



PFDA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2004

POLAND FESTIVAL 2005

The Rzeszow Festival will be held July 20-28, 2005. Full details can be found in Polish at www.wspolnota-polska.rzeszow.pl but here is a short list of the requirements:

- Minimum 8 couples, 16 dancers
- Must have own kapela, accordion or music
- Participants must be age 16 or over
- Groups must send applications and video to Poland before 2/15/05
- Video on VHS system must have a 30 minute program from each group

Each dance has a 5 minute time limit for those that will be chosen for the Gala Concert and for the Concert of Dances of Country of Origin.

At the 1999 Rzeszow Festival, members of PFDA who did not meet the requirements of the Festival had the option to participate in the Festival as the group PFDA. These participants did not perform but participated in the Opening Parade, attended the festivities and concerts, even had sightseeing trips. If this option appeals to any our members, then we can address the matter with Wspolnota-Rzeszow.

The PFDA will organize a performing tour of southern Poland the week prior to Rzeszow for anyone who would like to participate. If you have not done so already please contact Richard if your group is interested in participating.

HAVE YOU ANSWERED THE SURVEY?

Recently, Richard Jaminski sent a survey to member groups to gauge interest in hosting a choreographer in North America.

Two choreographers have been approached. Emma Cieslinska is a specialist in Biala Podlaska (she and her mother wrote a book on Podlasie dances) and choreographer of the group in Biala Podlaska. Jan Pogonowski is an English-speaking choreographer whose realm of expertise is multi-regional (including Podlasie, Powisle, Lublin, etc.). He would prepare national dances and/or regional dance suites your group would desire for a fee. He is a choreographer with the Akademia Rolnicza Dance Group in Lublin.

Once we've received your responses one choreographer will then be selected by majority vote from those groups who intend to host a choreographer in the Fall of 2005.

Please contact Richard Jaminski if you've not done so already at 708-403-5718 or mrjaminski@aol.com.

MILWAUKEE POLISHFEST

PFDA Gala Concert at PolishFest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – June 19-20, 2004. For the fourth year, PFDA was asked to organize a Gala Concert at PolishFest, the America's largest Polish Festival. PFDA President Glenn Ramski was the Coordinator of the Concert, which took place on the Cultural State on Saturday, June 19, 2004. The following is the Dance Program and the name of the PFDA Dance Group that performed it:

Polonez - **Lajkonik** (*Chicago, IL*)
Lowicz Suite - **Wesoly Lud** (*Chicago, IL*)
Kaszuby Suite – **Wawel** (*Detroit, MI*)
Mazur – Lajkonik (*Halina Misterka, Artistic Director and Choreographer*)
Krakowiak – **Wici** (*Chicago, IL*)
Gypsy Suite – **Polish Falcons** (*Milwaukee, WI*)
Beskid Suite – **Syrena** (*Milwaukee, WI*)
Eastern Krakow Suite – **Wesoly Lud** (*Misia & Richard Jaminski, Artistic Directors and Choreographers*)
Kujawiak & Oberek – **Lajkonik** (*Chicago, IL*)
Rzeszow Suite – **Wawel** (*Donna Skurski, Artistic Director & Choreographer; Tom Skurski, President*)
Beskid Suite – **Wici** (*Magdalena Solarz, Artistic Director & Choreographer*)
Chodzony & Oberek – **Syrena** (*Ada Dziewanowska, Artistic Director; Konrad Wiecek, Choreographer; Glenn Ramski, President*)

In addition to the Gala, the groups also performed in half hour increments throughout the weekend. **Lechici** (*Chicago, IL – Konrad Wiecek, Artistic Director and Choreographer*) joined in the performances on Sunday, June 20.

PFDA's participation in PolishFest is a great avenue to market the strength of the Polish Folk Dance Association. Bravo to all the participants and to Glenn Ramski for a job well done!

TROJAK II – YET ANOTHER SUCCESS!

