86th Annual Fundraising

CELEBRATING LEGENDS OF POLISH MUSIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd, 2023
THE PLAZA, NYC
COME AND DISCOVER A MAGNIFICENT 1000 YEAR HISTORY OF JEWS IN POLAND

More than 3 million visits and 20 international awards, including for the best European museum in 2016.

Located on the site of the Warsaw ghetto and prewar Jewish neighborhood, POLIN Museum restores the memory of what was once the largest Jewish community in the world. At the heart of POLIN Museum is a multimedia narrative exhibition, a journey of a thousand years. Committed to democratic values and the building of a robust civil society, POLIN Museum recovers the historic diversity of Poland and stimulates dialogue in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.

*The most ambitious cultural institution to rise in Poland since the fall of communism.*
Rick Lyman, New York Times

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Dear Friends of the Kosciuszko Foundation,

This year, the Foundation celebrates the achievements of Polish music and recognizes two leading figures who helped shape its image and encouraged its worldwide appreciation. We honor with the KF Medal of Recognition a world-renowned jazz vocalist, Urszula Dudziak, and the General Manager of the Grand Theater – Polish National Opera, Waldemar Dabrowski. Let's celebrate together and raise funds for more successful educational and cultural programs for the year to follow.

The KF’s programs enable promising young leaders to study and conduct research at some of the most prestigious universities in the United States and Poland. Last year, we awarded a record amount of over $16 million in scholarships, fellowships, and grants. Over the years, KF educational programs have changed the lives of thousands of Poles, Polish Americans, and Americans – and helped to make history.

We recently expanded our online cultural programs offering. The initiative, which started with the covid pandemic outbreak, quickly proved that we could promote Polish science, arts, and culture to a broader audience. Thousands of people have viewed these programs on our YouTube channel (Kosciuszko TV.) At the same time, we invite our members and friend to in-person events held at the New York and Washington DC offices, as well as locally by KF Chapters.

Education is the core of our mission, but we also continue to help those struggling in times of despair. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, the KF has raised over $17 million for humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees. We provided power generators to Ukrainian schools. In collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, we donated specialized equipment to museums in Ukraine that allowed the proper storage of priceless artworks. We have also been supporting Ukrainian students and scientists.

As we say at the KF, “There is no force that could stop Kosciuszko.” We remain motivated to achieve more and solve today’s complex situations. We have ambitious plans for growth and development. In February, we presented our refreshed image and new website, www.thekf.org. We strive to improve communications with our supporters and unite our Polish American community. Finally, we are excited to announce that we are opening a new KF Chapter in Florida.

The Foundation’s programs and services are made possible thanks to individuals like you. Please contribute to our causes by making a donation and becoming a member. Thank you for joining us tonight and supporting the Foundation. I hope you will find the KF 86th Annual Fundraising Dinner & Ball a memorable experience.

Sincerely,

Marek Skulimowski
President and Executive Director

New York, April 22, 2023
Dear Mr. President,

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of the 86th Kosciuszko Foundation’s Annual Fundraising Dinner and Ball. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your constant contribution to the development of relations between Poland and the United States. I am glad the Kosciuszko Foundation has for years maintained effective and partner relations with the Consulate General. With optimism and enthusiasm we look forward to working with you in the future on building a positive image of Poland in America.

For years, the Foundation has been a significant actor of Polish-American intellectual, scientific, and cultural ties through exhibitions, concerts, and competitions, what bears a great impact on international promotion and understanding of Polish cultural heritage. Your support provided to various initiatives in those areas made a number of project successful and your scholarships holders and beneficiaries dreams achievable.

It was inspiring to observe in 2022 how the Kosciuszko Foundation responded to Russian aggression against Ukraine. Your actions and funds raised for humanitarian assistance for Ukrainians were yet additional proof of the deeply rooted values that drive your operations.

