Warsaw, 15 September 2025  
Press release

**Metropolises in Sound –**

**15th La Folle Journée de Varsovie On the Horizon**

**26–28 September 2025**

**Teatr Wielki – Opera Narodowa (pl. Teatralny 1)  
Concert Pavilion on Theatre Square  
Church of Arts Societies (18b Senatorska Street)**

**A whirlwind festival weekend is nearly upon us. From 26 to 28 September 2025, the performance spaces at Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera and its immediate surroundings will resound with the urban pulse of cities that have shaped musical styles and trends over the years.**

**Symphonic music at Lunchtime**

It is not often that one can attend a symphony concert in the early hours of the day – unless it is during La Folle Journée de Varsovie. **On Saturday 27 September at 12:30 pm in the Moniuszko Auditorium,** the programme will feature works by two of the most renowned women composers born in the first half of the 19th century: Fanny Hensel and Clara Schumann. The **Polish Radio Orchestra** in Warsaw, conducted by **Ewa Strusińska**, will perform **Hensel’s Overture in C major** – her only purely orchestral work – as well as **Clara Schumann’s Piano Concerto in A minor**, the sole piece she completed with orchestra. The concert will conclude with the famous **Violin Concerto in E minor by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy** – the man who accompanied both his sister Fanny and his close friend Clara on their artistic paths. At the piano will be **Yuto Kiguchi**, with **Seina Matsuoka** on violin, who regularly perform together as the Aka Duo.

The following day at the same time – **Sunday 28 September at 12:30 pm** – Moniuszko Auditorium will resound with the music of **Mozart**. Pianist **Momo Kodama** and **Sinfonia Varsovia** under the direction of **Christian Arming** will present **the Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major**, whose slow movement Olivier Messiaen once described as containing one of the most beautiful melodies in the history of music. In the concerto’s middle section, in a minor key, one also hears a “sighing” motif which, shortly after the loss of his daughter, became the starting point for Mozart’s profoundly dramatic **Symphony No. 40 in G minor**, likewise included in the concert programme.

**From the 16th to the 18th Century**

**Sunday 28 September** will be devoted to early music, filling the **Redutowe Rooms**. **At 11:45** **am**, the Polish ensemble **Arte dei Suonatori** – a chamber orchestra specialising in historical performance practice led by **Aureliusz Goliński** – will perform together with **Katarzyna Drogosz** on historical piano and **Emmanuel Balssa** on viola da gamba. Their programme features works that resounded at London’s first subscription concerts in the second half of the 17th century, organised under the banner of the *Bach-Abel Concerts*.

**At 4:45 pm**, the Polish ensemble **Capella Cracoviensis** will join forces with the Antwerp-based musicians of **Oltremontano** to present both Venetian and Polish polyphony. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries, when Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli and Adrian Willaert were composing in Venice, and the city’s printing houses published the works of Europe’s leading composers, **Mikołaj Zieleński** was active in Łowicz. His ***Offertoria et communiones totius anni*** undoubtedly rivalled the achievements of the Venetian school, as evidenced by the fact that they too were published in Venice. This concert highlights the first significant moment in the history of Polish music when native works took their place within Europe’s most up-to-date trends.

The programmes of these two concerts have been specially designed for the Polish edition of the festival.

**At 7:45 pm**, distinguished harpsichordist **Pierre Hantaï** will invite listeners to join him for an evening tea with **Handel**, performing the ***Allemande* from the Suite in E minor, HWV 438**, and his own pasticcio **Suite in D minor** – a selection of movements drawn from various Handel works.

For audiences who prefer Baroque music played on modern instruments, we present a **Bach recital** by pianist **Jean-Frédéric Neuburger**. **On Saturday 27 September at 7:00 pm in the Redutowe Rooms**, he will perform the **Chaconne from the Partita No. 2 in D minor for solo violin, BWV 1004** (in an arrangement for left hand), the **Toccata in G major, BWV 916**, and the **Keyboard Partita No. 2 in C minor, BWV 826**.

