue at Southbank.



## *Marie Skłodowska-Curie*

In addition to celebrate the anniversary of one of Poland's famous ladies, a bust of Marie Skłodowska-Curie, the only woman to receive two Nobel Prizes in 1903 and 1911, were presented to The Oncology Centre, Wimbledon and the Marie Curie Hospice at Hampstead, respectively. Both busts were created by the Polish Sculptor, Maciej Danilewicz

## *Polish Graves*

The Polish Heritage Society has also renovated three graves of world famous Poles who died and are buried in the UK.

Jan Herman Zukertort, the 19th century Polish Chess Grandmaster (1842–1888), whose grave was sunken out of sight at Brompton Cemetery.

Krystyna Granville, nee Skarbek, SOE Agent during WWII (1908–1952), whose grave is in Kensal Green Cemetery.

Prince Jozef Poniatowski (1816-1873) Senator of the French Parliament and a personal friend of Napoleon III, who joined him in exile to live in Chislehurst, Kent., and whose very dilapidated grave was in the cemetery of St. Mary's R.C. Church in Chislehurst, Kent.



## *Polish Music*

Polish Music also features strongly in the work undertaken by the Polish Heritage Society. To celebrate the renovation of the Chopin Statue by Bronislaw Kubica at Southbank, a concert, free to the community, was held in the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, (Southbank), where Alexander Ardakov performed favourite Chopin compositions.

The re-discovery of the opera composer Prince Jozef Poniatowski's music, encouraged the Polish Heritage Society to present his music, in particular his opera arias, to a new generation of British Poles.



# The Polish Heritage Society (UK) and its Projects



## *Polish Plaques*

Three plaques have been created in the recognisably unique PHS grey and white colour.

The PHS plaque of **Jan Herman Zukertort** can be found at the Divan Bar, Simpson's-in-the-Strand, where he played in the first World Chess Championship (1886) before he succumbed to a fatal stroke.

The PHS plaque of **General Stanisław Sosabowski** (1892–1967), the brave general who fearlessly lead his men into the unfortunate battle of Arnhem in 1944, can be seen in Chiswick W4. A specially produced documentary film on General Sosabowski's leadership at the Battle of Arnhem was shown in the UK and Poland.

More recently, to remind us of the pivotal role the **Polish Navy** played in the defence of Britain in the Battles of the Atlantic, a PHS plaque was erected at the old Polish Navy Headquarters in New Cavendish St, London W1.

## *Ognisko Polskie (The Polish Hearth)*

In 2012 The Polish Heritage Society renovated the front facade of the Polish Hearth Club building, (excluding the balcony and portico contracted to a separate builder), in accordance with the Grade 2 listing heritage requirements.

## *Joseph Conrad and Polish Culture*

The Polish Heritage Society also sees the world of Polish Culture in the United Kingdom as a heritage worthy of support. It has given a five year annual grant to the Joseph Conrad Society, (including awards in 2012 and 2013). It also supported the Joseph Conrad Exhibition in POSK.

PHS has supported a major Polish Émigré Artists exhibition in The Graves Museum in Sheffield, which opened in January 2014.



"Ognisko" after its refurbishment of facade by PHS

## *Historical Honours*

The Polish Heritage Society has also carried out detailed research (available on the PHS website: [www.polishheritage.co.uk/honours](http://www.polishheritage.co.uk/honours)) concerning Polish people who have been awarded both Civil Honours (183 Poles gaining 187 honours) and post-War Military Honours (68 Poles gaining 83 honours).

## *Polish MPs in Parliament*

In addition, historical electoral research has been carried out in all general elections after WWII (available on PHS website) in which 5 Polish MPs and 69 Polish Parliamentary Candidates have been identified and listed.

## *Future Projects*

This includes a major conference on a historical WWII topic working with our partners. The Charity is considering the renovation of the grave of another well known military person. The Polish Heritage Society is also working on the placing of two new plaques. We hope you feel you might like to support our work become a friend or a sponsor of Polish Heritage Society.







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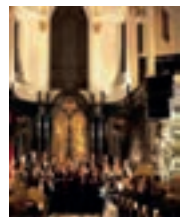
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Westminster Project Team: Jacek Korzeniowski, Sharon Jennings, Antonia Moffat, Keith German, and Dr. Mark Stella-Sawicki MBE KM (Project Curator)



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Blessed Fra Gerard, Founder of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, copper engraving by Laurent Cars, c. 1725. It is not certain whether Fra Gerard came from present-day Italy, France, Germany or Poland. He went to Jerusalem and there, towards the end of the eleventh century, he established a hospice for pilgrims and the sick next to the Church of St. John. To maintain this work he founded a religious community, which he governed in accordance with the Rule of St. Augustine.

On 15 February 1113, Pope Paschal II solemnly approved the new Order, which had been established even before the first Crusaders went to Palestine to recover the Holy Sepulchre. The Pope's Letter Apostolic, *Piae postulatio voluntatis*, were addressed to 'Gerard, Founder and Warden of the hospice at Jerusalem and to his lawful successors'. Fra Gerard died at Jerusalem in 1120. This is also the day on which, in the year 1993, the Grandmaster decreed the Restoration of the Grand Priory of England. Poland's traditions with SMOM go back to the beginning of the second millennium, when Polish Knights returning from the Holy Land brought the message of the Order, and the values of charity and human solidarity to their people. By the end of the 12th century, many centres of the Order had been established in the Polish territories.



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