I was pleased to hear that this year’s Foundation's Medal of Recognition will be presented to Urszula Dudziak, a world-renowned Polish jazz vocalist, and to Waldemar Dabrowski, General Manager of the Grand Theater – Polish National Opera. The two honored have made great contributions to the spread of Polish cultural heritage around the world, continuing the work of the great past propagators of Polish culture, especially prominent Polish New Yorker Ignacy Jan Paderewski. Music stands in the center of the New York community from the cellar jazz clubs to world-acclaimed stages of MET, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. The achievements of the awardees enhance the Polish image within the New York community and help further talented musicians from Poland to present their talent to an American audience.

With such distinguished awardees and guests, I am convinced that this year's Dinner and Ball will be a great success. I am honored to be invited to take part in it and wish you and all attending a fantastic event.

Warmly yours all the best,

Adrian Kubicki
Consul General
April 22, 2023

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone as the Kosciuszko Foundation (KF) hosts its 86th Annual Fundraising Dinner and Ball.

New York rises on the foundation of generations of immigrants who crossed oceans seeking new freedoms and possibilities. I am enormously proud to lead a city with such a thriving population of Polish Americans who enhance every facet of life in the five boroughs. Established in 1925, KF is named in honor of General Tadeusz Kosciuszko, a Polish military engineer who designed vital fortifications and garrisons for the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. This wonderful organization is dedicated to promoting educational and cultural exchanges between the United States and Poland and increasing American understanding of Polish heritage. Tonight’s event will raise funds to advance its vital mission, which now includes assisting Ukrainian people impacted by the invasion of their homeland. I applaud KF’s leadership and supporters for their efforts to unite Polish New Yorkers and make a positive difference in our global city and beyond.

On behalf of the City of New York, I extend congratulations to this year’s honorees, Urszula Dudziak and Waldemar Dabrowski, who are being recognized for their contributions to the world of music. I offer everyone gathered my best wishes for an enjoyable evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

Eric Adams
Mayor
BALL PROGRAM

COCKTAIL HOUR
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

FANFARE TRUMPETS
USMMA Fanfare Trumpet Squadron, Kings Point, NY

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Barbara Bernhardt

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
Midshipmen from the USMMA, Kings Point, NY

THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS
AMERICAN AND POLISH
Alexandra Nowakowski, coloratura soprano

REMARKS BY
Alex Storozynski, Chairman
Marek Skulimowski, KF President and Executive Director

DINNER

PRESENTATION OF THE KF MEDAL OF RECOGNITION
Urszula Dudziak
Jazz Vocalist

Waldemar Dąbrowski
General Manager of Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera

STAGE PRESENTATION
Duo Karolina Mikołajczyk, violin, and Iwo Jedyniecki, accordion
F. Chopin - Nocturne op. 9 no 2
G. Bacewicz - O berek
W. Kostrzewa - The Hollywood Fantasy (mvt. 1)

Polish American Folk Dance Company
The presentation of the Polonaise - Mazur, followed by
Grand Polonaise with Guests

Dancing throughout the evening until 12:30 a.m. to the Gerard Carelli Orchestra
DO YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PLANNED GIFT CAN PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE FUTURE MISSION AND WORKS OF THE KOŚCIUSZKO FOUNDATION?

Planned Giving establishes a way for you to provide for your heirs while remembering the Kosciuszko Foundation. You may be able to leave more to your heirs and make a larger gift to the Foundation than you thought possible. A planned gift through a will, estate plan or another type of deferred gift such as one through an IRA or retirement fund, life insurance policy, or charitable trust gives you an opportunity to provide future support for the Kosciuszko Foundation as well as opportunities for short and long-term tax benefits. We encourage you to consult with a financial advisor, accountant, or attorney about structuring charitable giving in a way that best meets your philanthropic and financial goals.

