

Leopold Stokowski



**Historical Marker Dedication
September 18, 2021**



Photo courtesy of: Vandamm, The Philadelphia Orchestra Archives

Front cover sketch by: Oscar Berger

**The Kosciuszko Foundation
Philadelphia Chapter**

and the

**Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission**

with cooperation of

The Philadelphia Orchestra

*present the dedication of an official
historical marker commemorating*

Leopold Stokowski

*Conductor and Music Director
of The Philadelphia Orchestra*

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021
at 12:00 NOON

located at

The Academy of Music
240 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Our Sincere Thanks



to the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf, Governor



Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Nancy Moses, Chair

Andrea W. Lowery, Executive Director

The City of Philadelphia

James F. Kenney, Mayor

The Poles in America Foundation

Jack Pinkowski, President and CEO

The Academy of Music

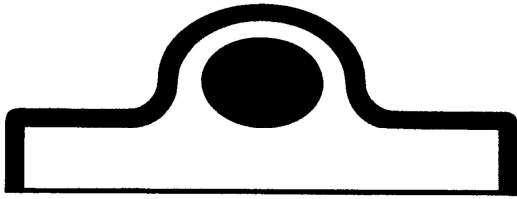
and

The Philadelphia Orchestra

for making this historical marker a reality



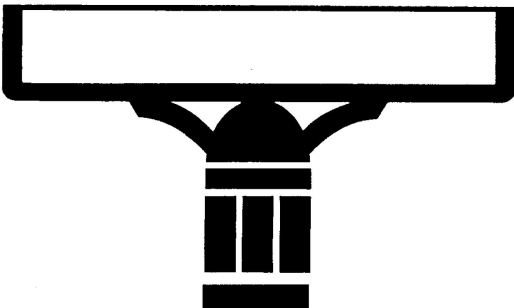
The Kosciuszko Foundation Philadelphia Chapter



LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI
(1882 - 1977)



Visionary music director of The Philadelphia Orchestra, 1912-1941. Possessing a unique combination of musical genius and charisma; he created the “Philadelphia Sound” and promoted classical music to a wide audience in the Disney Film *Fantasia* and hundreds of recordings.



Leopold Stokowski Historical Marker Event Committee

Sylwia Czajkowska, *Chair*

Paul Krzywicki,
Liaison with The Philadelphia Orchestra

Peter J. Obst
Research and Event Program Layout

Margaret Zaleska
Publicity and Invitations

The Foundation, named for the Revolutionary War hero Thaddeus Kosciuszko, is a not-for-profit organization based in New York City. It was established in 1925 to encourage and promote the study of Polish culture, history, language, and tradition in the United States. It is the Foundation's objective to foster among Americans of Polish ancestry a deeper understanding of their cultural heritage, thereby enriching the pluralistic culture and traditions of the United States of America.

The Foundation builds international understanding through the interchange of students and scholars, knowledge and skills; through its book program for Polish institutions of higher learning and by sponsoring summer study programs at Polish universities.

The Foundation conducts its educational services by providing scholarships to worthy students attending American universities, organizing lectures, concerts, art exhibits, and promoting publications and books on Polish topics.

The Philadelphia Chapter received its official charter in October of 1994. The chapter supports the traditional scholastic, intellectual, and exchange programs of The Kosciuszko Foundation and organizes cultural events with a Polish theme in the Philadelphia area. The Officers and Executive Board invite your participation in our chapter activities.

The Kosciuszko Foundation Philadelphia Chapter

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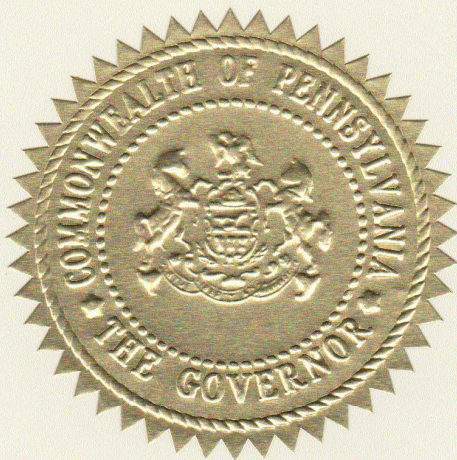
THE GOVERNOR

TO: LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI

It is my pleasure to join with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation to congratulate you on your officially sanctioned Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission marker.

