



THE ASSOCIATION OF THE POLISH KNIGHTS OF MALTA UK
Registered Charity No 1102122



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The Investiture Ceremony

H.R.H The Duchess of Kent

APKM UK medal "Pro Tuitio Fidei Et Obsequium Pauperum"

The Chairman of The Association of the Polish Knights of Malta UK

Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM KCSG

Your Royal Highness, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman

It is a great honour and a privilege for me to present the **PRO TUITIO FIDEI ET OBSEQUIUM PAUPERUM** gold medal on behalf of the Association of the Polish Knights of Malta UK to Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent.

The Duchess of Kent was born at Hovingham Hall, Yorkshire as the fourth child of Sir William Arthington Worsley, 4th Baronet, Lord-lieutenant of North Riding, and his wife Joyce Morgan Brunner.

She started her education at Queen Margaret's School in York and continued at Runton Hill School in North Norfolk. At school, she was first introduced to music and learned to play the piano, organ and violin. In her final year at Runton Hill, she was formally elected music secretary; in this role, she organised school recitals in Norwich.

It is here that her great passion for music was born, influencing, in a beautiful and profound way, not only her life but the lives of many for whom she later made musical education possible.

After completing Miss Hubler's Finishing School in Oxford, where she devoted much of her time to music, the Duchess worked at St Stephen's Children's Home in York. There she tended not only to children in need of care, but also to orphans, taking in her stride the more menial tasks around the home. The children loved to hear her singing as she went

about the home. The empathy and patience with which she treated these youngsters made it clear that Duchess's vocation lay in this direction.

In the 1990s, the Duchess devoted herself to teaching and took up a position as a music teacher at a primary school in Hull. Amazingly, the children were unaware of her identity, which meant she could carry out the work she loved without intrusion. Teaching was an experience that made the Duchess realise the power of music and the impact it can have on children, giving them confidence and self-belief. Nothing can better describe the Duchess's real passion for teaching than the fact, that, despite initially retiring from teaching, the Duchess returned to the profession part-time at a primary school in 2017.

The Duchess is president and patron of many charities, including The Samaritans, Age Concern, Cancer Appeal Macmillan Fund and Helen House Hospice for Children. In 2004, she set up her own Foundation with Nicholas Robinson to enable young people with musical gifts to fulfill their potential.

Future Talent was established in the belief that music acts as an incredibly powerful tool that develops self-confidence, essential when pursuing not only a musical career, but also backgrounds to flourish is realised step by step by a dedicated team, who provide guidance, advice and support to both the young musicians and their families.

The Foundation has created opportunities and transformed lives of many musically gifted children from low-income backgrounds across the UK.

It is difficult to imagine a biography better aligned with the values upon which the idea of the APKM UK medal was founded.

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilisation, was established in 1113 with the mission of "***defending the Faith and humble Service of the Poor***" (*Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum*). It operates a broad spectrum of social projects that provide constant support for forgotten or excluded members of society.

A major part of the work of the Association of the Polish Knights of Malta in the United Kingdom has been centered around musical projects. The annual ***Carol of The Bells*** concert at St Clement Danes RAF Church has established itself, over the last 10 years as a one-of-a kind event in London, bringing together Polish and English carol-singing traditions.

On a day-to-day basis, our Cadets, are involved in various volunteering projects, such as an "*Afternoon Tea*" where they frequently organise small concerts for the elderly, bringing them comfort and joy.

It can be said that the Duchess, through her Future Talent Foundation, and APKM UK work at two ends of the same spectrum. The Duchess makes it possible for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop their musical talents and APKM UK engages young people to bring music to the elderly, helping them fight loneliness and feelings of exclusion.

In both cases, music works as a tool that unleashes beautiful emotions, bringing people together in a very special way.

We are delighted that this shared understanding of music's influence on people's lives has gathered us together in this very special occasion, where we can present the medal to HRH, The Duchess of Kent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Marek Stella-Sawicki'.

Dr Marek A. Stella-Sawicki MBE KM KCSG

Chairman, Association of Polish Knights of Malta UK
Visiting Professor UCL
Chairman, Polish Heritage Society UK (PHS UK)
Chairman, Institute of Polish Military History (IPMH)

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