**Chamber Music in an Engaging Setting**

**On Saturday 27 September at 11:45 am** in the **Redutowe Rooms**, **Quatuor Ellipsos** – the saxophone quartet also featured in the festival’s opening concert – will perform alongside pianist **Jean-Frédéric Neuburger**. Their programme is devoted to forgotten French women composers of the 19th and 20th centuries: **Louise Farrenc**, **Fernande Decruck** and **Juliette Dillon**. Later that day, at **2:15 pm**, **Ensemble Maru** will present **Dvořák’s Piano Quintet No. 2** in A major – one of the most celebrated works of the genre. The concert will also include ***Nakhwa – Falling Flower Petals II*** by South Korean composer **Dohun Lee**, currently based in Germany. The piece will receive its first European performance at the festival.

Although string quintets usually feature two violas alongside two violins and a cello, there are exceptions in which the scoring differs. **On 27 September at 4:45 pm** in the **Redutowe Rooms**, audiences will hear **Schubert’s** remarkable **String Quintet in C major**, scored for two violins, viola and two cellos. On this occasion, cellist **Krystyna Wiśniewska** – a cello soloist of Sinfonia Varsovia – will join the **Elmire String Quartet**. That same evening, at 9:00 pm in the **Redutowe Rooms**, the winners of the 3rd International Competition of Polish Music – violinist **Seina Matsuoka** and pianist **Yuto Kiguchi**, performing as **Aka Duo** – will present works by Polish émigré composers. The programme will include ***4 Morceaux*, Op. 82** by **Maurycy Moszkowski**, ***Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major*** by **Aleksander Tansman**, ***Andante for Violin and Piano*** by **Miłosz Magin**, and ***Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes*, Op. 47 No. 3** by **Mieczysław Weinberg**.

Among the festival’s chamber concerts there will also be a special event – a performance by the **Deaf Percussion Orchestra**. **On Saturday at 8:15 pm in the Chamber Hall**, audiences will hear works created in collaboration between Deaf artists and contemporary composers **Kuba Krzewiński**, **Hubert Zemler** and **Robert Piotrowicz**. This concert, part of the ***Opera for the Deaf*** project, offers a unique opportunity to experience that music is not only audible sound but also emotions, physically felt vibrations and energy radiating from the stage.

**From a Stroll Straight to a Concert**

No fewer than 14 of the festival’s 57 concerts are free of charge. In the **Concert Pavilion** on Theatre Square, audiences will hear **the finest Polish youth orchestras** selected by the Centre for Artistic Education, as well as jazz performances by the **Chopin University Big Band** and the **Paul Lay Trio**. Meanwhile, at the **Church of Art Societies**, soloists will give recitals ranging from classical to traditional music: pianist **Momo Kodama**, accordionist **Julien Beautemps**, and Syrian singer and oud player **Waed Bouhassoun**.

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Tickets for festival concerts, priced at 25–35 PLN, are available at [**szalonednimuzyki.pl**](https://szalonednimuzyki.pl/en/schedule/) and [**eventim.pl**](https://www.eventim.pl/artist/szalone-dni-muzyki/), as well as in person at the Media Markt store (Eventim network) in Złote Tarasy during shop opening hours (until 25 September). During La Folle Journée de Varsovie, tickets may also be purchased at the festival box offices in Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera. Concerts in the Concert Pavilion on Theatre Square and at the Church of Art Societies are free of charge, with admission subject to seating capacity. Further details about the programme, artists and ticket sales can be found at [szalonednimuzyki.pl](https://szalonednimuzyki.pl/en/home-page/), on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/szalonednimuzyki) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sinfonia_varsovia/).

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La Folle Journée de Varsovie is the Polish edition of the international La Folle Journée festival, founded in 1995 in Nantes, France. It was initiated by Sinfonia Varsovia – the orchestra that from the very beginning has been a regular guest at the French festival and has also taken part in many editions in Japan, Russia and Spain. Each year, on the last full weekend of September, Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera in Warsaw welcomes thousands of listeners who can choose from dozens of events over the course of just a few days. La Folle Journée de Varsovie was one of the first festivals in Poland to combine recitals, symphonic and chamber concerts featuring some of the world’s leading artists with an extensive educational programme.

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Artistic Director of La Folle Journée festival: René Martin

Honorary Patronage: Embassy of France in Poland

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

Co-organisers: Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, National Institute of Music and Dance, Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, Centre for Artistic Education, Ogrody Muzyczne Foundation, CRÉA Folles Journées, Capital City of Warsaw

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