Please contact our Development Office at 212.734.2130, development@thrkf.org or see your financial planner for more information.
DINNER MENU

APETIZER

BURATTA FROM PUGLIA
Sweet Tomato Confit, Chicories, Pesto Genovese, Black Olive Taralli

ENTRÉE

BRAISED SHORT RIBS
Creamy Grits, Crispy Potato Salad

Meatless option:
STRIPED BASS FILET
Olive Oil Crushed Potatoes, Grilled Asparagus, Ruby Red Grapefruit-Fennel Emulsion

DESSERT

BLACKBERRY LEMON PAVLOVA
Lemon Meringue Shards, Blackberry Semifreddo Kumquat Compote

WINE

WHITE WINE
Sauvignon Blanc, Domaine Paul Buisse Touraine, FR

RED WINE
Cabernet Franc, Domaine Paul Buisse Chinon, FR

Alternatives Available by Request
The Kosciuszko Foundation

salutes tonight’s Sponsors and Table Hosts for helping to make the Ball a success!

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In 1955 The Kosciuszko Foundation initiated an award meant to honor special friends who have significantly contributed to our mission of promoting cultural and intellectual exchanges between Poland and the United States.

Called the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition, the bronze medal was designed in 1955 by the Polish sculptor Tadeusz Sowinski. It features a bas relief bust portrait of Tadeusz Kosciuszko dressed as an American military hero with the distinguished Order of the Cincinnati pinned to his chest. Encircling the portrait are the famous words of Thomas Jefferson: “He was as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known.” On the reverse of the medal, bordered by the lamp of knowledge and wheat of internal inspiration we find the text: “The Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition for Distinguished Service to Polish and American Culture.”

Generally awarded during the Foundation’s Annual Ball, it is not awarded annually. The first award was made to Henry Noble MacCracken for his efforts in establishing the Kosciuszko Foundation. Others who have received the award were Eric P. Kelly, Artur Rubenstein, Oscar Halecki, Waclaw Lednicki, Kazimierz Wierzyński, Kazimierz Bulas, Lawrence L. Thomas and Francis J. Whitfield, the editors of the first Kosciuszko Foundation Dictionary, Leopold Stokowski, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Maria Kunczewicz, Arthur and Marion Coleman, Edward Smith, Robert Goldstand, Stanisława Malecka-Dymnicka, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jerzy Kozminski, Ann T. Mikoll, Michael G. Sendzimir, Archbishop Wesoly, Jack Radgowski, Edward Pinkowski, Van Cliburn, Ryszard Kapuscinski, Wanda Tomczykowa, Marta Eggerth, President Lech Walesa, Dr. Maria Siemonow, Rafal Olbinski, Coach Mike Krzewinski, Professor Frank Wilczek, Wojciech Ingłot, Justyna Kowalczyk, Juliusz Machulski and Martha Stewart, Lt. General Edward L. Rowny, Professor Stanley Wójcicki and Agnieszka Holland.

This year, the Kosciuszko Foundation Medal of Recognition is being awarded to Urszula Dudziak and Waldemar Dabrowski.
The two outstanding individuals honored by the Kosciuszko Foundation this year for their contributions to music represent two exceedingly snug worlds—that of a performer and that of a patron. Vocalist Urszula Dudziak, a veritable legend of Polish jazz, appeared on stage throughout her career with such iconic figures as Krzysztof Komeda, Adam Makowicz, Michał Urbaniak, Gil Evans, Archie Shepp and Lester Bowie. Likewise, Waldemar Dąbrowski’s admirable achievements as the leading patron of Polish culture began in the early 1980s, with his activities as music and theatre promoter in Warsaw, and were followed by his appointments as Minister of Culture and as Director of Warsaw’s Teatr Wielki. Throughout their lives and within their diverse careers, Urszula Dudziak’s and Waldemar Dąbrowski’s talents and traditions have occasionally come together to promote Polish music and culture worldwide.

Dudziak attained this noble goal through countless concerts and pioneering recordings while Dąbrowski’s prescient vision and generous support for great musical spectacles has touched audiences all across the globe.

