Warsaw, 10 February 2022  
Press release

**García García, Marković and Sinfonia Varsovia  
– a celebration of the Orchestra's 38th birthday**

**Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera**

**pl. Teatralny 1, Warsaw**

**7 March, 8 PM**

**This spring, Sinfonia Varsovia is celebrating its 38th birthday. As every year, the Orchestra and the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera invite you to come and join us to celebrate our birthday. The anniversary concert will feature Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor with Martín García García as soloist, Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 4 in D minor, and Krzysztof Penderecki's *Chaconne* from his *Polish Requiem*. Sinfonia Varsovia will be conducted by Aleksandar Marković. The event will take place on 7 March at 8 PM at the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera.**

This year’s birthday is extra special, as we celebrate the anniversary of Sinfonia Varsovia’s predecessor – the Polish Chamber Orchestra. It was founded exactly half a century ago, in 1972. Conducted by charismatic Jerzy Maksymiuk, the ensemble quickly earned international recognition, which resulted in multiple recordings and concerts with world-class soloists in Poland and abroad. In 1984, when Yehudi Menuhin arrived on an invitation from Franciszek Wybrańczyk and Waldemar Dąbrowski to conduct the Polish Chamber Orchestra, it became necessary to expand the chamber ensemble to perform the symphonic repertoire. This is how Sinfonia Varsovia was born. The success of the first concert tours determined the ensemble’s decision to operate on a permanent basis.

The program of this year's birthday concert will include masterpieces of 19th, 20th, and 21st century orchestral music rooted in Romantic aesthetics. The evening will open with Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 Op. 30, which will display pianistic virtuosity and lyricism of pianist Martín García García, a third-prize winner of the recent Chopin Competition. His interpretation of the aforementioned piece brought the versatile 25-year-old artist the first prize at the last year's Cleveland International Piano Competition.

The program will also feature Krzysztof Penderecki's sorrowful *Chaconne* from his *Polish Requiem*, dedicated to the late John Paul II. The concert is a tribute to the outstanding composer and conductor, who died two years ago. He was the music director and artistic director of Sinfonia Varsovia for more than half of its history. The concert will close with Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Op. 120, which the composer withdrew in his youth and returned to it shortly before his death. It is a suspenseful composition in which even the more joyful passages seem to gravitate towards the restless passion from the piece's slow introduction.

For more information about the concert, please follow [this link](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en/events/anniversary-concert-sinfonia-varsovia-aleksandar-markovic/). Tickets priced at 30–110 PLN on the [Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera website](https://butik.teatrwielki.pl/rezerwacja/numerowane.html?ter_id=2174&ter_idt=b94073a8f3bf832349205660f4036410&extid=4909&wiz_id=81&lang=en).