

Online festival in tribute to Krzysztof Penderecki

19–21 December 2020 at 8 p.m.

YouTube & Facebook

Between 19 and 21 December Sinfonia Varsovia will organize a festival dedicated to Krzysztof Penderecki. The concerts held over those three days will include performances of works by master Penderecki as well as Beethoven and Panufnik. The guests will include Mariusz Wilczyński, a director awarded with the Golden Lions Award at the Gdynia Film Festival for the film *Kill It and Leave This Town*, Tomasz Konieczny, a renowned opera singer, and Joanna Kravchenko, who will play the traditional Chinese instrument erhu. The orchestra will be conducted by Maciej Tworek, and the musicians will also perform in smaller chamber ensembles and as soloists. The events will be preceded by Jacek Hawryluk's discussions with the guests. The concerts will be streaming on the orchestra's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

This March saw the passing of Krzysztof Penderecki, one of the greatest composers as well as the long-time director and friend of Sinfonia Varsovia. In order to honour his memory, Sinfonia Varsovia organizes the online festival "Penderecki. Sinfonia Varsovia in tribute to the Master" in partnership with The Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music in Luślawice. Between 19 and 21 December, the orchestra conducted by Maciej Tworek together with its guests will perform pieces from various periods of Penderecki's work. The concerts will be streaming online on the orchestra's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

The festival will start on 19 December at 8 p.m. with *Double Concerto for flute, clarinet and chamber orchestra* by Krzysztof Penderecki, performed for the first time by Sinfonia Varsovia with solo parts by Andrzej Krzyżanowski (flute) and Radosław Soroka (clarinet). The work is a rendition of *Double Concerto for violin, viola and orchestra* from 2012 and preserves the idea of the dialogue between the two solo instruments and the orchestra. The next piece will be *Sinfonia Elegiaca (Symphony No.2)* by Andrzej Panufnik, which was written in protest to the atrocities of World War II. The concert will close with Penderecki's *Cello Concerto No. 1* from 1972, a period when a faint echo of sonorism could still be heard in his works. The piece is an example of partnership between the cello and the orchestra with no trace of the "competition" implied in the form of the concert; the solo part will be played by Marcel Markowski. The last two performances will be accompanied by live animations created by Mariusz Wilczyński, who has received the Golden Lions Award for the animated film *Kill It and Leave This Town* at this year's Polish Film Festival in Gdynia.

The second day, starting on 20 December at 8 p.m., will be dedicated to two orchestra pieces by Krzysztof Penderecki. Together with soloists Tomasz Konieczny (baritone) and Joanna Kravchenko (erhu), Sinfonia Varsovia will perform *Symphony No. 6 "Chinese Songs"*, a piece inspired by Chinese poetry from a later, lyrical period of the composer's career. The next piece that will be performed,

Symphony No. 2 "Christmas Eve", marks the composer's turn to the Romantic tradition and includes references to the carol *Silent Night*.

The third and final day of the festival, 21 December from 8 p.m., will consist of performances in smaller ensembles, including a duet and a sextet, as well as a string orchestra. The concert will open with *Entrata*, a fanfare-like piece for brass instruments and timpani. After that, the audience will hear a string version of Penderecki's *Agnus Dei* from *A Polish Requiem*, a monumental piece that took 26 years to compose. The third performance will sound as an intimate dialogue between a violin and a double bass. *Duo concertante*, played by Jakub Haufa (violin) and Michał Sobuś (double bass), was born from the composer's artistic friendship with the world-renowned violinist, Anne-Sophie Mutter. The clarity characteristic for Penderecki's pieces will be exemplified by his *Sextet for clarinet, horn, string trio and piano*, which will be interpreted by the members of the orchestra: Karol Sikora (clarinet), Krzysztof Stencel (French horn), Stanisław Podemski (violin), Adam Siebers (viola), Piotr Mazurek (cello), along with their guest, Agnieszka Kozło (piano). The next piece, the orchestral *intermezzo Adagietto from "Paradise Lost"*, was composed to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the United States. The composer's last work performed at the festival will be *Sinfonietta per archi*, which he dedicated to Sinfonia Varsovia. The event will close with *Allegretto* from Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*.

Each concert will be preceded with Jacek Hawryluk's discussions with the guests starting at 7 p.m.

For more information visit: www.sinfoniavarsovia.org

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