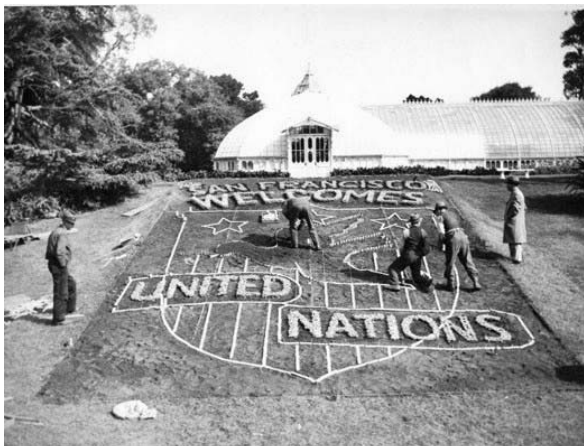


In the spring of 1945, just before the war ended, Rubinstein gave a recital at San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House for an audience that included many of the delegates who had assembled to create the United Nations. "A long range of multicolored flags represented the nations which had convened for the historic act of signing the charter," Rubinstein recalled. "I tried to find the Polish flag but there was no sign of it." After he had played "The Star-Spangled Banner," which was required at the beginning of all war-time public events in the United States, "a blind fury took hold of me," he said. "I addressed the audience in a loud, angry voice: 'In this hall where the great nations gather to make a better world, I miss the flag of Poland, for which this cruel war was fought.' And now I shouted, 'I shall play the Polish anthem. . . . I played it with a tremendous impact and very slowly and repeated the last phrase with a big resounding forte. The audience stood up as one man when I finished and gave me a great ovation.'" The story is "authentic," said Nela Rubinstein, who was present, and she added that "Poles all over the globe were moved" by her husband's gesture.

Source: Harvey Sachs, Donald Manildi: *Rubinstein: A Life*. Grove Press, 1995



Rubenstein on Symphony Finale

The 33rd season of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra will close with two performances of the orchestra with Artur Rubenstein, pianist, as guest artist, on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening in the Opera House. Rubenstein will play Beethoven's

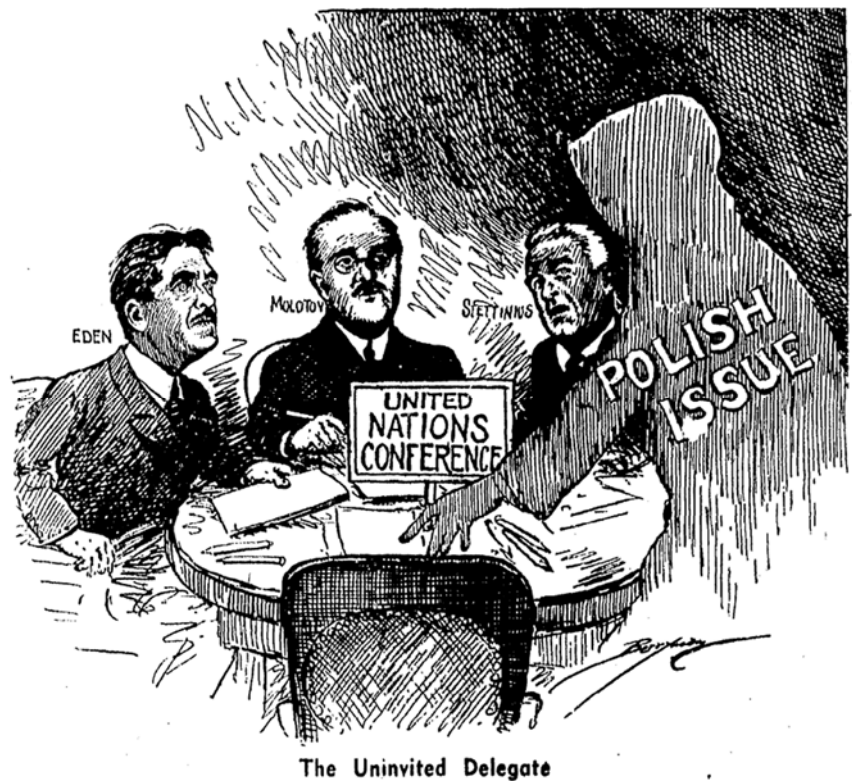
Concerto No. 3 in D minor with the orchestra. Conductor Pierre Monteux also has scheduled selections from Suite No. 6, Bach-Wood; "The Afternoon of a Faun," Debussy; Suite Protee, Milhaud, and Cesar Franck's Symphony in D minor.

Date: Sunday, May 13, 1945 Paper: San Francisco Chronicle (San Francisco, California) Page: 43
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HIGHLIGHTS: ☒ rubinstein; San Francisco; opera find

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t work of all kinds.
modern, will represent
that exist or have ex-
of the United Nations.
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roughout the country.
esday. Two days later

TWO CONCERTS today and one Wednesday night provide the entire music schedule for the coming week. Artur **Rubinstein** will give a piano recital this afternoon at the **Opera House** under the auspices of California Concerts. He will not use a printed program, but will



The Uninvited Delegate

Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco 1945

**Representatives of the
Polish government in exile
were not allowed to participate in
the founding conference of the
United Nations**

Vacant Chair

One notable omission appears in the list of 44 nations invited to take part in the United Nations conference at San Francisco. No invitation was extended to Poland.

