



Janusz Prusinowski Trio, photo credit: Joanna Wiedro

A four-day festival of Polish music including series of concerts, workshops and lectures – for the general public, as well as students and academicians – will feature the country's illustrious musicians, thinkers and critics to draw unexpected connections between very prominent (starting with Fryderyk Chopin) and very obscure phenomena of Poland's sound culture .

Organized jointly by the Center for Advanced Studies in Music (MIAM) at the Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) – and culture.pl, **Soundscapes From Poland** presents an unorthodox combination of traditional, classical and modern music/sound art. The ubiquitous **Fryderyk Chopin** can be recognized as a pivotal figure here, one that connects beclouded traditional music with transfiguration of sensibilities of the ear towards modernity. In particular, the project intends to offer an extraordinary taste of Chopin's personal experience and emotions.

However, the romantic Polish composer generates but one of the cores of **Soundscapes From Poland**, a project which further extends to modern composition, audio-visual art boundaries as well as ethnic music, with certain references to Turkey and Middle East in general. It will also stretch the timeframe: the courtyard of the İTÜ Taşkışla Campus, located in an old armory from the Ottoman Empire epoch, will feature a sound installation built from snippets of Chopin's letters set to sound art by **Sławomir Kupczak**, open for a month.

Go directly to: [Soundscapes From Poland: Daily Programme](#)
Go directly to: [Soundscapes From Poland EVENT ARCHIVE](#)
Go directly to: [Abstracts & Bios CATALOGUE](#)



Janusz Prusinowski Trio during a performance, photo credit: A. Mendel

Major Themes of Discovery:

Soundscapes From Poland looks at certain aspects of the Polish sound culture from a sonological perspective, bringing together phenomena both prominent (Fryderyk Chopin, the Polish school of composition) and obscure (traditional mazurkas, sound art). In each case, we try to find an unorthodox viewpoint, a different connection: how Chopin reconciles with sound art, how to conduct a pioneering **Experimental Studio** within Eastern Bloc hopelessness; and even to unearth some artefacts, like rare quadraphonic compositions of the Studio, surfing the wave of recent art rediscoveries.

Soundscapes will be composed of spoken word, workshops, and concerts / music events, including the opportunity to have a go at the Mazovian incarnation of the whirling. Some of the leading Polish music thinkers will be present, each with a carefully considered topic. Here are a few:



Soundscapes From Poland Festival Overview



- What does the “Polish school of composition” (i.e. Górecki, Lutosławski, and Penderecki) catchphrase stand for today, in view of radical aesthetic changes among its representatives and general attitude flux towards modernism?
- The emergence of sound art between discordant expectations of music and visual arts.
- The revival / continuation of nearly completely forgotten authentic folk music, in spite of the “world music” ideology and Western academic dogma.
- The divergence between classical music’s posh requirements and the actual grassroots character of the mazurka – in search for the “real” Chopin.

Soundscapes From Poland does not attempt to present a representative panorama of Polish music. We consciously focus on selected aspects, trusting to whet the audience’s appetite. In particular, we endeavour to address Turkish (and more generally, Middle Eastern) culture, intricately connected with Poland, and the unique position of Turkey in and towards Europe.

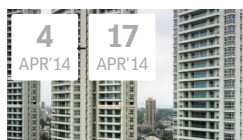
Overview of the Festival Programme:

For the most detailed version of the Programme, please visit our related entry: **Soundscapes From Poland: Detailed Programme.**

Monday, 05 May: Polish Traditional Music & Dance

The day will start with a conference insight into roots of Mazurka music, with its connections to Chopin as well as the Orient, and a foray into Polish-Turkish concatenation in the traditional music field. The discussion will begin at 10:00, at the İTÜ Maçka Campus, Cevad Memduh Altar Hall. Again,

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on Monday, starting at 15:00, at the Mustafa Kemal Hall, a practical, "feet-on" workshop of Polish traditional Mazurka dancing will be led by the **Janusz Prusinowski Trio**, who later that evening will also hold a concert/dance performance at the Mustafa Kemal Hall, starting at 20:00.

Read more about [Mazurka](#) and [Polish traditional dance](#)



Mazurka dance party in Gafki Rusinowskie, photo: Piotr Baczewski

Tuesday, 06 May: Chopin's Personal Diary/ Gazebo

Chopin lovers are invited to attend the morning symposiums starting at 10:00, at the İTÜ Maçka Campus, Cevad Memduh Altar Hall. Later in the evening, audiences are invited to a concert by Turkish star pianist **Idil Biret**, who will interpret Chopin's solo piano repertoire, at the İTÜ Ayazağa Campus, Süleyman Demirel Conference Hall, starting at 20:00.

Again, on this day, at 17:00, the İTÜ Taşkışla Campus will host the vernissage of the sound installation, **Chopin's Personal Diary**, curated by **Antoni Beksiak**. The installation had its premiere in 2010, at the Warsaw University Library's garden. The installation consists of short snippets from Chopin's letters elaborated in modern sound art.

For details on the installation, visit: [Chopin's Personal Diary](#)