



SOKÓŁ Małopolska Culture Centre
is a cultural institution under the local authorities of Małopolska Province.
Its activity comprises the protection and promotion of cultural heritage as well
as the development of cultural competence and stimulation of active
participation in culture

30 Years of cultural activity (1975-2005)



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"SOKÓŁ" - head office of the Małopolska Culture Centre

We are a group of people who have managed to turn a run-of-the-mill cultural centre, typifying the 1970s, into one of the foremost and prosperous institutions in southern Poland. The subject matter of our activity is culture, founded on a lively relation between contemporariness and the heritage of the past, born out of regional individualism, respect for distinct identities, and contributing to the integration of the nations in the new European civilisation. We are interested in the culture which mirrors the condition of our country's current spiritual life and which paves the way for its further development.

We have created an institution which fulfils promotional, educational and inspirational aims. We aim to cater for the tastes of the so-called elite as well as for the general public's expectations. Our institution operates in the whole of Małopolska Province and is equally committed to accomplishing our mission both at the Nowy Sącz head office and in the farthest quarters of the region, where we boost culture-forming activity.



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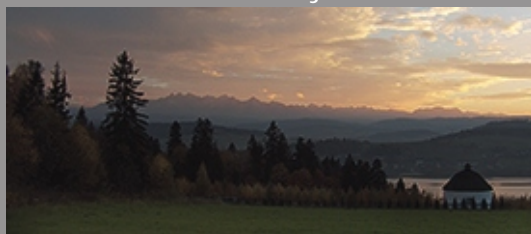
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As a regional institution (the Malopolska Province Cultural Centre) the centre was founded in the wake of the state administration reform in 1975.

Enveloped in picturesque scenery, brimming with the cultural richness of several ethnographic groups and ethnic minorities, our region became the focus of our interest. It is all decorated with the wooden architecture of Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, bristling with wayside shrines, resonating with the sounds of folk music and dance, astonishing with the vitality of the past custom.

Every day thousands of people cultivate their small lands of culture, attending folk group classes, theatre courses, playing in brass bands, painting, sculpting.

It is in the region's abundance of creative energy that we have discerned a chance for us to develop. At the same time, we have been keen to become a chance for it - a chance for the region's advancement.



The protection and development of the existent cultural resources are high on our priority list.

The protection is effected through the documentation of vanishing relics of the past and the creation of the coherent system of educational programmes (both concerned with knowledge of culture in its broad sense and addressing specific issues of workshop training by artists).

The development, in turn, is effected by extensive promotion of artistic achievements, chiefly in the form of contests, festivals and competitions.

Promoting modern folk artists' achievements, we have become the organisers of numerous events which, in turn, have grown to be remarkable fixtures on the cultural and tourist map of Małopolska.



- ✦ Małopolska Carolling Ensembles Contest for Lipnica Star (January, Lipnica Murowana)
- ✦ Little Shepherds' Carolling - all-Poland Meeting of Children's Carolling Ensembles (February, Podegrodzie)
- ✦ Małopolska Puppet Theatres Contest for Hare Poziomka's Grand Prize (March, Żabno)
- ✦ The Regional Contest of the Folk Easter Egg and the Ritual Visual Arts (March/April, Tarnów)
- ✦ The Contest of Małopolska Regional Theatres (April, Czarny Dunajec)
- ✦ DRUZBACKA - Bands, Instrumentalists, Folk Singers and Wedding Best Men Contest (May, Podegrodzie)
- ✦ KRAKOWSKI WIANEK - Regional Contest of Folk Ensembles, Bands and Singing Groups (May, Szczurowa)
- ✦ BAJDUREK - Children and Youth Theatre Festival (June, Nowy Sącz)
- ✦ ECHO TROMBITY - Małopolska Festival of Brass Bands (June, Nowy Sącz)
- ✦ KRAKOWIACZEK - Festival of Children's Folk Groups of the Kraków Region (June, Łoniowa)
- ✦ The Carpathian Festival of Children's Regional Ensembles (June, Rabka Zdrój)
- ✦ Inter-Province Convention of Folk Theatres (July, Bukowina Tatrzańska)

We invite you to...



Since 1992 the Festival of the Children of Mountains, organised in collaboration with the Polish CIOFF section, has been a remarkably colourful artistic event of the summer season. The participants, children's folk groups representing mountainous regions of the world, make up Polish-foreign partner pairs for the duration of the Festival. Together, they live, perform, go touring, light bonfires and spend one day in the Polish children's homes. Thanks to that closeness they find their own language of communication; fears of "difference" disappear, initial mistrust turns into acceptance and not infrequently into friendship.

This unique programme formula has not only made ours one of the most interesting children's folk festivals; it has been instrumental in moulding children's attitude of openness, tolerance, and respect for cultural and religious differences, which are all essential for the peaceful co-existence of nations.



As in every town devoid of professional artistic institutions, the organisation of music and theatre events in Nowy Sącz depends chiefly on various imports. Having no facilities of our own, indispensable for major artistic forms, for many years we organised concerts and theatre performances, availing ourselves of some small halls and churches of the town. At the same time, however, we have been able to widely popularise the music of various epochs, styles and genres. This we've achieved with the aid of our international music festivals:

- ✦ WESOŁA NOWINA - a concert series of carols and Christmas music (January/February, Nowy Sącz)
- ✦ FUN & CLASSIC - the Festival of Virtuosity and Music Gags (February/March, Nowy Sącz)
- ✦ L'ARTE ORGANICA - the Festival of Organ Music (July/August, Nowy Sącz)
- ✦ IUBILAEI CANTUS - an autumn festival (November, Nowy Sącz)
- ✦ and - the oldest one among them - ADA SARI VOCAL ARTISTRY FESTIVAL (May, Nowy Sącz)



Organised since 1985, the Ada Sari Vocal Artistry Festival is the most significant of all our music festivals.

