Warsaw, 6 December 2021  
Press release

***Sinfonia Varsovia. Chamber Way*  
– the new album of the orchestra’s chamber ensembles**

**“Warsaw’s classics in a chamber edition”**

**release date: 10 December 2021**

**Three chamber ensembles from Sinfonia Varsovia take us on a sentimental journey into the past of Poland’s capital together with some of its finest artists. The new album entitled *Sinfonia Varsovia. Chamber Way* will be available for purchase and on streaming platforms from 10thDecember. It will include a selection of music written by Varsovians or for Varsovians over more than a century – *Highlanders’ Dances* from Moniuszko’s *Halka*, the most brilliant works of Lutosławski, Panufnik, Bacewicz and Weinberg, as well as cabaret songs by Henryk Wars and Czesław Niemen’s song *Sen o Warszawie* (“A Dream About Warsaw”).**

Sinfonia Varsovia’s strength lies in its musicians, who thrive not only in a symphonic orchestra setting but also as soloists and in smaller ensembles. Their latest album, *Sinfonia Varsovia. Chamber Way*, showcases the greatest abilities of the orchestra’s chamber ensembles. Following *Sinfonia Varsovia Brass* (Warner Classics 2017) and *Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet* (Warner Classics 2019), this collection includes records from the Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet, the Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet and the Sinfonia Varsovia Brass.

Warsaw was an obvious choice of inspiration for an orchestra that is both aware of its international renown and proud of belonging to the local community. The picture of the city wouldn’t be complete without its history, so the album includes music from the interwar period, works created in the perilous times of the occupation, and pieces by contemporary Polish composers. This repertoire allows the ensembles to display their talents in all their glory, and so the listeners will have the opportunity to get to know the light-hearted and energetic side of the Sinfonia Varsovia Brass, the humour and subtlety of the Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet, as well as the fresh and luscious interpretations from the Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet.

The Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet performs two war-time compositions for string quartet: the touching *Aria* and the playful *Capriccio* by Mieczysław Wajnberg, a Varsovian of Jewish descent, who composed them in the Soviet Union after fleeing the Nazis. The ensemble is then joined by the instrumentalists from the Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet in the witty and folk-inspired *Dance Preludes* by Witold Lutosławski.

The Wind Quintet proposes its own interpretation of fragments from *Halka* byStanisław Moniuszko – the *Highlanders’ Dances*, which were written especially for the staging of the opera in Warsaw’s Grand Theatre that went down in history as the start of the composer’s brilliant operatic career. The musicians of the Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet also recorded two pieces which combine youthful energy with the ambience of slow movements. The first work is from 1932 and was composed by Grażyna Bacewicz, who at the time of writing it was fresh out of the Warsaw Conservatory (and would later rise to the heights of the craft, paving the way for other female composers); the second is *Quintetto Accademico* composed by Andrzej Panufnik in 1952 when he was already a mature composer, just before he emigrated from what was then the Polish People's Republic.

The album is compositionally framed by recordings from the Sinfonia Varsovia Brass. They open with the *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* by Lutosławski, a work that used to be performed on two pianos in Warsaw’s cafés during the German occupation, and close with Czesław Niemen’s immortal song about Warsaw as well as a jazz medley of modern film soundtracks and the greatest hits of the interwar period by Henryk Wars, who himself composed over 60 Hollywood film scores.

The album *Sinfonia Varsovia. Chamber Way* will be available at the price of 30 PLN from 10th December in [Sinfonia Varsovia’s online shop](https://sinfoniavarsovia.org/sklep/) and on streaming platforms.

**Tracklist:**

1. **Witold Lutosławski** *Variations on a Theme by Paganini* (1941, arr. by Roger Harvey) [05'39'']

wyk. Sinfonia Varsovia Brass

**Andrzej Panufnik** *Quintetto Accademico* for Flute, Oboe, Two Clarinets and Bassoon(1952, rev. 1956)

1. I. *Quasi preludio* [01'40'']
2. II. *Old Polish Triptych* [06'41'']
3. III. *Postlude* [01'36'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet, Karol Sikora – clarinet

1. **Mieczysław Weinberg** *Aria* for String Quartet,Op. 9 (1942) [03'45'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet

1. **Mieczysław Weinberg** *Capriccio* for String Quartet, Op. 11 (1943) [06'20'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet

1. **Stanisław Moniuszko** *Highlanders' Dances* from *Halka* (1858, arr. by Piotr Kamiński) [04'27'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet

**Grażyna Bacewicz** *Quintet for Wind Instruments* (1932)

1. I. *Allegro* [02'53'']
2. II. *Air. Andante* [02'41'']
3. III. *Allegretto* [01'14'']
4. IV. *Vivo* [02'22'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet

**Witold Lutosławski** *Dance Preludes* for 9 instruments (1954, new arr. 1959)

1. I. *Allegro molto* [00'58'']
2. II. *Andantino* [02'28'']
3. III. *Allegro giocoso* [01'17'']
4. IV. *Andante* [03'16'']
5. V. *Allegro molto* [01'37'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia String Quintet, Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet

1. **Henryk Wars** *Wars Medley* (pieces from 1935–1938, arr. by Miłosz Gawryłkiewicz) [04'52'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia Brass

1. **Czesław Niemen** *Sen o Warszawie* (1966, arr. by Roger Argente) [03'49'']

perf. by Sinfonia Varsovia Brass