Warsaw, 29 April 2025  
Press release

***Dreaming Warsaw***

**Inaugural concert of the Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival**

**The 25th edition of the Sinfonia Varsovia to Its City Festival is fast approaching. On 10 May, the Amphitheatre of the Wolski Cultural Centre in Sowiński Park will host Sinfonia Varsovia under the baton of Marta Kluczyńska, joined by pianists Aleksander Dębicz, Marcin Masecki and Hyuk Lee. The concert will be hosted by journalist and author Mariusz Szczygieł.**

**Brzmienia Warszawy czasów wojny**

The programme for the inaugural concert will largely feature works by composers who lived and created in occupied Warsaw during the 1940s. The event thus marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War (8 May) and forms part of this year’s celebrations of the 80th anniversary of Warsaw’s postwar reconstruction. As part of these commemorations, Sinfonia Varsovia will in the autumn present the world premiere of its commissioned opera about Warsaw, *The Best City in the World*, with music by Cezary Duchnowski. Despite the wartime circumstances of their creation, the works to be performed by Sinfonia Varsovia and the guest soloists at the Wolski Cultural Centre Amphitheatre are notably spirited and energetic – far more so than one might expect.

The inaugural concert will feature three works for piano and orchestra. Władysław Szpilman’s *Concertino* and Witold Lutosławski’s *Variations on a Theme by Paganini* (originally written for two pianos) were composed in the early years of the war in occupied Warsaw. They will be complemented by Richard Addinsell’s *Warsaw Concerto*, written in 1941 as an expression of solidarity with the besieged Polish capital. Sinfonia Varsovia will also perform Grażyna Bacewicz’s *Overture* for symphony orchestra – a vigorous work composed in 1943 – and Henryk Czyż’s short, strikingly energetic *Etude* for orchestra, written shortly after the war, in 1948. The group of wartime compositions will be framed by a later work: Andrzej Panufnik’s *Procession for Peace*, dedicated “to all those who love peace, regardless of race, religion, or political or philosophical views.”

**Warsaw Artists for a Warsaw Audience**

The concert will feature outstanding Polish pianists who have strong ties to the capital. Marcin Masecki will perform Szpilman’s *Concertino* – a piece with a swing style and a Gershwin-like spirit – while Aleksander Dębicz will interpret Addinsell’s cinematic *Warsaw Concerto*. They will be joined by the Korean virtuoso Hyuk Lee, a finalist of the 2021 International Chopin Piano Competition and now a Warsaw resident. Sinfonia Varsovia will be conducted by Marta Kluczyńska, who is artistically associated with the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera. The evening will be hosted by Mariusz Szczygieł – master storyteller and one of the most celebrated figures in contemporary Polish reportage.

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Tickets for the festival concerts are available online at [bilety.sinfoniavarsovia.org](https://bilety.sinfoniavarsovia.org/index.html?lang=en) and in person at the Sinfonia Varsovia office (weekdays, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., except on 2 May 2025), as well as at the concert venues one hour before each performance and up to 30 minutes afterwards. Tickets for the opening concert are priced at 100/80/60/40 PLN (zoned seating applies).

The concert is co-organised by the Wolski Cultural Centre. The inaugural concert on 10 May will also mark the opening of the new season at the refurbished Amphitheatre in Sowiński Park, in Warsaw’s Wola district.

More information about all festival events is available on the Sinfonia Varsovia [website](https://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/en/our-events/sinfonia-varsovia-to-its-city-festival/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/events/1109125747634496/1109125770967827/) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sinfonia_varsovia/).

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**Dreaming Warsaw – Inaugural Concert**

**Saturday, 10 May 2025, 6:00 PM   
Amphitheater of the Wolski Cultural Center in Sowiński Park, ul. Elekcyjna 17, Warsaw**

Opening of the Artistic Season at the Amphitheatre of the Wolski Cultural Centre in Sowiński Park

Orchestral concert

Wykonawcy:

**Aleksander Dębicz** piano\*  
**Marcin Masecki** piano\*\*  
**Hyuk Lee** piano\*\*\*  
**Sinfonia Varsovia  
Marta Kluczyńska** conductor

**Mariusz Szczygieł** host

Programme: [100’]

**Grażyna Bacewicz** *Overture* for symphony orchestra (1943) [6’]  
**Richard Addinsell** *Warsaw Concerto* for piano and orchestra *(1941)\* [9’]*  
**Władysław Szpilman** *Concertino* for piano and orchestra (1940)\*\*  
**Andrzej Panufnik** *A Procession for Peace* (1982–83) [8’]  
**Witold Lutosławski** *Paganini Variations* for piano and orchestra (1941, ork. 1977–78)\*\*\* [12’]  
**Henryk Czyż** *Etude* for orchestra (1949) [4’]

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