

Belfast to Celebrate Polish Culture

March 27, 2009

Today launched 'Polska! Year' at the Ormeau Baths Gallery in the presence of Barbara Tuge Erycinska, Polish Ambassador to the UK, and Belfast Lord Mayor Tom Hartley.

The event will run during the month and will embrace an eclectic mix of Polish culture — the arts, heritage and language.

The aim is to promote Polish culture in the city and to help integrate the two communities.

Events include a Varsovia Piano Trio concert and there will be seven songs by Fryderyk Chopin featuring Irish musicians, including Fiona Flynn (soprano), Mark Guinn (tenor) and Gerry Doherty (piano). The venue is St Anne's Cathedral on Friday May 8.

There will also be a display of printed politics of Poland in the PS2 Gallery in Donegall Street from May 6-16, and an exhibition of Polish sculpture, film, video and other arts, showing off the work of 13 Polish artists — venue Ormeau Baths Gallery, May 7 to June 6.

Then on May 21 at the Ormeau Baths Gallery, there will be an international banquet to celebrate the diversity of cultures in Belfast, with food from the various cultures.

And on Saturday May 23, there will be a 'classroom' style talk on the differences between the Poles and the Northern Irish people, again at Ormeau.

A Saturday Arts Club for Kids will also run during the festival.



L to R: Mr Jerome Mullen – Hon. Consul for the Republic of Poland in Northern Ireland, Mrs Carmel Hanna MLA, Mrs Anna Lo MLA, H.E. Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecinska – Ambassador for the Republic of Poland in the United Kingdom, Ms Cecilia Whiteside – Hon. Consul for Portugal in Northern Ireland, Mr Milan Mladek – Hon. Consul for the Czech Republic in Northern Ireland, Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland