



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**Message from Ms Irina Bokova,  
Director-General of UNESCO  
on the occasion of the gala concert  
“Akuratnie jak w Poznaniu. Fyrtel u Ceglorza”**

**Poznan, Poland, 5 October 2013**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to congratulate all participants of this celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of Hipolit Cegielski on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Folk Dance Ensemble, *Poligrodzianie*.

I wish to thank the Poznan University of Technology for organizing this Gala Concert at the Rail Vehicles Factory, under high patronage of the First Lady of Poland, Mrs Anny Komoroskiej, the National Commission of Poland for UNESCO the Governor of Wielkopolska Voivodeship, Marshal of the Wielkopolska Voivodeship and the President of Poznan.

With this Gala Concert, we celebrate the wealth of Poland's cultural heritage and its significance for societies across the world. We pay tribute also the depth of Poland's commitment to safeguarding and promoting its heritage and that of other countries, as belonging to the history of all humanity. This commitment and Poland's expertise were recently displayed at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, with an exhibition entitled 'Poland for World Heritage.'

This celebration marks forty years of creation by the award-winning Folk Dance Ensemble *Poligrodzianie*, which has travelled the world to share Poland's rich living heritage. Over forty years, *Poligrodzianie* has become one of Poland's most esteemed cultural ambassadors, bringing messages of mutual understanding and respect through the power of traditional music and dance. These same goals guide

UNESCO's work to safeguard and promote cultural heritage as a source of strength and belonging, as a pillar on which to build inclusive and sustainable development.

This Gala Concert is an opportunity also to pay tribute to Hipolit Cegielski, a great 19<sup>th</sup> century humanist, social activist and businessman, and to his contribution to Polish culture. Renowned for his achievements in the fields of linguistics, poetry, technology and education, Hipolit Cegielski left a lasting legacy on the city of Poznan, by creating the city's first independent newspaper and thanks to the manufacturing company that bears his name. The bicentennial of his birth is a moment to renew our commitment to the values of freedom of expression and the free flow of information.

In this spirit, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you all a most enjoyable Gala Concert.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Irina Bokova". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Irina Bokova