Pennsylvania thrives on its vibrant cultural heritage, and Polish-Americans represent a vital component of our diverse ethnic and social community. The commonwealth is home to over two million individuals of Polish decent, many of whom have made valuable contributions to Pennsylvania such as the arts. Your extensive musical career is full of wonderful achievements—from being one of the first musical innovators to bring the Philadelphia Sound to the world through performance, radio, and recordings to experimenting with new orchestral techniques and instruments. You have continuously demonstrated the commonwealth's values of hard work and commitment, and I commend you for your inspiring talent, virtuosity, and commitment to the arts. The commonwealth is privileged to have you as a representative of our values and traditions. I am certain that the Polish-American community will continue to thrive throughout the commonwealth for many years to come.

As Governor, and on behalf of all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am honored to congratulate you on this wonderful achievement. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor

September 18, 2021

TRIBUTE

The City of Philadelphia is proud to be the host of many innovative and accomplished musicians, and celebrates the legacy of these legends whose performances and influence have helped shape the culture of our City.

Leopold Stokowski was born in 1882 of mixed Polish and Irish parentage in London and began playing the violin at the age of seven. In line with a clear path to a lifetime of musical pursuits, at the young age of eighteen he became a church organist at the St. James Church in England, and in 1908 made his conducting debut in Paris. A year later, he took over the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and by the time he reached thirty five, he was hailed as an orchestra builder and promoter of modern music.

In October 1912, he became the Music Director of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, and his tenure lasted until 1940. Leopold Stokowski was among the musical innovators who first brought the "Philadelphia Sound" to the world, through performance, radio, and recordings. He experimented with new orchestral techniques and with the placement of instruments on the stage. An early proponent of electronic recording of symphonic music, he made vinyl discs with the Philadelphia Orchestra as soon as this technology was introduced.

With a unique combination of musical genius and charisma, he took the Philadelphia Orchestra to new heights and promoted classical music to a wide audience. Little wonder then, that when Walt Disney was creating his precedent-breaking animated film *Fantasia*, he collaborated with Stokowski, who was part of the inspiration for the project, and asked him to conduct the score and appear in the film.

As a tangible way that Stokowski's achievements can be remembered into the 21st century and beyond, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation is installing a historical marker approved by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, in front of the Academy of Music on Broad Street in Philadelphia, where he conducted the Orchestra for so long. It is being dedicated on September 18, 2021.

It is fitting and appropriate, therefore, that the City of Philadelphia officially recognize with this Tribute



LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI

and urge all Philadelphians to learn more about this legend who left an indelible mark on our City and how it is perceived around the world as a home for classical music.

Handwritten signature of James F. Kenney in blue ink.

James F. Kenney
Mayor

September 18, 2021



Embassy of the Republic of Poland
in Washington, D.C.

2640 16th St. NW
Washington, DC 20009

Washington, D.C., September 10, 2021

Dear Friends of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation,

As Ambassador of Poland to the United States, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate with you – in spirit – the dedication of a Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission marker commemorating the life and achievements of Leopold Stokowski. It is always a great joy to hear of our Polish compatriots being officially recognized for their contributions to American cultural life, and I am pleased that the Kosciuszko Foundation, with its long history of supporting Polish American endeavors and its personal history with Stokowski himself, has spearheaded this great initiative. My special thanks go out to Sylwia Czajkowska, President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation, for her leadership in this undertaking to re-introduce this great artist and countryman to the U.S. public.

Maestro Stokowski, who was of mixed Polish and Irish descent and was born in the United Kingdom, readily acknowledged his Polish heritage. Within the musical world, he was considered one of the most outstanding conductors of his time, and his vision, openness and innovative approach won him recognition throughout the world. Here in the United States, he served as the music director of a number of renowned orchestras, and even conducted the musical scores for many Hollywood films. We are truly blessed that his masterful performances have become immortalized in digital media, allowing us and future generations of music aficionados to fully appreciate the magic of his powerful conducting.

Once more, allow me to congratulate your organization on your great achievement. I hope to one day be able to visit the marker at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia and appreciate its impact on the city and on curious passerby. It is my great hope that young Polish Americans, in visiting this new icon of the city, will be inspired by Leopold Stokowski's accomplishments and will follow in his footsteps of musical greatness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Wilczek".

Piotr Wilczek

Ambassador of Poland to the United States of America



Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in New York

New York, September 3rd 2021

Ms. Sylwia Czajkowska
President
Philadelphia Chapter
of the Kosciuszko Foundation

Dear Ms. Czajkowska!

