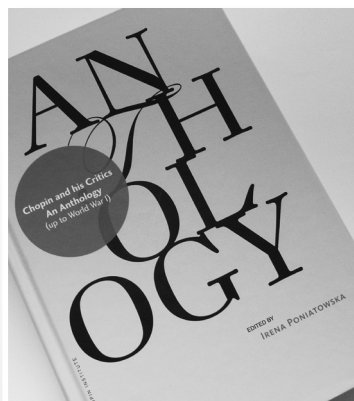


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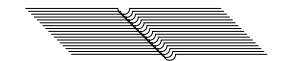


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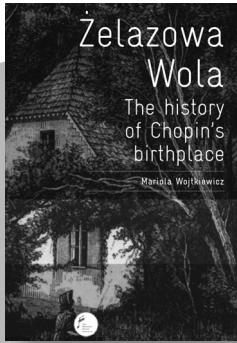


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# ŻELAZOWA WOLA

## THE HISTORY

### OF CHOPIN'S BIRTHPLACE

Mariola Wojtkiewicz

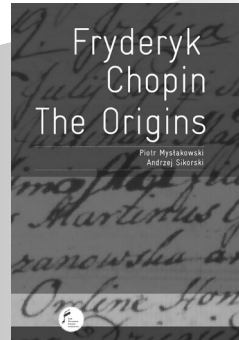
Żelazowa Wola is linked inseparably with Fryderyk Chopin: it is the place where the Polish composer entered the world two hundred years ago. Although the Chopins moved permanently to Warsaw when Fryderyk was still an infant, the whole family regularly returned to Żelazowa Wola on summer and church holidays.

Mariola Wojtkiewicz is the first to set in order the history of this place – from the moment when Ludwika Skarbek purchased the estate up to contemporary times. Drawing on extant documents, she has sought to verify and account for some of the widespread misconceptions relating to Żelazowa Wola and has introduced a number of new details and findings.

*Żelazowa Wola. This history of Chopin's Birthplace*, written in an accessible style and embellished with numerous illustrations, is meant for a broad readership with an interest in acquiring reliable knowledge that reflects the state of research into the history of Żelazowa Wola.

Translation: John Comber

Warsaw 2012  
ISBN 978-83-61142-73-7



# FRYDERYK CHOPIN

## THE ORIGINS

Piotr Mystakowski, Andrzej Sikorski

This book summarises more than a decade of work conducted by two researchers who set out to verify in archival sources the existing biographical information about Fryderyk Chopin, his family and his friends, and also to obtain new material to expand our knowledge of his ancestors. The research covered approximately 100,000 handwritten legal documents from Kuyavia, Mazovia and Royal Prussia, numerous printed and cartographic sources, and also the subject literature. The majority of sources held in Polish archives were examined, as well as information from France and Russia.

As a result of their research, the authors were able to refute many of the myths and false convictions persistently recurring in the Chopin literature. They have also described the newly-discovered fortunes of Fryderyk Chopin's Polish ancestors and significantly broadened our knowledge of his French roots.

Particularly interesting proved to be their research into the circumstances that brought the young Nicolas Chopin, the composer's father, to Poland.

This book, presenting the most up-to-date historical findings, also shows the influence of Fryderyk's hometown of Warsaw from 1815 to 1830 on the formation of the young composer's personality.

Translation: Zygmunt Nowak-Soliński

Warsaw 2010  
ISBN 978-83-61142-33-1

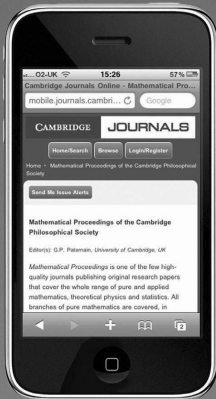
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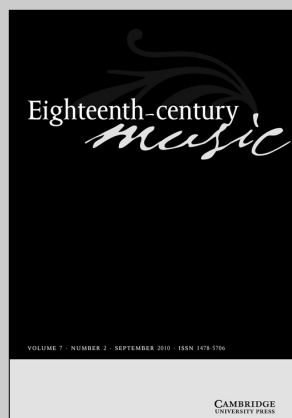
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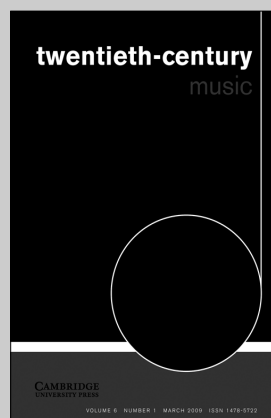
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Cover illustration: A collage consisting of a Busch Quartet photo from ca. 1932, the cover of Hanslick's 'The Beautiful in Music', Lussy's 'Traité de l'expression musicale' (1874), and the manuscript of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Prepared by Y. Mehmet Bayraktar.

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