Warsaw, 12 August 2025  
Press release

**Feel the City Vibrations**

**15th La Folle Journée de Varsovie**

**26–28 September 2025**

**Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera (1 Teatralna Square)  
Festival Tent on Teatralna Square  
Church of the Arts Community (18b Senatorska Street)**

**La Folle Journée de Varsovie returns this autumn for its 15th edition: three days, six stages and 57 concerts, all brimming with energy and variety. The programme encompasses orchestral and chamber music, solo recitals, early and traditional repertoire, jazz, contemporary works and concerts for families. We are pleased to announce the programme for the 15th edition of La Folle Journée de Varsovie!**

The international festival **La Folle Journée** has been held in Nantes, France, since 1995. Its Polish edition – **La Folle Journée de Varsovie** (Szalone Dni Muzyki) – was launched on the initiative of Sinfonia Varsovia, which has long been a regular guest at the French festival and has also participated in numerous editions in Japan, Russia and Spain. Each year, on the final full weekend of September, the festival transforms the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera into a veritable feast of music, bringing together symphonic and chamber concerts by leading artists from across the globe, alongside an extensive educational programme. With dozens of short concerts, outstanding musical quality and affordable ticket prices, each new edition of La Folle Journée de Varsovie attracts thousands of new listeners.

***City Vibrations* – a musical journey around the world**

The theme of the 15th anniversary edition of La Folle Journée de Varsovie is ***City Vibrations*** (original French title *Villes Phares* – “lighthouse cities”). **René Martin**, the festival’s founder, traces a musical map of the world’s most influential centres in the history of Western classical music. **Venice**, **London**, **Vienna**, **Paris** and **New** **York** are cities that, in their time, attracted the greatest composers and became thriving cultural capitals. The festival will also journey to **Leipzig**, **Prague**, **Aleppo**, **Buenos** **Aires** and **Warsaw** – with this musical voyage beginning in... **outer** **space**!

**A rich and varied programme: orchestras, chamber ensembles and soloists**

In addition to **Sinfonia Varsovia**, this year’s festival will feature the **Orchestra of the Polish National Opera – Teatr Wielki**, the **Polish Radio Orchestra in Warsaw**, and the **National Philharmonic Orchestra**. Also appearing are distinguished early music ensembles such as **Capella Cracoviensis** and **Arte dei Suonatori**. On the podium will be conductors including **Jean-François Verdier**, **Ewa Strusińska**, **Bar Avni**, **Christian Arming**, **Patrick Fournillier**, **Jan Tomasz Adamus** and **Michał Klauza.**

Among the invited soloists and chamber musicians are:

**Luka Faulisi** (violin), **Momo Kodama**, **Jean-Frédéric Neuburger, Martín García García** (piano), **Pierre Hantaï** (harpsichord), **Aleksandra Olczyk** (soprano), **Monika Ledzion** (mezzo-soprano), **Ania Karpowicz** (flute), **Maciej Kułakowski** (cello), **Emmanuel Balssa** (viola da gamba), **Katarzyna Drogosz** (historical piano), **Trey Lee** (cello), **Waed Bouhassoun** (voice, oud), **Duo Argos**: **Julien Beautemps** (accordion) and **Sotiris Athanasiou** (guitar), **Aka Duo:** **Yuto Kiguchi** (piano) and **Seina Matsuoka** (violin), the **Paul Lay Trio**, and the artistic leaders of the project **TVÆRS**: **Jakob Kullberg** (cello, vocals), **Niels Rønsholdt** (bass, vocals), and **Eivind Buene** (acoustic guitar, vocals). Also performing are the **Chopin University Big Band**, the **Ellipsos Saxophone Quartet** and many more.

