Warsaw, 25 August 2025  
Press release

**Cities in the Rhythm of Music –  
Ticket Sales Begin for La Folle Journée de Varsovie 2025**

**26–28 September 2025**

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

**Ticket sales for the 15th edition of La Folle Journée de Varsovie – City Vibrations will open on 1 September 2025 at 10:00 am. The programme embraces chamber and symphonic works of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, early and traditional music, contemporary pieces, jazz, and a wide range of educational events. On 26, 27 and 28 September, Warsaw will resound with the sounds of cities from across the world.**

**A musical journey around the world**

The 15th edition of La Folle Journée de Varsovie invites audiences on a journey through **cities** that have shaped the development of culture and the arts, where musical energy has resonated most powerfully over the centuries. These urban centres drew in composers, forged styles and set trends that influenced far beyond their own borders. We will hear **Vienna** of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven – as well as Schubert, Brahms and Mahler; **Paris** of Ravel, Stravinsky and Saint-Saëns; **New York** of Gershwin and Bernstein; **Prague** of Smetana and Dvořák; **Leipzig** of Bach, the Schumanns and Mendelssohn; **Buenos Aires** of Astor Piazzolla; and **Warsaw** of Szymanowski and Lutosławski.

Amid this galaxy of great composers, the festival will also highlight works by women. The programme features music by **Missy Mazzoli**, **Caroline Shaw**, **Elisabeth Angot**, **Aleksandra Kaca** and **Hiromi Uehara**. In addition, two festival concerts will focus primarily on female creativity, presenting works by **Fanny Hensel** and **Clara Schumann**, alongside those of lesser-known figures such as **Louise Farrenc**, **Fernande Decruck** and **Juliette Dillon**.

**Contemporary music: Polish premieres and world premieres**

A highlight of the 2025 opening concert of La Folle Journée de Varsovie will be the Polish premiere of ***A Dream for Artemis. Lunar Fantasy*** by **Fabien Waksman** – a concerto for saxophone quartet and orchestra paying tribute to humanity’s conquest of space. It will be performed by the **Quatuor Ellipsos** and **Sinfonia Varsovia** under the baton of **Jean-François Verdier**. The programme will also feature **Missy Mazzoli**’s ***Sinfonia for Orbiting Spheres*** and **Arturo Márquez**’s ***Conga del Fuego Nuevo***.

Other Polish premieres include ***Nakhwa – Falling Flower Petals II*** by **Dohun Lee**, performed by **Ensemble Maru**, and **Caroline Shaw**’s ***Entr’acte***, performed by the **Martin String Quartet**.

The festival will also host the world premiere of ***but the rain is full of ghosts tonight***, a flute concerto by Aleksandra Kaca. Presented within a concert dedicated to American actress Felicia Montealegre – wife of Leonard Bernstein – the programme will also include works by Bernstein and Mahler, with flautist **Ania Karpowicz** appearing alongside **Sinfonia Varsovia** conducted by **Bar Avni**.

**A return to roots – traditional and early music**

This year’s festival will welcome three ensembles specialising in early music: Poland’s **Arte dei Suonatori** and **Capella Cracoviensis**, alongside Antwerp-based **Oltremontano**, performing on period wind instruments. Audiences will hear Vivaldi’s famous *Four Seasons* (with **Luka Faulisi** as soloist), works by **Johann Christian Bach** and **Carl Friedrich Abel** from the era of the first London subscription concerts, as well as **Mikołaj Zieleński**’s ***Offertoria et communiones totius anni*** set alongside music by **Andrea Gabrieli** and **Claudio Monteverdi**. Notable soloists devoted to early performance practice will also appear, including **Katarzyna Drogosz** on historical piano, **Emmanuel Balssa** on viola da gamba, and the distinguished harpsichordist **Pierre Hantaï**.

Traditional music – still too rarely heard in concert halls – will also have its place at La Folle Journée de Varsovie, thanks to **Waed Bouhassoun**. With her singing and playing of the oud – the Middle Eastern instrument regarded as the ancestor of the lute – she will transport audiences on a musical journey to Aleppo, Syria, joined by percussionist **Neşet Kutas**. Bouhassoun will also present her own musical settings of love poetry from the 7th to the 13th centuries, alongside works by contemporary Arab (Andalusian, Syrian) and Persian poets.

**In a jazz mood**

La Folle Journée de Varsovie is also a festival for jazz enthusiasts. As every year, the **Chopin University Big Band** under the direction of **Piotr Kostrzewa** will perform, this time presenting the Parisian face of jazz. Returning after the ensemble’s resounding success last year will be the **Paul Lay Trio**: **Paul Lay** (piano), **Clemens van der Feen** (double bass) and **Donald Kontomanou** (drums). They will appear together with **Sinfonia Varsovia** conducted by **Jean-François Verdier** in a programme of original arrangements of **Gershwin**’s works – including the *Rhapsody in Blue* – for jazz trio and orchestra. In a separate chamber concert, the Paul Lay Trio will also improvise on themes drawn from the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

**Classics for children and young performers**

Bazylek the Dragon, Panakota the Cosmic Cat, the Warsaw Mermaid and tales from old Kraków. This year’s family offer at La Folle Journée de Varsovie includes the much-loved ***Smykofonie*** concerts alongside special orchestral events in the Moniuszko Hall of the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera. Warsaw’s **dragon** **Bazylek** will recount his journeys around the world with **Sinfonia Varsovia** (age group: 3–8; **Sinfonia Varsovia**, conductor: **Grzegorz Wierus**, host: **Malina Sarnowska**). With **Cosmic Cat Panakota**, young listeners will set off into a world of sounds, colours and fairy tales woven into the works of the extraordinary composer Maurice Ravel (age group: 5–10; Sinfonia Varsovia, conductor: **Wojtek Rodek**; Panakota – **Beata Jewiarz**). For the very youngest audiences and their carers – children aged 0–2 and 2–5 – there will be chamber concerts in the ***Smykofonie*** series: the **Warsaw Mermaid** will reveal the melodies that once resounded along the Vistula, while in royal Kraków the audience will encounter a world of fairy tales and legends.

La Folle Journée de Varsovie is also unique in giving the stage to the finest youth orchestras from across Poland. This year’s **Young Performers** series will comprise 16 concerts, featuring 10 ensembles selected by the Centre for Artistic Education: a dance troupe from **Warsaw’s ballet school**, along with orchestras from **Białystok**, **Gdańsk**, **Katowice**, **Kraków**, **Bielsko-Biała**, **Wrocław** and **Warsaw**.

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Ticket sales, priced at 25–35 PLN, will open on 1 September 2025 (Monday) at 10:00 am. Tickets will be available online via [szalonednimuzyki.pl](https://szalonednimuzyki.pl/en/schedule/) and [eventim.pl](https://www.eventim.pl/artist/szalone-dni-muzyki/), and in person on 1 September from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera. From 2 to 25 September, tickets may also be purchased at the Media Markt store (Eventim network) in Złote Tarasy during regular opening hours.

Concerts taking place in the Festival Tent on Theatre Square and in the Church of the Arts Community are free of charge, with admission subject to seating capacity. Further details about the programme, artists and ticket sales are available at [szalonednimuzyki.pl](https://szalonednimuzyki.pl/en/home-page/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/szalonednimuzyki) and  [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sinfonia_varsovia/).

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The rules for press accreditation for the festival, along with the application form, are available at [szalonednimuzyki.pl](https://szalonednimuzyki.pl/en/press/).

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Artistic Director of La Folle Journée festival: René Martin

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