Warsaw, 15 February 2024  
Press release

**Gordan Nikolić for the 40th anniversary of Sinfonia Varsovia**

**25 February 2024, 7:00 PM  
28 February 2024, 7:00 PM**

**Witold Lutosławski Con**

**cert Studio of Polish Radio, Warsaw**

**Sinfonia Varsovia will perform with violinist and conductor Gordan Nikolić on 25 and 28 February 2024 at the Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio of Polish Radio in Warsaw. The concert program includes works by Vivaldi, Bach, Brahms, Schönberg and Berg. The events are part of the orchestra’s 40th anniversary celebrations.**

Gordan Nikolić is a Serbian virtuoso violinist, long-time **concertmaster of the London Symphony Orchestra** (1997–2017), performing regularly as conductor of its chamber ensemble, and currently **artistic director of Amsterdam’s Nederlands Kamerorkest** (Netherlands Chamber Orchestra). He is a professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, Codarts in Rotterdam and the Hochschule für Musik in Saarbrücken. He has won Tibor Varga, Niccolò Paganini, Città di Brescia and Vaclav Huml international violin competitions. Both as a conductor and soloist, he is in the habit of leading orchestras from his instrument. It will be no different this time.

The program for the Sunday concert on **February 25** at 7:00 pm will be filled with the music of **Johannes Brahms**. The early **Serenade No. 1 in D major, Op. 11**, and the mature **Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77**, maliciously referred to as the “concerto against the violin,” both because of the considerable technical and endurance demands on the soloist and because of the complex texture of the “symphony with concert violins” will be played.

The concert on Wednesday, **February 28** at 7:00 pm will combine the late Baroque – in works by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (***Contrapunctus* *XIX* from *Kunst der Fuge*** arranged by **Luciano Berio**) and **Antonio Vivaldi** (**Sinfonia in B minor *Al Santo Sepolcro***) – with the early 20th century – the works of **Arnold Schönberg** (***Verklärte Nacht*, Op. 4**) and **Alban Berg** (**Violin Concerto *To the Memory of an Angel***). In Alban Berg’s Violin Concerto, soloist Gordan Nikolić will be supported as conductor by the Spanish kapellmeister of the young generation, **Alejandro Cantalapiedra**, of the Dutch Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dutch National Opera.

Tickets, priced at 40-60 PLN, and additional information about Sinfonia Varsovia’s 40th anniversary celebration are available at: <https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en/sinfonia-varsovia-40-years/>.

\*\*\*

April 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of the historic concerts of the outstanding violinist **Yehudi Menuhin** with an orchestra established for the occasion, built around the strings core from **Jerzy Maksymiuk’s Polish Chamber Orchestra**. After these concerts, **directors Waldemar Dabrowski and Franciszek Wybrańczyk** (who were managing the ensemble at the time) made Menuhin an offer to direct the orchestra, which had been performing since 1982 without a permanent conductor, to which he eagerly agreed.

The ensemble soon began to bear the name **Sinfonia Varsovia**, while recognizing as its founding act the three aforementioned concerts on April 27 and 28, 1984, at the National Philharmonic. Over the years, great personalities such as **Marc Minkowski, Nigel Kennedy** and **Krzysztof Penderecki**, who co-lead Sinfonia Varsovia as its music director and then artistic director for almost a quarter of a century, have become associated with the orchestra.

**Sunday, 25 February 2024, 7 PM**

Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio of Polish Radio, ul. Zygmunta Modzelewskiego 59, Warsaw

Symphonic concert

Performers:

**Gordan Nikolić** violin, conductor

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

Programme:

**Johannes Brahms** Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77 [38’]

I. *Allegro non troppo*  
II. *Adagio*  
III. *Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo vivace*

intermission

**Johannes Brahms** Serenade No. 1 in D major, Op. 11 [49’]

I. *Allegro molto*  
II. *Scherzo:* *Allegro non troppo – Trio. Poco più moto*  
III. *Adagio non troppo*  
IV. *Menuetto I & II*  
V. *Scherzo: Allegro – Trio*  
VI. *Rondo: Allegro*

**Wednesday, 28 February 2024, 7 PM**

Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio of Polish Radio, ul. Zygmunta Modzelewskiego 59, Warsaw

Symphonic concert

Performers:

**Gordan Nikolić** violin, conductor

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Alejandro Cantalapiedra** conductor

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** Sinfonia in B minor *Al Santo Sepolcro* RV169 [7’]

I. *Adagio molto*

II. *Allegro ma poco*

**Arnold Schönberg** *Verklärte Nacht*, Op. 4 for string orchestra [30’]

intermission

**Johann Sebastian Bach** *Contrapunctus XIX* from *Kunst der Fuge* BWV 1080 (arr. Luciano Berio) [8’]

**Alban Berg** Violin Concerto [22’]

I. *Andante – Allegretto*  
II. *Allegro, ma sempre rubato, frei wie eine Kadenz – Adagio*