The Polish government in exile has been fighting alongside the United Nations and as one of them for the duration of the war.

The affairs of Poland now are in such shape that the Polish problem may come before the conference for consideration. The Polish settlement is yet to be worked out.

That may be one reason why Poland was not invited to sit in the conference. It is more satisfying to think so than to conclude that the managers of the conference, having decided to ignore the problem, would find the presence of a Polish delegation embarrassing.

History of the Empty Chair: A Conference in San Francisco and the Polish (1945-1946)

ALEKSANDER BREGMAN

DZIEJE PUSTEGO FOTELA

KONFERENCJA W SAN FRANCISCO I SPRAWA POLSKI
(1945-1946)



A VERY EARLY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE HOLOCAUST ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED NATIONS. Jan Karski-Kozielecki, a Polish Government emissary in occupied Poland, bribed his way into a German concentration camp and witnessed the mass extermination of Jews. The report was written in 1942 and printed in 1943 on behalf of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the hope that the civilised world will draw the appropriate conclusion, the Polish Government desires to bring to the notice of the public, by means of the present White Paper, these renewed German efforts at mass extermination, with the employment of fresh horrifying methods.

"Artur Rubinstein... was invited to the inauguration of the United Nations in San Francisco and was asked to play in the San Francisco Opera House...

since among the flags he did not see that of Poland, he began his concert with the Polish national anthem."

1945



Honorable Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.,
Secretary of State,
Hotel Fairmont,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Absence of Poland, a charter member of the United Nations, from the San Francisco Conference, indicates that the International Organization intended for the preservation of future world peace is being constructed on a very shaky foundation. Such a structure, with the tomb of Poland as its cornerstone, cannot endure. "Pax Americana," the only hope of mankind, must not be based upon injustice. Victory, achieved through sacrifice of our sons on the battlefields of the world, dare not be rendered futile by a new policy of appeasement at this Conference.

It is evident to all that the fate of the heroic Polish nation has become a test case of the sincerity and strength of our American policy. For that reason, the silence of the United States delegation on the absence of legal representatives of Poland at this Conference has aroused our apprehensions. This silence permitted the delegate of Soviet Russia to take upon himself the role of a false "defender" of Poland. With unequaled cynicism, Mr. Molotov praised the merits and sacrifices of the Polish nation, recalling the appalling losses suffered by Poland in her struggle with our common enemy. The only purpose of his oratory was to obtain an invitation for a fictitious Polish delegation, composed of Russian puppets. There is no doubt that the "Lublin-Warsaw Provisional Government" of Poland is an agency of the Soviet Government and therefore committed to the destruction of the independence of the Polish nation through ruthless persecution of her people.

Because no voice has been raised at the San Francisco Conference which would tell the world the whole truth about the methods employed by Soviet Russia in those parts of Europe occupied by the Red Army, and particularly in Poland, we consider it our duty to restate certain basic facts which

Another rejection of the proposal to invite Poland appears inevitable, with the majority of delegations lined up solidly behind Britain and America.

A short documentary film about Rubinstein's historic concert in San Francisco in 1945

18 June 2015
Concert "A Tribute to Arthur Rubinstein"

Message by Mr. Michael Møller
Director-General, a.i. of the United Nations Office at Geneva
United Nations Under-Secretary-General

A Tribute to Arthur Rubinstein
Concert on the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations

Thursday, 18 June 2015 at 18:30
Assembly Hall, A Building, 3rd Floor – Door A15

Ambassador Henczel,
Ms. Rubinstein,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Office at Geneva for this exceptional concert paying tribute to one of the greatest piano virtuosos of the 20th century, Arthur Rubinstein. I would like to thank the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland and the Arthur Rubinstein International Music Foundation for making this event possible. We owe a special thanks also to Mr. Marek Drewnowski for treating us to some of the best loved pieces by Frédéric Chopin that convey so much of Poland's musical identity, and which were particular favourites of Rubinstein.

If there ever was a classical musician that could be related to the United Nations origins, Arthur Rubinstein was definitely the one. Performing at the historic conference in San Francisco where the United Nations Organization was established, Arthur Rubinstein not only displayed his performing talents, but also his political awareness and sense of justice when standing up for Poland, his beloved home country.

From the original 51 founding members, including Poland, the Organization has grown to become a truly world entity of nearly 200 states. Seventy years later, the quest for world peace, justice, and rights for all still continues. This year's anniversary is a major landmark for the United Nations on their way to a better world, as proclaimed in the United Nations Charter.

On our path, we have achieved many milestones: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with the promise of dignity and fulfilment for every individual; General Assembly resolution 1514, granting independence to colonial countries and peoples, which put on the map of the world dozens of countries in Africa and Asia. The Organization today is a foremost stakeholder in ensuring sustainable development.

These treasured musical pieces we will be treated to tonight, are a fitting tribute to the momentous pianist who was there at the birth of our Organization. Let this wonderful music inspire us to be faithful to the original aspirations of the United Nations' founding fathers, for our Organization to continue to serve both present and future generations.

Thank you.







Thursday 18 June 2015
at 6:30 p.m.
Palais des Nations
Assembly Hall, A Building, 3rd floor, Door 15

Concert

**A tribute to
Arthur Rubinstein**
on the occasion of the **70th** anniversary
of the **United Nations**



 United Nations

San Francisco, 2015



