



Taste of Polonia

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC & FOOD



LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2026 SEPTEMBER 4 - 7

TASTE OF POLONIA FESTIVAL 2026

	THEATER STAGE	TRIBUTE STAGE	KIDS ZONE
FRIDAY 9/4	5:00pm Grand Opening of Festival 5:30pm Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra - Open Rehearsal 7:00pm Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra - Poland Remembered 8:15pm Chicago Stories: Legendary Blizzards* (WTTW) 9:15pm Chicago Stories: Iconic Foods* (WTTW)	5:00pm The Polkaholics Polka Band 6:30pm The PriSSillas Classic & Alternative Rock 8:30pm Pink Talking Fish Pink Floyd, Talking Heads & Phish Tribute	5:30pm Zootopia Movie* 7:30pm Zootopia 2 Movie*
SATURDAY 9/5	12:00pm Pianoforte* 1:30pm ABC Dance Academy 2:45pm Oberek & Co. Polish Folk Dance Lesson 4:00pm Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble 4:15pm DISCOVER CHICAGO: Iconic Foods; Local Flavors; Culinary Traditions*(WTTW) 4:40pm Polanie Song & Dance Ensemble 5:30pm Alexis Archer - Princess of Polonia Concert 7:00pm FEEL 9:00pm ØRGANEK	12:00pm The Wonderers 1:15pm Polka Generations Polka Band 3:00pm Fuze Santana Tribute 4:45pm The Fortunate Sons Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute 6:30pm Neverly Brothers Rock 'n' Roll Tribute from Elvis to The Beatles 8:30pm Hi Infidelity 80s Rock Tribute	12:30pm Junior Jam 1:30pm Gen Ki Karate 2:00pm Egg Races w/ Prizes 2:30pm Taste of Polonia @ O'Hare: Ornament Workshop 3:15pm Minute to Win It Games 4:00pm Małopolska Bead Necklace Workshops 4:30pm Limbo 5:00pm The SpongeBob Movie*
SUNDAY 9/6	11:00am Holy Mass 12:00pm Chopin Choir 12:45pm Ballet Folklorico de Chicago 1:15pm DISCOVER CHICAGO: Hidden Places; Curious Traditions; Local Legends; Strange Mysteries* (WTTW) 1:30pm Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company 2:00pm Chicago Cubs: The Heart and Soul of Chicago* 3:45pm Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company 5:00pm Tribute to Violetta Villas Concert 6:00pm July Trio Concert 7:30pm Mlynn Sea Shanties 9:00pm MICHAŁ WIŚNIEWSKI ACOUSTIC	12:00pm Keith Stras and Polka Confetti Polka Band 1:15pm School of Rock House Band Showcase 2:45pm No Turn on Red Funk & Brass Fusion 4:30pm CTA Chicago Tribute 6:15pm The Wayouts 60's Garage Rock 8:30pm The Phil Collins Experience Phil Collins Tribute	12:30pm Hoppers Movie* 2:20pm Dzika Fitness Dance Workout 3:00pm Małopolska Bead Necklace Workshops 3:30pm Storytime with Jefferson Park Chicago Public Library 4:00pm Magical Myster AJ 4:45pm Egg Races w/ Prizes 5:00pm The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*
MONDAY 9/7	12:00pm Chicago Stories: Bear Crazy: How the '85 Bears Captured Chicago* (WTTW) 1:00pm Polonijna Orkiestra Chicago 2:00pm Juchasi Highlander Dance Group 3:00pm Mellow Honey Concert 4:30pm Paid Vacation Concert 6:00pm MICHAŁ WIŚNIEWSKI ACOUSTIC 8:00pm ØRGANEK	12:00pm Eddie Wojcik Tribute Band Polka Band 1:30pm Johnny Russler & The Beach Bum Band Rock, Reggae, Surf, Calypso 3:30pm Horizon Soul, R&B, Motown, Funk, Rock 5:30pm 28Days Rock, Pop, Country, TOP 40 7:30pm Slippery When Wet Bon Jovi Tribute	12:30pm Dance Party 1:30pm Gen Ki Karate 2:15pm Egg Races w/ Prizes 2:45pm Limbo 3:00pm Dance and Sing like a Highlander with Juchasi 3:30pm Dzika Fitness Dance Workout 4:00pm Taste of Polonia @ O'Hare: Ornament Workshop 4:30pm Minute to Win It Games 5:00pm Elio Movie*

* Movie in English

AVAILABLE ALL DAY/EVERY DAY (ANNEX):

Patricia Art Studio, directed drawing, photo booth, puzzle station, origami, tic tac toe station, scavenger hunt
DIY: Superhero masks, bracelets, fridge magnets, pinwheels, games & activities and much much more!!!