Jazz music arrived in Poland already in the late 1920s, when Henryk Wars premiered his big-band inspired New York Times foxtrot for Warsaw’s fabled Nowe Perskie Oko cabaret club. Dudziak’s long list of jazz recordings continued the tradition of leading Polish musicians who have not only interpreted but also significantly contributed to the genre. Bronisław Kaper’s music is a perfect example: On Green Dolphin Street, Invitation, and San Francisco became universal jazz standards almost as soon as they were published in the United States. After leaving Hollywood to return to Poland in the mid-1930s, Kaper was also the 1st Polish to win an Oscar for his score to Lili in 1954, as the Minister of Culture Waldemar Dąbrowski built upon this tradition by sponsoring a special concert in Los Angeles for another Polish Oscar winner, Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, featuring music from his Finding Neverland (2004).

Showcasing Kaczmarek’s film music accomplishments not only highlights but also underlines Minister Dąbrowski’s exceptional contributions to film art in Poland, which included the founding of the Polish Film Institute under his auspices in 2005. Aleksander Tansman (who spent the years of World War II in Hollywood) is yet another Pole who contributed to the history of the Academy Awards, with his 1946 Oscar nomination for music in Paris Underground. Tansman’s meteoric worldwide career began in earnest in 1920 when Poland’s virtuoso and statesman, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, urged Tansman to move to Paris and helped him meet the leading artists and musicians active there. After twenty concert tours across the United States and fifty years of appearing on world’s stages, Paderewski was a household name and his recommendation carried a guarantee of future success.

Mindful of the proud history and traditions of Polish music, Minister Dąbrowski’s visionary leadership also imagined the National Chopin Institute, leading to a series of programs, exhibits, publications and festivals celebrating Chopin’s bicentennial in 2010. In recent years, the stewardship of Stanisław Moniuszko’s bicentennial—a task entrusted to him by the Polish Senate in 2019—led to wide-ranging celebrations of this great composer of vocal music. Under his helmsmanship, Warsaw’s Teatr Wielki continues to bring innovative stage productions to Poland’s premiere stage and embark on special projects. One such recent example is the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra’s performances throughout Europe and the United States, which paired the forces of the Polish National Opera/Teatr Wielki with those of New York's
Metropolitan Opera and generated proceeds to support Ukrainian artists in their hour of need.

Expanding the boundaries of vocal music through her singularly creative approach in jazz, folk, funk and soul, Urszula Dudziak’s long list of albums—Newborn Light, We’ll Remember Komeda, Urszula, Midnight Rain, Future Talk, High Horse, Magic Lady, Live at Warsaw Jazz Festival 1991, Malowany ptak, Forever Green, and Super Band Live, among others—testifies to her practically unlimited musical imagination. Her astounding vocal range reverberates on a multitude of releases featuring such legendary contemporary musicians as Jay Clayton, Bobby McFerrin, Jeanne Lee, Sting and Norma Winstone. Dudziak’s collaboration with Grażyna Auguścik on such albums as Kolędy or To i hola (that opens with their decidedly funky take on one of Moniuszko’s best-known songs), successfully blends traditional and folk melodies with jazz and fusion for a stylistically pleasing, inventive, and truly transformative approach. One of the best examples of Dudziak’s universal appeal is her song, Papaya, originally issued in 1976. Instantly beguiling and infectiously danceable, it became an international hit from Brazil to the Philippines and the United States.

That Polish music can transcend the world’s boundaries was already demonstrated across the centuries by a veritable galaxy of composers and performers from the Middle Ages to the present day. They performed at Europe’s royal courts, charmed poets, painters and politicians, transformed folk music into an internationally-recognized genre and, in more recent times, created an avant-garde movement that became the foundation for contemporary music all around the world.

