Press release, 28 June 2021

**The Franciszek Wybrańczyk**

**Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival**

**29 July – 2 September**

**Grochowska 272, Warsaw**

**The 21th edition of the Franciszek Wybrańczyk Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival goes ahead with 21 concerts. From 29 July to 2 September, Warsaw’s Praga-Południe district will host a summer feast of music. The artists will take listeners on a sentimental journey to pre-war Warsaw and the far corners of both Americas. The soloists and conductors who will accompany Sinfonia Varsovia's musicians include Szymon Nehring, Jerzy Maksymiuk and Aleksandar Markovic.**

The summer concerts will take place four days a week in the Concert Pavilion at 272 Grochowska Street. Thursdays will showcase orchestral works performed by Sinfonia Varsovia and invited guests. The festival will open with music by Astor Piazzolla, a composer from Argentina. The program of the following concerts will revolve around different cultures. It will also refer to local Polish traditions, offering some unusual repertoire combinations. On 5 August, we will hear Mieczyslaw Weinberg's *Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes*, while a week later Olga Rusin will perform the soprano parts in Karol Szymanowski's *Kurpie Songs* and Lucian Beria's *Folk Songs*. On August 19, Antonín Dvořák's *American Suite* *in A major* will take us back to the other side of the ocean, and on August 26, the highlight of the evening will be the performance of Wojciech Kilar's *Orawa* led by Jerzy Maksymiuk. In the closing concert of the Festival, the orchestra led by Aleksandar Markovic will return to Romantic traditions. The program will include Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5 in E minor*, Op. 64 and Frederic Chopin's *Piano Concerto* *in F minor*, Op. 21 with Szymon Nehring, recipient of many prizes at the most prestigious piano competitions, as the soloist.

Festival Sundays are entirely devoted to chamber music. The program will feature Sinfonia Varsovia’s musicians, both those who play together in ensembles such as the Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet or the Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet as well as those who will join forces especially for the Festival. The five afternoon concerts at 4 PM will showcase a diverse repertoire – from folklore-inspired pieces by Antonín Dvořák (8.08) to the jazzy Claude Bolling (29 September). Warsaw songs from the pre- and post-war period (1 August) will give audience the vibes of the capital city, and the mystical *Quartet for the End of Time* by Olivier Messiaen (15 August) will encourage inward reflection.

Each year the Family Mornings become more popular thanks to the Sinfonia Varsovia’s educational activities. This time the young audience will be guided through the world of classical music by friendly Little Basil, a co-host of the concerts and the protagonist of the educational miniseries *Little Basil at Sinfonia Varsovia*. The Family Mornings will revolve around Warsaw, the orchestra's instruments, and the natural world. The meetings with the Warsaw dragon take place every Saturday (11 AM).

Experimental Tuesdays, a series of new music concerts curated by Wioleta Żochowska, offers an unusual opportunity to hear how the generation of young composers deal with tradition and modernity. Performers include Vilnius-based Contemporary Music Ensemble Synaesthesis (03 August), Ensemble Kompopolex (10 August), Hashtag Ensemble (17 August), Flow Unit 3 (24 August), and Sinfonia Varsovia Camerata (31 August). The artists will explore such themes as solitude, the merging of the real and virtual worlds, and the body-sound relationship.

The Festival is also accompanied by the *Sinfonia Varsovia in scale* exhibition featuring a unique acoustic model of the largest concert hall in Poland, which is to be built at 272 Grochowska Street. The exhibit is on view near the Concert Pavilion. The Festival will also include two side events: the *Brighten Up* (*Rozchmurz się*) performance and the *Living Green* (*Żywa Zieleń*) parade by the Body Art Theatre. You can also visit our open-air café.

Tickets go on sale on 1 July. Normal and reduced tickets, priced at 10–30 PLN, are available at e-bilet.pl, in Sinfonia Varsovia's office from Monday to Friday (10 AM to 3 PM) and one hour before each concert.

For more information, please visit our [website](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en) and [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/sinfoniavarsovia/).

Media sponsorship for the Franciszek Wybrańczyk Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival:

Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival: Onet.pl, Gazeta Wyborcza

Experimental Tuesdays: Glissando, Polmic

Family Mornings: Miastodzieci.pl, Czas Dzieci

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