Warsaw, 4 October 2024  
Press release

**28,000 listeners visited**

**14th La Folle Journée de Varsovie “Origins”  
27–29 September 2024**

**Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera (1 Teatralny Square)**

**Tent at Teatralny Square**

**Church of Art Societies (18b Senatorska Street)**

**The 14th La Folle Journée de Varsovie “Origins” is over. 3 days, 6 stages, 56 symphonic concerts, chamber concerts and recitals, events for children and young people. More than 900 artists, 11 orchestras, 14 chamber ensembles, 17 conductors and 29 soloists. Classical, traditional, jazz, film and early music. Award-winning performers and Polish premieres, plus concerts by the best school orchestras from all over the country. The Warsaw festival this year attracted more than 28,000 listeners.**

The orchestras included Sinfonia Varsovia, Orchestra of the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera and Sinfonia Iuventus, led by conductors Julien Masmondet, Jacek Kaspszyk, Aleksandar Marković, Grzegorz Wierus, Daniel Mieczkowski, Marta Kluczyńska and Alexander Humala. The solo parts and recitals featured Valentine Michaud (saxophone), Raphaël Sévère (clarinet), Emmanuel Strosser (piano), Hyuk Lee (piano), Marcin Masecki (piano), Illia Ovcharenko (piano), Marcel Markowski (cello), Aleksandra Orłowska (soprano), Hubert Zapiór (baritone), François Lazarevitch (bagpipes), Raphaël Feuillâtre (guitar), Maciej Frąckiewicz (accordion) and Maciej Skrzeczkowski (harpsichord). The following ensembles also played: Quatuor Hermès, Les Musiciens de Saint-Julien, Sirba Octet, Geister Duo, Chopin University Percussion Ensemble, Sinfonia Varsovia Wind Quintet & Guests, Chopin University Big Band and Paul Lay Trio, Malisz Band and Suferi.

A total of 10 Young Performers ensembles, i.e. the best school orchestras from all over Poland, selected by the Center of Artistic Education, presented themselves. These included dancers from the Warsaw Ballet School and 9 orchestras from Białystok (the Ignacy Jan Paderewski State Music School Complex), Bytom (the Fryderyk Chopin Primary and Secondary Music School), Łódź (the Wieniawski String Orchestra from the Henryk Wieniawski Primary and Secondary Music School), Olsztyn (Fryderyk Chopin National Primary and Secondary Music School), Poznań (Mieczysław Karłowicz Secondary Comprehensive School of Music), Radom (Oskar Kolberg Music School), Warsaw (the Karol Szymanowski State Music School Complex No. 4), Sosnowiec and Żory (Symphony Orchestra of the Young Philharmonic – Orchestra of the State Music School in Żory and State Music School in Sosnowiec).

**A crazy challenge**

La Folle Journée de Varsovie is Sinfonia Varsovia’s largest undertaking. The 14 editions of the festival to date have involved more than 12,000 artists in nearly 850 concerts and attracted an audience of 435,000 people. Behind the success of La Folle Journée de Varsovie are not only the performing artists, but also the office and technical staff, about half a thousand of whom were involved this year.

Among them were more than 350 Sinfonia Varsovia employees – both permanent and those hired for the duration of the festival – producers, stage managers, technicians, tuners, operators, marketing, stage and audience staff, ticket collectors, pilots, printing team, photographers, impresario and program departments, security staff, as well as 40 volunteers, the directing team of the Film and Television Academy, recording Young Performers’ concerts, dozens of drivers and logistics staff, supervisors of performing school groups.

La Folle Journée de Varsovie means hundreds of thousands of hours of preparation, about 500 contracts and hundreds more invoices, thousands of kilometers run during the event, more than 2,000 vouchers issued for lunches and provisions during the festival for organizers, volunteers and artists. It’s hundreds of posters and placards, advertising campaigns in urban spaces, cinemas, streetcars, radio and networks, thousands of printed programs.

\*\*\*

**Crazy Days of Music (*La Folle Journée de Varsovie*)** is the Polish edition of the international La Folle Journée festival, whose central idea is to break down the barriers separating listeners from classical music. The organizers strive to encourage and facilitate audience participation in concerts while maintaining the presentation of music at the highest possible level. The festival was born in France. Its originator and artistic director is René Martin, and its organizer – the Centre de Réalisations et d'Études Artistiques à Nantes (CRÉA). The festival was first held in Nantes in 1995, but its idea quickly crossed the borders of France and over the years it has become a truly international musical phenomenon.

The Polish edition of the festival was created on the initiative of Sinfonia Varsovia, whose orchestra has been present at the festival in France since its beginning and participated in many Japanese, Russian and Spanish editions. Every year on the last full weekend of September, thousands of listeners gather at the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera in Warsaw to choose among dozens of affordable events over several days. La Folle Journée de Varsovie is the only festival in the country that combines symphonic and chamber music concerts performed by some of the world’s greatest stars with an extensive educational program.

**\*\*\*

\*\*\*

Honorary patronage:

French Embassy in Poland

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Artistic director:

René Martin

Organizer:

Sinfonia Varsovia, cultural institution of the Capital City of Warsaw

Co-organizers:

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

The National Centre for Culture Poland

The National Institute of Music and Dance

Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera

CRÉA Folles Journées

Centre for Artistic Education CEA

Music Gardens Foundation

Project co-financed by the Capital City of Warsaw

Sponsor:

PGE Polish Energy Group S.A.

Main partner:

Zygmunt Zaleski Stichting

Strategic partners:

Orange Polska S.A.

Institut français de Pologne à Varsovie

Partners:

Local Government of the Mazowieckie Province

STOART

ERBUD S.A.

Muzyka jest dla wszystkich Foundation

They support us:

Sinfonia Varsovia Foundation

Ville de Nantes

Media patrons and partners:

Ruch Muzyczny

Polityka

RMF Classic

Gazeta Wyborcza

Onet.pl

\*\*\*

**Media contact:**

Jakub Strużyński

Chief PR Specialist

Sinfonia Varsovia, Marketing and Audience Services Department

jakub.struzynski@sinfoniavarsovia.org, tel. 502 243 387