

GRAND PIANO

in memory of Basia Strutyński
for the Polish Cultural Center



fundraiser organized by
Seattle Polish Foundation
and Polish Home Association



Grand Piano Fundraiser Q & A

Why do we need a new piano?

It's hard to imagine the Polish Cultural Center Dom Polski without a quality grand piano to host concerts and showcase great works of Polish music, but this is our situation! At present, the Polish Home cannot host a Chopin concert or any cultural event that require a concert-quality piano. The last two times we had concerts, a piano had to be rented, but this is not sustainable long-term solution.

The lack of appropriate instrument hurts our mission to promote Polish culture in the Pacific NW. A cultural center without a grand piano is not really a cultural center! A new piano in memory of Basia Strutyński would solve this problem and would be a wonderful way to honor her legacy.

What's wrong with the current grand piano?

The current grand piano is of poor quality; even when properly tuned up, it's not a concert instrument. It's fine for choir rehearsals, jazz concerts, swing classes, but no real pianist will play a concert on it. For example, the Chopin Foundation Pacific NW chapter cancelled their annual Chopin competition winners' concert at the Polish Home about ten years ago because of this quality issue.

How do we prevent damage to the new piano?

There have been concerns about current grand piano suffering damage over the years. The high-quality new grand piano would be kept under lock & key and made available only for concerts or other designated

events. The old piano would stay where it is today and would be available for less demanding events. The new piano would be also stored away from the emergency door upstairs to ensure a better climate control.

Can we rent pianos instead?

Renting a grand piano is a big hassle and is simply not worth it. Over the last ten years, we rented such a piano twice when the consulate paid for it. Paying \$1500-\$2,000 to rent and tune a piano is impractical if we want to host several concerts a year. Hence with the renting option, we will not have these cultural events available.

What is the price tag for a new grand piano?

A brand-new grand piano costs around \$80k-\$100k or more. However, a concert-quality used piano in excellent condition can be purchased in the \$35,000-\$40,000 range. Such pianos are typically priced around \$50k but can be bargained for. We would work with reputable local stores to get the best quality instrument we can afford when an opportunity for buying presents itself. Buying a used grand piano is a popular practice to ensure quality while avoiding a sticker shock.

What about acoustics at the Polish Cultural Center?

The acoustics in the upper hall is actually pretty good thanks to the heavy curtains and the way the room was designed as a recital hall. We know from visiting artists that the voice, as well as the piano sound, carries well in this space. We could improve on it, but acoustics is not an issue.

Can we continue without a concert-class piano?

Well, not really. If we don't have a concert-grade grand piano, then, very likely, you will never hear a Chopin concert at the Polish Home again! Unfortunately, this is a distinct possibility. The Polish Cultural Center would not be able to showcase Polish composers' music and its offer would be very poor indeed. We would simply fail our mission to promote Polish culture and traditions in the Pacific NW. Looking forward, we need a concert piano to sustain our mission. It's as simple as that.