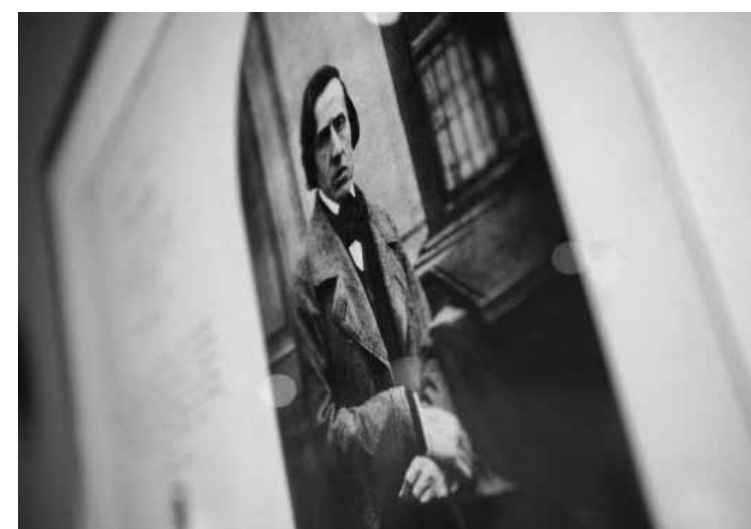




CHOPIN'S PIANO: A John Broadwood and Sons piano played by Polish musician Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) during four concerts. It is displayed as part of the "Chopin, the European" exhibition and series of recitals held from March 9-June 6 in honour of the bicentenary of Chopin's birth. OLIVIER LABAN-MATTEI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



CHOPIN: A daguerreotype of the famous composer is displayed as part of the "Chopin, the European" exhibit, part of a worldwide celebration this year. OLIVIER LABAN-MATTEI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

(Top Right) NEW MUSEUM: The Ostrogski Palace in Warsaw now houses a museum dedicated to composer Frederic Chopin. JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

# Chopin celebrated around the world

By SHARON KILARSKI  
Epoch Times Staff

The pride of Poland and a symbol of its struggle for independence, Frederic Chopin composed piano works which cannot be mistaken for those of any other.

In most major cities around the world, you can find concerts celebrating the artist who helped link

the classical and modern periods. March 1 marked the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Throughout the year, Kings Place in London is presenting the composer's entire body of works in a series of 12 concerts under Director Martino Tirimo. The second phase of this three-part series, "Chopin Unwrapped," will play until March 14.

Also, through March 14, Paris is holding an exhibit and some 15 piano recitals, called "Chopin l'Europeen," organized by Cite de la musique and the Warsaw Chopin Institute.

Washington, D.C. is celebrating in a different way. The Ambassador Theater will present the D.C. premiere of "Summer at Nohant," a romantic comedy about Chopin

and his beloved George Sand. Under the direction of Hanna Bondarewska, the play has Sand bring Chopin and other artists together at her retreat in Nohant.

For those who would like to celebrate closer to home—that is, in your living room, many recordings have anticipated the event as well. "The Romantics" presents Lara Downes on the piano in an

exploration of both Chopin and Samuel Barber—it is the 100th anniversary of his birthday this year as well.

Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin, who made his mark at the age of 12 by playing Chopin's piano concertos, has released a 5-CD box set "Kissin Plays Chopin" (RCA Red Seal).

Those who prefer a variety of art-

ists can look to the album Sony Classical released, "Frederic Chopin 200th Anniversary." It has five CDs, each recorded by master pianists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Lastly, those seeking the full Chopin experience can travel to Warsaw where the Ostrogski Palace opened a museum dedicated to Chopin on March 1.

# 'Gaza Photo Album' a stark depiction of a war torn Middle East

By GENEVIEVE LONG  
Epoch Times Staff

The long and sometimes dramatic narrative of the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians is often defined by either human strength or human suffering. In noted photographer Kent Klich's book, "Gaza Photo Album" released in early 2010, we get a sense of the same old story, but told in a unique voice.

Klich, who visited the Gaza Strip just after Operation Cast Lead was over in February 2009, captured haunting images of homes ravaged from weeks of fighting between Hamas and the Israeli military.

Aside from a brief narrative on the politics of the conflict in the introduction and conclusion of the book, Klich manages to let his photographs speak for themselves.

The small book looks like a family photo album and fools passers-by into picking it up and leafing through it for personal photos.

In the time that it sat on my office desk, more than one colleague was interested in my "photo album." But the reaction to the photos was uniform shock, and eventually recognition of what they were looking at.

The photos in the thin volume show the innards of a number of homes in the Gaza Strip thrown into total chaos from the fighting. They include images such as rooms without windows, displaced furniture, bullet holes, rubble, torn mattresses, and dust.

In almost every shot there is the omnipresent dust of the Middle East. It forms a thin film on top of household objects and floats in rooms exposed to the outdoors through missing walls and windows.

The pictures are a bit easier to relate to on a human level than typical images from that corner of the world. Instead of angry Palestinians or Israelis in uniform, there is nothing to consider but empty, disrupted homes.

One of the most haunting images is of a charred bathroom with nothing but a red cup and a bouquet of red plastic flowers.

Each photo of a family home is accompanied by a small caption with the name and occupation of the homeowner and their family, the number of family members, how the house was damaged, any who died, and the home's location in the Gaza Strip.

The starkness of Klich's photographs, which he took in cooperation with fact finders from the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, speaks for themselves, regardless of one's personal political opinions about the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The book was published by Umbrage Editions in New York, and is available online at Amazon.com.

Kent Klich's photo from Tuffah, Gaza Strip, taken on March 3 shows an abandoned home. UMBRAGE EDITIONS



## Notes on music

THE WINNERS: London Mayor Boris Johnson (C) holds a guitar as he stands with competition winners Chris Read (L) and Jamie West at London Bridge Underground Station in London. The Mayor has launched this year's competition to find London's best public musician or busker. The winners were given a one-year license to busk on London's Underground network. PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

## Asian art auction nets over \$3 million

By JACK PHILLIPS  
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—Doyle New York's Asian Works of Art auction on Monday yielded sales of over \$3 million dollars in a single day.

One of the highlights of the day was the sale of a 6-inch tall Chinese jadeite incense burner for over \$1 million to a buyer from China.

The burner dates back to the 19th century which has carvings of two lions around a flaming pearl, according to Doyle, which is located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Many called in from other countries and used the Internet to make bids but were bested by the "overwhelmingly Asian audience in the salesroom," noted the

auction house.

All of the pieces except one that were auctioned off were of Chinese origin and one was from Tibet. One of the lots in the auction included two late 18th century to 19th century 41-inch tall bronze statuettes that were sold as a set for \$230,500.

Another auction included two Chinese celadon jade table screens which were sold for nearly \$200,000. One of the screens shows a scholar viewing a mountainous landscape while the other depicts bats circling around a fruit tree while a vase emits vapor above rocks and water.

The auction house said that their original estimate for the auction was somewhere around \$946,150-\$1,375,950.



SOLD: A 6-inch tall Chinese jadeite incense burner that sold for over \$1 million on Monday in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. (Courtesy of Doyle New York)