Just as importantly, official patronage for the arts and music has had a long and distinguished lineage in Poland. It began in the late 1300s with King Jagiello’s sponsorship of Ruthenian artists who decorated the royal court’s public spaces. Bona Sforza, the wife of King Sigismond I, brought Italian architects and sculptors as well as musicians to Kraków in the 1500s. King Stanisław August brought Enlightenment-era artists from all across Europe to Warsaw, launched in 1773 the Commission of National Education (the first ministry of culture in the world), and presided over the promulgation of the Polish Constitution in 1791, only the second such document in the world after the American Constitution. When the name of Ignacy Jan Paderewski—whose unique legacy as pianist-performer, statesman-politician and arts patron-philanthropist—is added to this roster, it also becomes clear that today’s honorees, Urszula Dudziak and Waldemar Dąbrowski, in their respective roles proudly continue the longstanding tradition of carrying the torch for Polish music and culture around the world.
Urszula Dudziak's unique vocal range and innovative style have captivated audiences worldwide. In the 70s, she moved from Poland to New York. As a soloist in the famed jazz violinist Michael Urbaniak’s group, she toured USA and Canada. She has been featured as a major recording artist on over fifty albums (including labels such as Columbia, Atlantic, and Arista records). She recorded with the Gil Evans Orchestra, the Vienna Art Orchestra, Herbie Hancock, Jaco Pastorius, Marcus Miller, Bobby McFerrin, Sting, and others. Magazines such as Down Beat, Jazz Podium, and Jazz Forum featured her on their covers. Leonard Feather of the Los Angeles Times named her Female Jazz Vocalist of The Year 1979. The song “Papaya,” composed with Michael Urbaniak in 1976, became a hit and came back in 2008, gaining popularity in Asia, especially in the Philippines. The viral choreography known as Papaya Dance was featured on the American TV program Good Morning America.

Dudziak performed for two seasons in the Christmas musical “Bending Towards the Light” in New York alongside Lionel Hampton, Clark Terry, and Dave Brubeck, among others. The project premiered at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall. The album, recorded with the outstanding pianist Adam Makowicz, and released by Columbia Records, received a maximum of 5 stars in the review of the prestigious Down Beat magazine. She performed at the prestigious festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, dedicated to Thelonious Monk, and was featured many times on American television, including by the HBO channel. In 2012, she was a special guest of Quincy Jones at the festival Solidarity of Arts in Gdańsk, and a year later, at the same festival, she was a special guest of Bobby McFerrin.

Her autobiographical books “Wyśpiewam Wam Wszystko” (2012) and “Wyśpiewam Wam Więcej” (2018) became bestsellers. Her newest record, “Wszystko gra” is highly praised by critics and audiences. After a 30-year stay in New York, Urszula Dudziak returned to Poland and is currently traveling around the world doing workshops and concerts with her Super Band.

For her merits in the field of music worldwide, Dudziak was recognized with the National Endowment of the Arts in the United States Award, Medal for Merit to Culture - Gloria Artis, Order of Polonia Restituta, and was named the UNESCO Artist for Peace.
Waldemar Dąbrowski is a visionary leader whose pioneering initiatives led to advancing Polish culture and encouraged its worldwide appreciation. Graduate of the Department of Electronics at the Warsaw University of Technology, Waldemar Dąbrowski was awarded scholarships by The British Council, Goethe Institute, and the U.S. Department of State. He also completed the Executive Program for Leadership Development at Harvard University. As a student, he co-founded and then led the Riviera-Remont Club (1973–1978). Its guests included Michelangelo Antonioni, Julio Cortázar, Nikita Mikhalkov, Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Zanussi, and Krzysztof Kieslowski. These achievements resulted in Mr. Dabrowski being offered the position of Deputy Director of the Cultural Office at the Warsaw City Council, which he held from 1979 to 1981.

In 1982, with Jerzy Grzegorzwski, Dabrowski became a manager of the Studio Art Centre in Warsaw, a leading cultural institution. With Franciszek Wybranczyk, he also founded the reputed orchestra Sinfonia Varsovia. In 1990, he became Deputy Minister of Culture and Art and President of the Polish Cinematography Committee Board. He held this position for four years, carrying out a thorough reform of Polish cinematography. From 1994 to 1998, he was President of the Polish Agency for Foreign Investment (PAIZ), which was named the best among its European counterparts under his direction. In 1998, he became General Manager of the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera.

From 2002 to 2005, he was the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Poland. His most outstanding achievements include passing a cinematographic bill establishing the Polish Film Institute. In 2004, he set up the CHOPIN 2010 program. As the Minister of Culture, he founded the Book Institute in Kraków. He also established the Theatre Institute and the Audiovisual Institute in Warsaw. Moreover, he initiated the inclusion of cultural priorities in the operational programs of the National Development Plan for 2007–2013, which made it possible to launch over 200 new cultural investments in Poland.

