

## **Andrzej Stec, lyrical tenor to perform at PAAA Chopin Concert**

### **About the Artist...**



Sembrich Award Winner Dr. Andrzej Stec performs with Jean-Eudes Vaillancort



Andrzej introduces a song with an entertaining anecdote

„Eye-candy for the ladies” is what ACPC President Debbie Majka called 33-year old lyrical tenor Andrzej Stec, after his performance as the ACPC Marcella Kochańska Sembrich Scholarship Winner of 2012. „News of Polonia” described Andrzej’s performance at the ACPC Convention as „magnetic” and „mesmerizing,” after which the audience „leapt to their feet in joyful expression of enthusiastic applause.” Andrzej’s charisma and musical accomplishments left no doubt that this young man must be brought to Washington DC to share his enormous talents and accomplishments with PAAA members and their friends. Thus, Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil and husband Dr. James Trefil have arranged to sponsor Andrzej’s performance at the PAAA’s annual Chopin Concert. On Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 4:00pm, Dr. Andrzej Stec will perform with his accompanist Jean-Eudes Vaillancourt. He will introduce songs with anecdotes of Chopin’s life which will deepen our experience of the historic context in which Chopin composed and performed. We want to invite you all to hear Andrzej’s extraordinary talent, and to support PAAA’s primary money raiser for our annual PAAA Scholarship Fund.

Andrzej’s personal story is one of those inspirational stories of a poor immigrant who makes good despite enormous odds, because he is very talented and he works very hard. Andrzej Stec emigrated from Poland to Chicago to escape the very difficult martial law period in Poland during the 1980s. His parents soon divorced and Andrzej had little chance of a higher education. Consequently, he took vocational courses in high school, became a hairdresser, and won a hairstyling competition that ensured him a position in one of Chicago’s best salons. Through his success as a Chicago haristylist, Andrzej paid for his college education earning a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Illinois in DeKalb, and his Master of Music degree at Northwestern University. Ultimately, Andrzej completed his Doctor of Musical Performance degree at the University of Montreal.

In additional to the academic titles, Andrzej Stec holds the title „Ambassador of Stalowa Wola”, his native town where he graduated from the Paderewski Music School. Andrzej sings in seven languages, has mastered the main roles of 16 operas, and knows the lyrics of over 100 songs and operetta arias. When he performed in Szymanowski’s opera, *King Roger*, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported that „the animal magnetism Stec exuded was completely riveting whenever he was on stage.” The PAAA invites you and your friends to „Save the Date” of March 24, 2013 on your calendar for this unique opportunity to hear a Polish tenor of extraordinary talent and sensibility. Dr. Stec will perform songs by Fryderyk Chopin and tell stories of how Chopin rubbed shoulders with Liszt, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Bellini, Donizetti, and others. It will be a memorable treat.

**Dr. Wanda O’Brien-Trefil, Chair, Chopin Concert**