

The aim of the research is to write a cultural history of the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition – one of the oldest and the most important music competitions in the world. Because of lack of literature about the competition, which consists only of reports and personal memories, the project tries to establish a new historical and theoretical perspective that will include cultural studies and sociology of music. The research will take into consideration: motives of establishing the competition, reasons why it gained reputation and sustained its position, artistic and non-artistic factors shaping the form of the competition (politics understood narrowly as activity of officials and people of power, and broadly – as all kind of regulations applied to the event) and ideological discussions generated by the competition (universalism vs national particularism, artistic freedom vs artistic purism, experts' judgment vs opinions of music lovers, gender politics). Library and archives queries will provide the sources of different kind: written materials (program books, brochures, festival newspapers; regulations, voting cards and reports of the jury; state documents and data about the competition; press materials, critics reports, interviews with jury members and competitors; memoirs of competitors and jury members; blogs) visual materials (photos, posters, advertising materials, tv broadcasts) and sound materials (radio and CD recordings, radio broadcasts, interviews with competitors and jury members) that will be useful for analysis of the particular editions of the competition. Synthesis in a form of a monograph in Polish, English and Japanese and series of articles will not only contribute to the development of knowledge on the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition but also on the political and social context of art.