In 2008, Mr. Dabrowski was reappointed as General Manager of the Polish National Opera. In 2010, in Munich, he was elected a member of the board of Opera Europa, an organization for professional opera companies in Europe. In 2012, the Minister of Culture appointed Mr. Dabrowski his representative for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. He is a recipient of numerous distinctions, including L’ordre de la Légion d’honneur and Commandeur des Arts et Lettres awarded by the French Government; Honorary Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire granted by Queen Elizabeth II; Großes Verdienstkreuz mit Stern und Schulterband awarded by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany; A Golden Gloria Artis Medal for Merit to Culture granted by the Minister of Culture of Poland.
Praised by Opera News for her “impassioned singing”, Polish-American coloratura soprano Alexandra Nowakowski returns to The Metropolitan Opera for the 2022-23 season to cover Barbara/Mrs. Latch in The Hours (Puts), Voce dal cielo in Don Carlo, and Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier. She rejoins the Brooklyn Art Society to sing Shostakovich’s Op. 79, and will present a solo recital at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona as a finalist in the El Primer Palau competition. She also joins the Embassy Series for a solo recital and Symphony in C for Mozart’s Exsultate jubilate, K. 165.

The Karolina Mikołajczyk & Iwo Jedynecki Duo is one of the most vibrant and innovative chamber ensembles of the young generation. Recognized by such musical icons as Maxim Vengerov and Krzysztof Penderecki, the Mikołajczyk-Jedynecki Duo are multiple winners of international music competitions across Europe. Their performances in New York’s Carnegie Hall, Guangzhou Opera House, and Warsaw Philharmonic were all sold-out engagements, and they have played a total of more than one hundred recitals in France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Georgia, United States, Cuba, Chile, China, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Brunei, and Thailand.

Critics uniformly praised the Duo’s performances as perfect, mature, yet luminous and filled with youthful vitality. Hailed by Maxim Vengerov as “an ensemble that sounds like one instrument,” the Duo brings completely new qualities and original interpretations to classical masterpieces, thanks to Jedynecki’s violin and accordion transcriptions. Both artists boldly venture into renowned works of chamber music literature, giving them new character and delightfully diverse coloring.

The Duo also collaborates with leading Polish composers, such as Marcin Blazewicz (Double Concerto for Violin, Accordion and Symphony Orchestra dedicated to Mikołajczyk and Jedynecki), Piotr Moss (performance of Opolian Concerto for violin, accordion, and orchestra in 2021), and Krzysztof Penderecki (Violin Sonata in the Duo’s arrangement received official approval from the composer in 2019). More: www.mikolajczyk-jedynecki.pl

Alexandra joined the roster of The Metropolitan Opera for the 2021-22 season; she sang Shostakovich’s Op. 127 with the Brooklyn Art Song Society, and as a recipient of the Beebe Fund fellowship spent several months in Poland to record her debut album of all Polish music, KRAINA.

A highly successful competitor, Ms. Nowakowski was recently awarded First Prize in the Opera Columbus Cooper-Bing Competition, the Partners for the Arts Competition, the Marcella Sembrich International Voice Competition, the Kosciuszko Foundation Competition, and is a winner of the 2019 Astral National Auditions. She is a First Prize winner of the Gerda Lissner Foundation Competition and the Violeta DuPont Competition. Ms. Nowakowski holds an Artist Diploma from AVA and a Bachelor’s degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

More: www.alexandranowakowski.com
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<td>September 22, 2023</td>
<td>Parade Banquet</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>VENETIAN in GARFIELD, NJ</td>
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<td>October 1, 2023</td>
<td>Parade Mass</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>ST. PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL - NEW YORK, NY</td>
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<td>October 1, 2023</td>
<td>Parade Breakfast</td>
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<td>October 1, 2023</td>
<td>Pulaski Day Parade</td>
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