Allow me to begin by thanking you for your kind invitation to the unveiling of the marker to commemorate the achievements of Leopold Stokowski. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, I will not be able to attend this honorable occasion.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland enthusiastically expresses the idea of dedicating a marker to honor Leopold Stokowski, a great musical innovator. I believe that the marker is an attractive sign and an informative lesson about his great accomplishments on the highest level in bringing the Philadelphia sounds around the world. His extraordinary skills were best presented in one of the Walt Disney animated film "Fantasia". The historical mark will inform both Polish and American generations about the important perspective on their heritage and keep the story about musician Stokowski remembered in 21st century and beyond.

Let me express our sincere gratitude to Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation for taking the initiative to install the historical marker in a memory of the precious musician. I strongly believe that the marker will contribute to a greater awareness of the Polish-American conductor and his exceptional achievements.

Philadelphia Chapter of the Kościuszko Foundation duly fulfills its entrusted objective to foster a deeper understanding of the cultural heritage among Americans of Polish ancestry. I am also truly grateful to The Kosciuszko Foundation both for striving to promote the Polish culture through the exemplary persona of General Tadeusz Kościuszko – *the Hero of Both Nations*, and for supporting and engaging the Polish community of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Adrian Kubicki
Consul General

One South Broad Street
14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

philorch.org

ThePhiladelphiaOrchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music Director

Dear Philadelphians and Music Lovers Everywhere,

Among the many great hallmarks of The Philadelphia Orchestra are the relationships it has forged with musical giants, the longevity of these associations, and their profound impact on the ensemble. For nearly 30 years in the first half of the 20th century, the great innovator Leopold Stokowski inspired, guided, challenged, and loved The Philadelphia Orchestra as its music director, and, in partnership with the Orchestra's supremely gifted musicians, created what came to be known as the legendary "Philadelphia Sound."

Night after night, year after year, Stokowski and the Fabulous Philadelphians presented beautiful music at the Academy of Music, furthered by superlative critical reviews and accolades, and by the intoxicating charm of a maestro who enticed an adoring public to see themselves as part of an irresistible musical movement.

Today's Philadelphia Orchestra, while maintaining a deep and abiding respect for the pillars of classical music, is a living, breathing organization that speaks to the many diverse communities of Philadelphia and beyond. It stands on the shoulders of its music directors and musicians, each having contributed their unique artistry and vision of their era. Now, well into its second century, The Philadelphia Orchestra endures with forward-looking vitality, in part because Leopold Stokowski set the example that each leader must give wings to the next generation to imagine and invent the future.

We are honored and delighted to embrace the legacy of Leopold Stokowski and to see his spirit enshrined and therefore renewed.

Sincerely,



Matías Tarnopolsky
President and CEO
The Philadelphia Orchestra

September 3, 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for joining the Kosciuszko Foundation on this notable occasion honoring the legacy of Leopold Stokowski, one of the most illustrious musicians of Polish descent. This occasion was made possible thanks to the initiative and efforts of the Foundation's Philadelphia Chapter and its President, Ms. Sylwia Czajkowska, whom I owe a special vote of thanks.

Commemorative plaques, such as the one that will become a permanent fixture in front of the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, is the most fitting way to increase awareness and interest in the community about Stokowski's extraordinary achievements and his life-long contributions to developing appreciation to music in general and the Philadelphia Orchestra specifically. The marker will help educate, remind and preserve memory about the legendary maestro of Polish origins, whose over six decades-long conducting career touched millions of music lovers worldwide.

Unfortunately, due to my business trip to Poland taking place at the same time, I will not be able to attend the dedication ceremony in person. I wish the organizers, the plaque sponsors, and all attendees a successful event and joyous celebrations.

With best wishes and kindest regards,



Marek Skulimowski
President and Executive Director

Leopold Stokowski (1882-1977)

Conductor and Music Director of The Philadelphia Orchestra



Though born in London of a mixed heritage that included Polish, Scottish and Irish elements, he would later claim Krakow was his birthplace. He began playing the violin at the age of seven, was admitted to the Royal College of Music at thirteen, and at eighteen became a church organist at the St. James's Anglican Church in London. He made his conducting debut in Paris in 1909. That year he took over the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

In October 1912 he became the Music Director of The Philadelphia Orchestra. His tenure lasted until 1941. With his unique combination of showmanship and musical genius he created the "Philadelphia Sound" and made The Philadelphia Orchestra into a leading, world-class institution.

