



A Great Pianist

—1904—

There was a time when there was a piano in every room of Hadley's Orient Hotel. Pianos were once the height of entertainment. And pianists were revered.

Known worldwide, Ignacy Jan Paderewski was a legend: a talented pianist and composer, politician and spokesman for Polish independence.

When he arrived in Hobart, whistles and applause erupted from the crowded wharf as soon as the great pianist was spotted on the steamer's deck. He was met by more adoring fans when he arrived at Hadley's.

Tall and handsome with golden-red hair, Paderewski was immensely popular. He was a charismatic, passionate self-made man who spoke several languages and was widely regarded as a genius.

In Hobart, Paderewski gave a concert to a full house at Town Hall, captivating the audience with his poetic playing.

The other guests at Hadley's were enamoured with him. According to one of them, Musical Professor Franklin Peterson, "Everyone who is privileged to come within his circle, or to have the slightest acquaintance with Paderewski falls victim to his fascinating personality, ... I don't believe that even Chopin himself could have played his big works as Paderewski plays them..."¹

After concerts all over the world, including several fundraising concerts during World War I for Polish war victims, Paderewski returned to Poland as a hero and was made Prime Minister for a short time before returning to be a pianist.

References:

'Paderewski at Hobart', *The Age*, Mon 3 Oct, 1904, p.5

'Paderewski in Hobart', *The Age*, Sat 1 Oct 1904, p.13

'Arrival of Paderewski', *Daily Telegraph*, Sat 1 Oct 1904, p.5

Ignacy Jan Paderewski, *Kennedy Centre*, <https://www.kennedy-center.org/artists/p/pa-pn/ignacy-paderewski/>

Ignacy Jan Paderewski, *Steinway*, <https://www.steinway.com/artists/ignacy-jan-paderewski>

¹ 'About Paderewski', *The Mercury*, Sat 1 Oct 1904, p.2