Warsaw, 26 July 2023  
Press release

***Symbols of Life* – August events of   
the** **Interactions/Integrations project**

**Norway: Bru, Stavanger, Valle (2–5 August 2023)**

**Poland: Warsaw (11–13 August 2023)**

**Sinfonia Varsovia, together with partner K&M Fest, has curated a series of five chamber concerts and a dance party for the audiences in Norway (2–5 August) and Poland (11–13 August) as part of the Interactions/Integrations project. The August module of the project, „Symbols of Life,” offers a unique perspective on the relationship between humans and nature through the traditional and artistic music of Poland and Norway. Admission to all events is free.**

The program of six events is inspired by **folk music**. The repertoire will feature the compositions of Grażyna Bacewicz, Fryderyk Chopin, Edvard Grieg, Mieczysław Karłowicz, Stanisław Niewiadomski, Johan Svendsen, Mieczysław Weinberg, as well as international composers like Caccini, Dohnányi, de Falla, Haydn, Kodály, Mozart, Sibelius, Skoryk, Vasks, and Ysaÿe. Additionally, there will be Polish and Norwegian traditional music played on authentic folk instruments. The performers include musicians from Sinfonia Varsovia and artists from the K&M Fest in Stavanger.

**Poland: Polish-Norwegian Dance Meeting and Chamber Concerts**

In Warsaw, the weekend of 11-13 August will start with a Polish-Norwegian dance meeting in the Concert Pavilion of Sinfonia Varsovia, located at 272 Grochowska Street. On Friday, **11 August at 7:00 PM**, there will be an evening of live music and dancing led by professional dancers. The musicians from the Polish folk band **Napięcie** will be joined by **Gunnar Stubseid**, the legend of the *hardingfele* – the traditional Norwegian violin, to play traditional Polish and Norwegian folk music for dancing. Dance steps will be taught by Bogumiła Zgorzelska (Polish Academy of Traditional Dance) and Dominik Wóltański (nObroty). This event is part of five [**Dance Meetings on Grochowska Street**](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en/our-events/dance-meetings/) (21 July – 18 August).

On Saturday, **12 August, at 5:00 PM**, the concert will take place in the courtyard of **282 Grochowska Street** (entrance next to the Nancy Lee restaurant). The ***Music in the Courtyards*** concert will feature a trio of young musicians from Sinfonia Varsovia – **Karolina Gutowska** (violin), **Julia Iwanciw-Gąsior** (violin, viola), and **Mateusz Błaszczak** (cello). On **13 August**, they will be joined by a trio of Norwegian musicians: **Laurens Weinhold** (violin), **Nikita Khnykin** (piano), and **Gunnar Stubseid** (*hardingfele*). This concert will take place at **5:00 PM in the Rehearsal Hall of Sinfonia Varsovia at 272 Grochowska Street**.

**Norway: Chamber Concerts**

Before performing in Poland, the aforementioned trio of musicians from Sinfonia Varsovia will take a trip to Norway. From **2 to 5 August**, they will be performing in **Stavanger** (St. Svithun's Catholic Church), the nearby island of **Bru** (Kulturbruk 44/4), and **Valle** in the Setesdal valley (Valle bygdeheim). They will share the stage with such artists as **Ashley Tong, Laurens Weinhold, Belle Ting, Kateryna Mysechko** (violins), **Jozefien Dumortier, Hortense Fourrier** (violas), **Jonathan Swensen, Jonathan Gerstner** (cellos), **Svitlana Ivanova** (flute), **Jonathan Siahaan, Andrés Navarro Comas** (pianos), **Alia Makhmud-Zade** (organ), **Kornelia Szczypka** (soprano), and **Gunnar Stubseid** (hardingfele). Under the guidance of the latter, they will take part in traditional music workshops on 5 August, which will end with a concert on the same day.

**Interactions/Integrations**

The events held on 11-12 March are part of the international project **Interactions/Integrations** carried out by Sinfonia Varsovia in cooperation with K& M FEST in Stavanger. Its mission is to use art in social integration processes as well as to work out specific, model solutions in this regard. The project includes a series of concerts, workshops, local initiatives, and research studies in Poland and Norway. It is aimed at new audiences, with particular emphasis on groups at risk of cultural, social, and economic exclusion. The project is co-financed by the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism for 2014–2021 as part of the “Culture” program.

Admission to all events is **free of charge**. For more information, you can check the project's social media pages ([Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sinfoniavarsovia), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sinfonia_varsovia/)) and the [project website](https://interakcje-integracje.pl/en/):

* **Norway:**
  + *Beautiful Folk Sounds in Bru* – chamber concert (2 August, 7:00 PM)

<https://interakcje-integracje.pl/wydarzenia/vakre-folketoner-pa-bru-piekne-folkowe-dzwieki-w-bru/>

* + *Stars of Classical Music on Stage!* – side project: concert morning (3 August, 5:00 PM)

<https://interakcje-integracje.pl/wydarzenia/mala-inicjatywa-poranek-koncertowy-gwiazdy-klasyki-na-scenie/>

* + *Concert with Traditional Norwegian Music* – traditional music workshop and chamber music concert (5 August, 5:00 PM)

<https://interakcje-integracje.pl/wydarzenia/koncert-z-tradycyjna-muzyka-norweska/>

* **Poland:**
  + *Polish and Norwegian Dance Meeting* (11 August, 7:00 PM)

<https://interakcje-integracje.pl/wydarzenia/potancowki-na-grochowskiej-tradycyjna-muzyka-polska-i-norweska/>

* + *Music in the Courtyards* – chamber concert (12 August, 5:00 PM)

<https://interakcje-integracje.pl/wydarzenia/muzyka-na-podworkach/>

* + *Dances for Strings* – chamber concert (13 August, 5:00 PM)

<https://interakcje-integracje.pl/wydarzenia/tance-na-smyczki/>