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#### THE FORTUNES OF FRYDERYK CHOPIN’S HEART

This article presents the complicated fortunes of Fryderyk Chopin’s heart, from the composer’s death to the present day. It summarises the current state of knowledge and the authors’ own research. Preliminary library and archive searches enabled the authors to systematise the chronology of events and verify historical accounts.

A number of questions are addressed in the article: the composer’s wish for his heart to be laid to rest in Poland, the organ’s transportation from Paris to Warsaw, the heart’s deposition in the Church of the Holy Cross, the funding of the church monument and its successive modifications, the events that occurred during the Warsaw Uprising, the post-war return of the heart from Milanówek and the circumstances surrounding the heart’s inspection in recent times.

That approach to our subject enabled the authors to present the heart as an historical object and a national relic, which at various times in history has also been the object of political-propaganda manipulation.