The festival will open with a remarkable concert featuring the **Ellipsos Saxophone Quartet** and **Sinfonia Varsovia** under the baton of **Jean-François Verdier**, performing works including ***A Dream for Artemis. Lunar Fantasy*** by **Fabien Waksman** and ***Sinfonia for Orbiting Spheres*** by **Missy Mazzoli**. Sinfonia Varsovia, conducted by **Bar Avni**, will also give the world premiere of ***but the rain is full of ghosts tonight*** for flute and orchestra by **Aleksandra Kaca**, with **Ania Karpowicz** as soloist, in **a concert dedicated to Felicia Montealegre** – the wife of Leonard Bernstein.

A special event is also planned, featuring the **Deaf Percussion Orchestra**, demonstrating that music can be experienced in many ways – not only through hearing. The 15th edition of La Folle Journée de Varsovie will close with a performance by **Martín García García**, who will join Sinfonia Varsovia for **Szymanowski’s Symphony No. 4 for Piano and Orchestra**. The programme will also include **Lutosławski’s *Symphonic Variations*** and Ravel’s ***Boléro***.

***Young performers* and family concerts**

We continue our collaboration with the finest school orchestras from across Poland, who will perform in the festival tent on Teatralna Square and in the halls of the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, as part of the ***Young Performers*** concert series. Young artists will appear from **Warsaw** (Karol Szymanowski State Music Schools Complex No. 4, and the Zenon Brzewski Secondary Music School – State Music Schools Complex No. 1), **Białystok** (Ignacy Jan Paderewski Music Schools Complex), Katowice (Karol Szymanowski State Secondary General Music School), **Bielsko-Biała** (Stanisław Moniuszko State Music Schools Complex), **Gdańsk** (Feliks Nowowiejski General Music School I and II Level), **Wrocław** (Karol Szymanowski Primary and Secondary Music School) and **Kraków** (Bronisław Rutkowski State Primary and Secondary Music School, and the Mieczysław Karłowicz State Music School Complex). There will also be performances by pupils of the Roman Turczynowicz General Ballet School in Warsaw.

This year’s edition of La Folle Journée de Varsovie will once again feature concerts especially for the youngest audiences. Children and their carers are invited to join Bazylek the Dragon on his extraordinary musical adventures with Sinfonia Varsovia (orchestral concert in the Moniuszko Hall, age group: 3–8, **Sinfonia Varsovia**, conductor: **Grzegorz Wierus**, host: **Malina Sarnowska**). Cosmic cat **Panakota** (Beata Jewiarz) will whisk listeners away to the planet Ravel to the music of – indeed – Maurice Ravel (orchestral concert in the Moniuszko Hall, age group: 5–10, **Sinfonia Varsovia**, conductor: **Wojtek Rodek**, set design, script and direction: **Viola Łabanow**, choreography and dance: **Joanna Lichorowicz**, **Sławomir Greś**). For the very youngest groups (ages 0–2 and 2–5), we have prepared chamber concerts from the *Smykofonie* series – musical stories about royal Kraków and the Warsaw mermaid.

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Ticket sales will begin on **1 September 2025 (Monday) at 10:00 am**. Concerts taking place in the Festival Tent on Teatralna Square and in the Church of the Arts Community all are free of charge. The full programme is already available at [szalonednimuzyki.pl](https://szalonednimuzyki.pl/).

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Artistic Director of La Folle Journée festival: René Martin

Honorary Patronage: Embassy of France

Organisers: Sinfonia Varsovia and the City of Warsaw (a cultural institution of the capital city of Warsaw)

**Co-organisers:** Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, Centre for Artistic Education, Ogrody Muzyczne Foundation, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the National Institute of Music and Dance (Music and Composers’ Commissions), CREA Folles Journées, City of Warsaw

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**Media contact:**

Florent de Bazelaire

Senior PR and International Relations Specialist

Sinfonia Varsovia, Marketing and Audience Services Department

[florentyn.bazelaire@sinfoniavarsovia.org](mailto:florentyn.bazelaire@sinfoniavarsovia.org), tel.

Adrianna Michalska

Senior PR Specialist

Sinfonia Varsovia, Marketing and Audience Services Department

[adrianna.michalska@sinfoniavarsovia.org](mailto:adrianna.michalska@sinfoniavarsovia.org), tel.