

Hi everyone!

It's time for PART 2 of "Famous Polish People ". This time, let`s explore the world of music! In the below list you`ll find a great classic and a black metal band side by side, one of which I'm sure well known to many people in Japan! This short list of 5 is not a ranking!

1. Frederic Chopin (1810-1849)

Without any doubt, Chopin is the best known Polish musician and most probably also the most famous Pole in Japan whatsoever. Born in the 19th century Poland he was forced to emigrate to France. It is often said that a lot of Chopin's works are highlighting the composer's strong feelings for native Poland and in this sense are very patriotic. Chopin's music is also very poetic, romantic and intense, thus, he is often called *the Poet of the Piano*. Just as much his music. Founded in 1927 and held every 5 years in Warsaw the International Chopin Piano Competition has also a lot of fans among Japanese.

2. Ignacy Paderewski (1860-1941)

Paderewski was a Polish pianist, composer and important politician in one. His piano talent was admired all around the world, Paderewski toured many countries including France, United Kingdom and United States. Before the World War I he became a spokesman for Polish independence, and when Poland in 1919 had finally regained it he became the country's Prime Minister, and later Foreign Minister.

3. Krzysztof Penderecki (1933 -)

Penderecki is one of the greatest Polish living composer and conductor. He became internationally famous after releasing the *"Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima"* in 1960. He composed a variety forms of classical music such as operas and symphonies, as well as instrumental concertos and choral works, however, some of his music was also adapted to film soundtracks. In 2012 he gave a performance with an orchestra at famous *Open`Er* rock festival.

4. Radzimir Dębski (1987-)

Known also as Jimek, he is a young composer, conductor and a music producer. He got international recognition when he won a contest for the best remix for one of the songs of superstar Beyonce. He became even more popular after he performed famous hip hop hits in classical settings with an orchestra. Extremely talented, young, handsome and with great fashion style, no wonder he is very popular among women.

5. Behemoth (band)

It might come as a surprise, but the music of black metal band Behemoth is arguably the second most popular Polish music after Chopin's! Formed in 1991 by charismatic leader Adam Darski, better known as Nergal, the band has been successful for many years all over the world. Behemoth visited Japan as a part of their tour on few occasions, every time filling with crowd massive venues sites.

I hope this short introduction will encourage you to have a try and listen to the one of the artist from the today's list. To be honest, there are few more world renowned Polish musicians, like for example jazz players or film music composers, I'll try to present them some other time.