An international contest, shaping artistic personalities of budding singers and preparing them for future career, is its central part. Outstanding singers, musical academics as well as organisers of similar festivals and music events sit on the jury.

The contest is accompanied by numerous symphonic and chamber concerts as well as musical theatre performances, which feature Polish and foreign artists of great excellence. The Ada Sari Vocal Artistry Festival has earned great and unchanging world renown; the laureates at the Nowy Sącz Festival prove their top-class artistry, winning prizes at subsequent contests and performing at the world-famous opera houses.



The completion of the renovation work on our new head office, the historic SOKÓŁ building in Nowy Sącz, has proved a turning point in our activity. In 1993 we took possession of the derelict over-100-year-old building which we renovated for over 10 years to make it fit to fulfil the function of a modern cultural institution engaged in versatile activity.

Taking over the historic building, we began to feel the heirs and, in a way, continuators of the tradition of the Sokół Gymnastic Society (a patriotic organisation instrumental in Poland's recovery of independence). Consequently, in 1994 we put on a unique exhibition of the Society and its role in the history of the Polish nation. The main concert halls were named after the Society's late presidents and activists of the Society's Nowy Sącz branch. We have also endeavoured to preserve and accentuate the material traces of the building's proud past in its architecture.



As the renovated SOKÓŁ building began to be used anew, it could finally offer Nowy Sącz a modern and well-equipped multi-purpose hall, which could easily come up to the standard of much bigger Polish cities. Apart from many a cultural event and cinema performance, since the autumn of 2004, the hall has been the venue of MAŁOPOLSKA EVENINGS, a series of artistic events under the patronage of the Head of Małopolska Province and in collaboration with the Małopolska authorities.

The EVENINGS, which are a cyclical event, have a wide range of opera classics, dramatic theatre performances and concerts on offer. On average there are 3-4 events a month, which enables the locals to get the first-hand experience of the current and professional productions by various artistic institutions.



In our state-of-the-art cinema halls we not only screen current world-cinema productions but we also popularise cinema culture in the form of theme series, mini-festivals and independent cinema festivals, the Discussion Film Club and the Youth Film Academy.

In 2004 our cinemas joined the Europa Cinemas Association and the Polish Society of Studio Cinemas. The CINEMA PEOPLE film festival is our youngest brainchild and it features outstanding personages of the Polish cinematography. Jerzy Stuhr was the central figure of the first edition. During several-day presentations, cinema performances are accompanied by meetings, panel discussions and exhibitions.



The new building houses some exhibition space. The SOKÓŁ Gallery was opened in autumn 2004 and since then it has been the place not only for renowned and experienced artists but also for those budding ones still after their own level. Miscellaneous artistic areas find their way to it - theme, documentary, historical and occasional exhibitions.

The gallery's objective is to promote artistic phenomena of appealing and unique quality, representing both visual arts and fringe theatre, film and music...

So far we have put on the photographs by Leszek Mądzik, Marcin Kydryński, Sylwester Adamczyk and GEL-ART paintings by Jan Kanty Pawluśkiewicz.



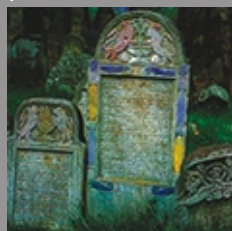
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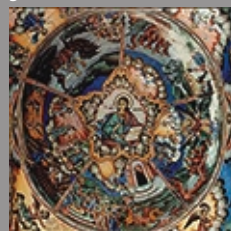
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In 2003 "SOKÓŁ" Małopolska Culture Centre established the Carpathian Europe Institute. Its aim is to mastermind international programmes on the promotion of cultural, social and natural heritage of Małopolska, the Carpathians being the cultural frame of reference.

Organising international conferences, symposia and meetings (Our Dowry for Europe, The Carpathians - poor but rich, The Carpathian Meeting), it cooperates with non-governmental organisations in order to implement projects boosting socio-economic development in the Carpathian regions.



We are a staff of some 50 people. For over 25 years we have been working under Antoni Malczak, the leading light in cultural activity and a mastermind of numerous artistic undertakings. It is also he who initiated the renovation work on the SOKÓŁ building.

We have been cooperating with a number of scientists and specialists in folk culture (inter alia Mirosława Bobrowska, ethnochoreographer; Aleksandra Bogucka, ethnomusicologist; Janina Kalicińska, ethnochoreographer; Krystyna Kwaśniewicz, ethnographer); they have been very supportive in our activity aimed at the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. We feel none the less indebted to Prof. Helena Łazarska (Artistic Director of the Ada Sari Vocal Artistry Festival), Józef Broda (spiritus movens of the Festival of the Children of Mountains), Waldemar Malicki (FUN & CLASSIC Festival). Also, the Nowy Sącz marvellous public, the media, many socio-cultural associations, artists and cultural activists in the region have been our strong support.

We thank you all...

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Jan Ciepliński: s./p.: 6 (5)

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