Press release  
Warsaw, 18.08.2020

**The Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival –**

**musical explorations continue**

**2.08 – 3.09.2020**

**Concert Pavilion**

**Grochowska 272, Warsaw**

**Less-known arrangements of classics, musical retrospections, and the presence of Sinfonia Varsovia’s close musical companions, conductor Jerzy Maksymiuk and French pianist Alexander Kantorov - all of this will happen during this week of the 20th Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival. The program features music inspired by nature, park and street soundscapes, an orchestral version of Claude Debussy’s prelude, as well as Frederic Chopin’s *Piano Concerto No. 2 in F* minor arranged for piano and string quintet. The events will take place on 18, 20, 22**, **and 23 August in the Concert Pavilion at Grochowska 272.**

Piotr Peszat’s *Plants Concerto with Pianosong* will treat you to a combination of chamber music with electronics and bioelectrical activity of plants. The composition which, in a way, allows plants to speak, will premiere during the third Experimental Tuesday (18.08, 8 PM) alongside the Cracow-based Spółdzielnia Muzyczna contemporary ensemble. The concert, inspired by the work of Jonathan Harvey, will illustrate the processes that happen inside of plants and make them a part of the performance. Jagoda Szmytka’s *Electrified memories of bloody cherries*, a sonic journey through the Polish Borderlands inspired by the artist’s childhood memories, the poetry of Czesław Miłosz, and other cultural references, is another part of the repertoire. In her piece, Szmytka looks into the past and travels through places from her memory, following a map which she drew herself - a graphical score. Matthew Shlomowitz’s *Jazz in the Park*, a part of the *Popular Contexts 7: Public Domain Music* series, will present an ironic look at nature in urban space by combining street sounds with jazz. Carola Bauckholt’s *Laufwerk* is a humorous piece full of references to movement. The concert will end with a metaphorical return to the primordial forest represented in Norwegian composer’s Øyvind Torvund’s *Neon Forest Space*.

Musical retrospections and historical contexts of Sinfonia Varsovia will also be a large part of the Thursday orchestral concert (20 August, 7 PM). The evening will feature a rarely-performed version of Claude Debussy’s *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair* for string orchestra, prepared for the Polish Chamber Orchestra by Jerzy Maksymiuk. Memories of Yehudi Menuhin, violin virtuoso and the first guest conductor of Sinfonia Varsovia, will surely be refreshed by Andrzej Panufnik’s *Violin Concerto*, commissioned by the violinist in 1971. The composition, inspired by Polish folklore and full of nostalgia, showcases the soloist’s mastery through long cantilenes accompanied by a string orchestra and alludes to Mehunin’s ties with Poland. The solo part will be performed by Sinofnia Varsovia’s concertmaster, Jakub Hufa. In addition, the program features Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 2 in D major*. Sinfonia Varsovia will be conducted by Maestro Maksymiuk himself.

The upcoming Family Morning on August 20 (11 AM) will take you on a journey to a world of fantasy, the forest kingdom of birds, and the Far East through the music of Michał Lorenc, a brilliant film composer. This part of a series of story-driven concerts for children aged 4 to 9 will allow audience members to get to know the sounds of unusual instruments from other continents and cultures. The DesOrient ensemble, which specializes in film and ethnic music, will play instruments including bamboo flutes, the Indian santur and goblet drums, the African cajón and bendir, and many more. A story with elements of pantomime will be presented by Joanna Płóciennik from the Body Art Theater and host Tomasz Grabowski.

The chamber concerts on August 23 (12 noon and 4 PM) played by the Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet and Alexander Kantorov, piano prodigy and winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition, will be full of virtuosity and folklore inspirations. Kantorov began his artistic career at 16 when he played with Sinfonia Varsovia at La Folle Journée. This time Kantorov, sometimes called “a reincarnation of Liszt” and “the young czar of French piano music”, will play with a chamber ensemble made up of Sinofnia Varsovia’s concertmasters and section leads. He will perform Chopin’s *Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21* arranged for piano and string quintent by Kevin Kenner. The program also features miniatures inspired by Polish folklore from Lutosławski’s Five Folk Melodies and *Quintetto per archi* by Krzysztof Pendercki, Sinfonia Varsovia’s former artistic director. The last piece is dedicated to Sinfonia Varsovia’s string quintet.

The following weeks will feature even more premieres. The program includes, among others, Bassem Akiki’s *Huis Clos* and new work by Paweł Romańczuk from Small Instruments. The festival will end with the specially commissioned *Concerto Varsovia* by Wojciech Kostrzewa.

The Franciszek Wybrańczyk Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival is an event for all Warsaw locals. The anniversary edition features several concerts per week for the entire month of August, all of them taking place in the Sinfonia Varsovia Concert Pavilion.

For more information, go to [sinfoniavarsovia.org](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/poznaj-nasze-wydarzenia/sinfonia-varsovia-swojemu-miastu/).

Tickets (10-20 PLN) are available at [sinfoniavarsovia.org](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/poznaj-nasze-wydarzenia/sinfonia-varsovia-swojemu-miastu/), [ebilet.pl](https://www.ebilet.pl/muzyka/festiwale/festiwal-sinfonia-varsovia/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIuI-Js4be6gIVB9-yCh1B3wA6EAAYAiAAEgIoyfD_BwE) and at the box office right before the concert.

For detailed rules and regulations in force at the festival, go to this [link.](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/warunki-uczestnictwa-w-koncertach-sinfonia-varsovia-swojemu-miastu/)

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