Written by: Richard Schmidt, General Manager of the Podhale Folk Dance Company, Montreal, Canada

As I sit in the deep freeze of a snow-covered city, a few days before Christmas, it is already hard to picture the dancers of the Polish American Folk Dance Company from New York lounging on the grass in front of their hotel on a warm sunny day in October. It was the day before the second "Trojak" concert featuring the Podhale Folk Dance Company, PAFDC and the Krakowiak Polish Dancers of Boston being held in Montreal. With our New Yorkers safely arrived, the members of Podhale awaited our guests from Massachusetts who were arriving that night at our rehearsal hall to pick them up and take them into their homes.

Preparations for this weekend began immediately after the success of the original "Trojak" concert in Boston in May of 2003. Committees were formed and volunteers were rounded up and the work began in earnest in January 2004. Housing, catering, hall rentals, technical requirements, souvenir booklets, video recording, marketing and advertising and of course artistic content were all on the agenda at our bi-weekly meetings. The months melted away and before we knew it the house lights were dimmed...

The music began, the curtains were opened and the sold-out crowd were awed with a five-minute screen presentation depicting the history, the culture and the achievements of Podhale and our beloved Poland. For the next two hours the audience was exposed to a rich variety of Poland's folk songs and dances from the regions of Kurpie, Łowicz, Śląsk, Żywiec, Rzeszów, Lublin, Kaszuby, Lachy Sącz, Opoczno, Podhale, Eastern Kraków and Old Warsaw. The nationals were of course presented by each group with tributes to Ogiński, Kilar and Chopin. The dancers were exuberant and the audience was thrilled, making for a super-charged ambience. The success of this show can be attributed to the professionalism of each of the participating groups, the overwhelming contribution of all our volunteers and the financial backing of many Polish businesses and associations in Montreal, including contributions from LOT Polish Airlines, TV Polonia and the city of Montreal.

The comments from the public after the show were all positive with many people suggesting that we should do this at least twice year. The dancers, of course, were on a high and ready to party all night; so we packed up the costumes and we all headed back across town to our rehearsal hall, where a full banquet meal of Polish food and drink awaited us. After the bellies were filled, the groups met yet again on the floor to dance, not to folk music this time, but to gyrate to such hits as "Hej Sokoly". If that weren't enough groups of dancers from all three groups were seen heading off in the direction of downtown to hit the clubs and dance some more until the wee hours of the morning.

The close relationship that Podhale shares with both KPD and PAFDC goes back to 1972 and has grown over the past thirty-plus years, and as the only remaining member of Podhale from that era, it elates me to no end that this generation of dancers now have the opportunity to make new friends, to share moments and memories and to continue our long-standing partnerships.

We look forward to seeing all of you in New York City in June 2005, as once again, we will all be on stage together in "Trojak III". If you would like to order your very own copy of the "Trojak II – Montreal" DVD or VHS, please send me an email at info@folkdance.ca.

MUSIC LIBRARY

There are some folk CDs available in our Music Library for group directors to borrow. Please contact Richard for more information.

PLEASE UPDATE ROSTER INFO.

Please take time to make sure your group's contact information is current and updated. Please provide an e-mail address as this is the most efficient way to deliver updates to you in a timely manner. Please e-mail corrections/updates to Margaret Lorczak at MALORC@aol.com.

ARE YOUR DUES CURRENT?

Just a friendly reminder to send renewal dues for 2004 and 2005 to Donna Skurski, PFDA Treasurer at 31447 Merrily, Roseville, MI 48066 or email her at dntskur@aol.com.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

The board of directors is enthusiastic in making the PFDA a more valued resource to members of the association. What could the PFDA do to help your group promote and preserve Polish folk culture? What areas would you like to receive help with or additional ideas on: visiting choreographers, music, stage presence or administrative ideas (i.e. member recruitment, fundraising, costume maintenance).

Please e-mail your ideas to mrjaminski@aol.com.

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOUR GROUP?

If you have an event or milestone you'd like to share with other PFDA members, please send an article or information to Margaret at malorc@aol.com.