At the age of thirty five, he was hailed as an orchestra builder and as a promoter of modern music.

He pioneered the use of "free" bowing, which produced a rich, homogenized string tone. A relentless innovator, Stokowski experimented with orchestral seating and "free" breathing for brass instruments. One of the first modern conductors to give up the use of the baton, Stokowski employed graceful, almost hypnotic, hand gestures to work his magic.

He was the first conductor to become a true superstar and was even regarded as something of a matinee idol, an image aided by his appearances in such films as the Deanna Durbin spectacle *One Hundred Men and a Girl* (1937) and, most famously, as the flesh-and-blood leader of The Philadelphia Orchestra in Walt Disney's animated classic *Fantasia* (1940).

As an early proponent of electronic recording of symphonic music he made vinyl recordings with The Philadelphia Orchestra as soon as this technology was introduced. He promoted the use of electronic instruments such as the *theremin* and *ondes martenot*, predicting a time when composers would be able to shape music directly via electronic devices.

Following his 29-year stay in Philadelphia, Stokowski directed and was conductor with several other ensembles, including the All-American Youth Orchestra (which he founded), the NBC Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Houston Symphony Orchestra (1955-61), and the American Symphony Orchestra, which he founded in 1962.

During the 1960s he returned to Philadelphia several times as a guest conductor.

He left an indelible mark on the City of Philadelphia and on how it is perceived around the world as a home for classical music.





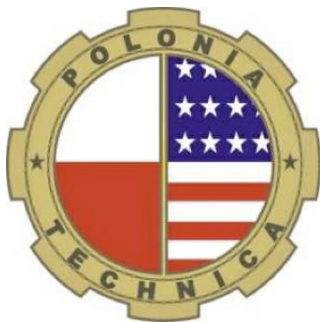
with the compliments of

The Kosciuszko Foundation

Marek Skulimowski, President

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Congratulations

*on dedicating an official historical marker for Leopold Stokowski
musical genius and conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra*



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**Congratulates The Kosciuszko Foundation of the Philadelphia Chapter on
the installation of the Pennsylvania Historical marker to commemorate
the achievements of Leopold Stokowski.**

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Let us all celebrate Marker Dedication Day

for

Leopold Stokowski



as the maestro returns in spirit
to the Academy of Music
site of his greatest triumphs

Deborah M. Majka

*PAC Vice President for Cultural Activities
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland for Southeastern Pennsylvania
www.polishcultureacpc.org/Consul*



Photo Courtesy of The Phila. Orchestra Archives

***A painter paints his pictures
on canvas.
But musicians paint
their pictures on silence.
We provide the music,
and you provide the silence.***

Leopold Stokowski, 1967

**Thank you for being part of this KF Philadelphia Chapter Event
to honor the Great Maestro.**

Sylwia Czajkowska

President, The Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation



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The Golaski Family



The Kosciuszko Foundation

Philadelphia Chapter

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thekfphiladelphia@gmail.com

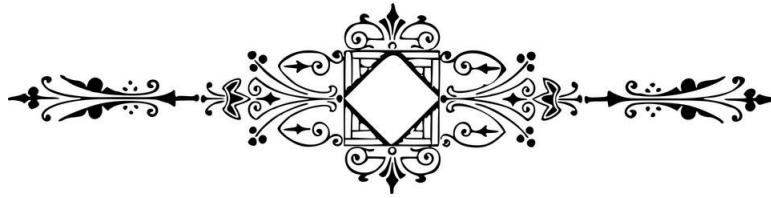
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Maria Werner-Wasik



Our Sincere Thanks

to the

Philadelphia Department of Streets

for installing this historical marker

on time in the aftermath of

Tropical Storm Ida

and the damage it caused in the city

including the epic flooding of the

Vine Street Expressway

Elzbieta and Zbigniew Chrzanowski

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Did you know?

*In 1997, Leopold Stokowski
appeared on a 32-cent stamp
as part of a commemorative
Conductors and Composers
collection.*



*Philadelphia Chapter
of the Kosciuszko Foundation*

Historical street markers cover different aspects of Philadelphia's history, much of it never taught in schools. They are informative memorials and a source of pride for their communities.

Having a historical marker dedicated to a renowned Polish composer, Leopold Stokowski, is especially inspiring to the members of our Polish community.

We are honored and privileged to join the Philadelphia Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation in unveiling of an officially sanctioned Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission marker to commemorate the achievements of Leopold Stokowski.

Elizabeth & Andrzej Gosek



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