Warsaw, 12 October 2021  
Press release

**“Kamionek 1901”   
New edition of  
Sinfonia Varsovia Plays Chamber Music**

**23 October, 24 November, 15 December 2021**

**Sinfonia Varsovia  
Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

**Warsaw**

**This fall, Sinfonia Varsovia Plays Chamber Music will take on the name *Kamionek 1901* and modify its usual programming. The three events of the series will refer in different ways to the title, which is the place and date of establishment of Sinfonia Varsovia’s current headquarters, and the repertoire will include pieces by rarely performed composers. The first concert will be held outside the Orchestra's headquarters and will feature larger ensembles – a string orchestra and a choir. The events will take place on 23 October at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (16 Nobel Street), and on 24 November and 15 December at the Sinfonia Varsovia’s Rehearsal Room (272 Grochowska Street).**

Sinfonia Varsovia Plays Chamber Music is a concert series featuring small ensembles made up of Sinfonia Varsovia musicians. Each event introduces audience members to background information on the composers and featured works. The annual series takes place from October through April. The *Kamionek 1901* title refers to the date of founding of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine, where the Orchestra’s current home is located. The program of the fall series explores the historical and cultural contexts of this space.

The year 1901 brings the audience back to the times of the Partitions when Warsaw was ruled by the Russian administration and the Tsar was the official head of the Kingdom of Poland. It was the time when the development of the city took place under imposed rulers, such as Sokrat Starynkiewicz, a man of merit for Warsaw. A concert on **23 October (8 PM)** at the **Catholic Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help** **(16 Nobel Street**) will take us back into this difficult, ambiguous, and often repressed past with the spiritual music inspired by the Orthodox tradition.

The series will be held from 14 October through 28 October, which are the days when Pokrov is celebrated in Eastern Orthodox churches. Pokrov is referred to as the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God, which, along with Pascha, is one of the most important feast days on the Orthodox calendar. The highlight of the evening will be **Sir John Tavener's *Protecting Veil* for cello and strings (Warsaw premiere)**,a piece inspired by the feast of Pokrov. Award-winning cellist **Marcin Zdunik** will be accompanied by 30 musicians of Sinfonia Varsovia led by orchestra concertmaster **Jakub Haufa** and the Choir of the Metropolitan Orthodox Cathedral of St. Mary Magdalene conducted by the Reverend Protodeacon Sergiusz Bowtruczuk. The concert will be hosted by Łukasz Strusiński. This is a non-ticketed event.

The concert on 24 November (7 PM) at Sinfonia Varsovia’s Rehearsal Room (272 Grochowska Street) will showcase the pieces by Young Poland composers from the turn of the 20th century, including Grzegorz Fitelberg, Karol Szymanowski, and Apolinary Szeluto, who are juxtaposed against the music by representatives of the older generation, including Władysław Żeleński, Zygmunt Noskowski, and Eugeniusz Pankiewicz. The performers include **Adam Siebers** (violin), **Mateusz Doniec** (viola), **Marcel Markowski** (cello) and **Łukasz Chrzęszczyk** (piano). The first part of the evening will feature pieces for chamber ensemble: **Noskowski's Piano Quartet in D minor, Op. 8** (selection), **Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 10** (selection) and **Fitelberg's Sonata No. 2 in F major, Op. 12** for violin and piano, as well as **Szeluto’s Sonata in F major Op. 9 for cello and piano** (selection). The evening will close with a selection of piano mazurkas by Żeleński, Pankiewicz, Szymanowski, and Alexander Scriabin. The concert will be hosted by Łukasz Strusiński.

The final evening of the series will take place on **15 December (7 PM) at the Sinfonia Varsovia’s Rehearsal Room**. Including **Camille Saint-Saëns’s *Carnival of the Animals*** in the program is a playful reference to the former uses of Sinfonia Varsovia’s current headquarters, where veterinary students learned their trade. The humorous suite was arranged by Andreas N. Tarkmann for wind quintet and percussion and complemented by animal-themed miniatures by several other composers. The piece will be performed by Piotr Kostrzewa (percussion) and the Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet made up of Andrzej Krzyżanowski (flute), Arkadiusz Krupa (oboe), Radosław Soroka (clarinet), Piotr Kamiński (bassoon), and Henryk Kowalewicz (French horn). The concert will be narrated by actor Grzegorz Feluś. The complete version will be presented on the eve of the centenary of Saint-Saëns's death.

Admission to the concert on [23 October](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en/events/sinfonia-varsovia-plays-chamber-music-kamionek-1901-october/) (8 PM, 16 Nobla Street) is free. Tickets priced at 10 PLN for the events on [24 November](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en/events/sinfonia-varsovia-kameralnie-kamionek-1901-november/) (7 PM, 272 Grochowska Street) and [15 December](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en/events/sinfonia-varsovia-plays-chamber-music-kamionek-1901-december/) (7 PM, 272 Grochowska Street) will be available two weeks prior to the concert via our website ([www.sinfoniavarsovia.org](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en)) and one hour prior to the concert.