ART EXHIBITS

Copernicus 550 – Provided by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland In Chicago
Chrobry. Life and Works - Provided by the Museum of the Origins of the Polish State in Gniezno
Polonia In Illinois: a Powerful Presence - Provided by Polish Daily News and PAC-IL
Visit Małopolska – Provided by Małopolska Tourism Organization
Everyday Art – By young artists from the Patricia Art Studio



MOTORCYCLE SHOWS:

Golden Riders Globe of Death
Fri: 6:10pm, 8:10pm
Sat: 2:35pm 4:20pm 6:10pm 8:10pm
Sun: 4:10pm 5:50pm 8pm
Mon: 3:10pm 5:10pm 7:10pm

FREE OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS:

Mini Golf, Golden Riders Globe of Death, Chess, Checkers, Cornhole, Connect 4, Ping Pong, Ring Toss Game

CASINO

Sat – Mon 2pm - 8pm

Free Parking & Polonia Express Shuttle

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Copernicus Center
5216 W Lawrence Ave,
Chicago





Taste of Polonia 2026

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LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2026
SEPTEMBER 4 - 7
FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY



Taste of Polonia begins Friday, Sept. 4

The annual Taste of Polonia festival will be held Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Sept. 4 to 7, at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave.

The festival's hours will be 4:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday.

Tickets are \$10 on Friday and \$15 per day for the rest of the festival, with a \$45 4-day pass available. Tickets are required for those age 12 and older.

The fest will include three stages, with more than 50 performers, along with mini-golf, a casino, a scavenger hunt, motorcycle

shows, kids' activities, more than 40 merchants, and classic Polish food and beer.

The scheduled bands include the Phil Collins Experience, Pink Talking Fish, Slippery When Wet, Neverly Brothers, The Wayouts, CTA and The Fortunate Sons.

The year's fest will be "cashless," except at admissions and the casino. Credit cards, debit cards and mobile payments will be accepted.

Free parking and express shuttles are available at the Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave.

For ticket information, visit www.topchicago.org.

Experience Polish culture and traditions

Immerse yourself in Polish traditions and culture this Labor Day weekend from Sept. 4 to 7.

The Taste of Polonia Festival Chicago is a celebration of Polish culture, heritage, music and Old World cuisine attracting large crowds every Labor Day weekend.

The first festival was held in 1980 and has now become one of the largest Polish festivals in the United States.

For four days, you can enjoy a true cultural experience that includes nonstop live music, dance performances, authentic Polish food

and beer, exhibitions, local merchants, a Kids Zone filled with activities for the whole family, and much more!

Whether you are Polish, Polish-American, or simply curious about European culture, the Taste of Polonia Festival Chicago offers a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

It's more than a food festival — it's a celebration of identity, music, history and community in the heart of Chicago.

Come once, and this Chicago Labor Day festival will be a tradition you'll want to repeat every year.



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History of the Taste of Polonia Chicago

The first "Taste of Polonia" festival was a far cry from the multiple entertainment stages and wide range of food options that now attract 30,000 to 40,000 visitors annually to the Labor Day weekend event.

"It was a fundraiser, and it was basically a band, pull tabs ... one Polish restaurant and no stage, just a riser," Copernicus Foundation chairman Hubert Cioromski said of the first Taste of Polonia in 1980.

Nowadays the festival attracts people from around the country. People come and make it a weekend in Chicago, Cioromski said.

The foundation, which was founded about 55 years ago, purchased the former Gateway movie theater at 5216 W. Lawrence Ave. in the late 1970s, and converted it to a performing arts and cultural complex, where the festival is held each year.

Initial plans had called for a restaurant and banquet service to be part of the complex, but the foundation eventually focused its efforts on preserving the 1,900-seat auditorium, which was built in 1930 and features an atmospheric ceiling.

Elvis Costello, Yes and Kansas are among some of the more famous rock artists who have performed there in addition to cultural shows that reflect the diversity of Chicago itself. The festival remains an important element of the foundation's fundraising efforts, which support the maintenance and management of the building and the foundation's charitable endeavors.

The festival has attracted former U.S. presidents Barack Obama, when he was a U.S. Senator, and George H.W. Bush, when he was the sitting president. A communications center was set up at an adjacent building in the event of a national emergency while Bush was at the festival, and there was a helicopter waiting not far away in the event the president had a medical issue.

"Every (Illinois) governor's been here," Cioromski said.



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COOKOUT



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