

Warsaw, 6 July 2011

TITANS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC RESEMBLE ROCK GIANTS

This autumn, Warsaw will be filled with unique music sounds and emotions of the festival La Folle Journée de Varsovie 2011 Les Titans. This biggest international music event explores the new face of classical music by showing that it is able to move anyone, regardless of their age, outfits, hairstyles or financial status. Owing to the Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra, the festival will be held in Poland between 29 September and 2 October.

Does classical music must always be so serious? Nothing could be further from the truth. For these four autumn days, Warsaw will be bursting with emotions that accompany the biggest rock events in Europe. However, the impulse for the shared music experience, will not involve the guitar riffs and trance loops, but fantasies and preludes of great artists from the turn of the century. Anyone will be able to discover or rediscover the works of Brahms, Mahler, Liszt, Strauss and Szymanowski. These five "Titans" are the flagship characters of this year's edition of LES TITANS of "La Folle Journée de Varsovie" four-day festival, which will be held in Teatr Wielki — Polish National Opera, as well as in the concert tent at the Theatre Sq. In the course of more than 70 concerts, the audience will be entertained by nearly 400 world-class artists, including the conductors Kazuki Yamada and Marc Minkowski, the pianist Etsuko Hirose, the Modigliani String Quartet and the Hungarian group Muzsikás.

"Who said that you cannot listen to Bach and Mozart wearing a T-shirt and a worn pair of jeans?" – Says René Martin, the founder and artistic director of the festival La Folle Journée. - "The idea for this festival came to my mind when I was at the U2 concert with my children. Seeing the 35,000 fans gathered at the stadium, I thought, "Why not to let these people come and listen to classical music?" Our festival brings the same excitement as a rock concert: fun and shared music experience " — René Martin emphasizes.

The program of each of the Crazy Days of Music includes dozens of short, maximum 45-minute concerts, which will take place on several stages simultaneously. The participants will be offered the full freedom of choice, and thus will be creating the specific character of the festival. Another attraction are the symbolic prices of tickets (PLN 5-7-10). Tickets are on sale from 15 August.

"One hundred years ago, music was arousing the same emotions it arouses today, and its creators had the status of the contemporary music stars" – says Janusz Marynowski, the Managing Director of Sinfonia Varsovia. "The works of Mahler, Strauss and Szymanowski reflect their personal dramas, complicated relationships, triumphs and failures. La Folle Journée festival is a great opportunity to learn this and to get carried away by the music." – Janusz Marynowski adds.

This year's festival participants, especially young people, can discover how much Liszt had in common with John Lennon, what links Brahms with Jimi Hendrix, and where the similarities between Gustav Mahler and Michael Jackson are. Moreover, they can discover how it all connects and penetrates the works and the passion that music releases.

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La Folle Journée de Varsovie / Szalone Dni Muzyki 2011 LES TITANS

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La Folle Journée festival

La Folle Journée /Crazy Days of Music/ is a series of music events, implemented since 1995. Rene Martin, the initiator and organizer of the festival, as well as the initiator of other festivals and numerous concerts of classical music worldwide, is also the founder of CREA — Centre for Artistic Research and Creation (CREA). La Folle Journée international festival has been successfully implemented for many years in many countries — from France, by Spain and Japan, to Brazil. There, it occupies a recognized position in the cultural life of the community and it enjoys great popularity. In Nantes, during the 2011 edition, almost 140,000 tickets were issued and nearly 1,800 artists performed. In Tokyo, on the other hand, over a million tickets were sold. In Warsaw, the festival will be held for the second time. Last year's edition, under the banner of *Chopin Open*, met with great interest and enthusiasm of the Poles. Crazy Days of Music is a unique encounter with music to which everyone is invited, without exception.

www.follejournee.pl / www.szalonednimuzyki.pl

Sinfonia Varsovia

Sinfonia Varsovia was founded in 1984, by the enlargement of the famous Polish Chamber Orchestra, working for many years under the direction of Maestro Jerzy Maksymiuk. Passion, musicians' commitment and the extraordinary managerial capacities of its long-term directors Francis Wybrańczyk and Waldemar Dąbrowski, quickly gained the orchestra its fame and popularity.

For its 26 years of existence, the ensemble performed in the most prestigious concert halls, as well as during the most prestigious festivals, alongside the world's greatest conductors and instrumentalists. The repertoire is very extensive and it includes works varying from those of the eighteenth century to those of the present. The orchestra has performed both the world and Polish premieres of works by, among others, Krzysztof Penderecki, Witold Lutosławski, Marta Ptaszyńska, Paweł Szymański, Paweł Mykietyn, Zbigniew Preisner, John Adams, Onute Narbutaite and Krzesimir Dębski.

The first guest conductor of the band was Sir Yehudi Menuhin, whereas most recently, the functions of the artistic director and the music and orchestra director were adopted by such outstanding personalities as Krzysztof Penderecki and Marc Minkowski.

Sinfonia Varsovia also specializes in film music. We have heard its works in such productions as Krzysztof Kieślowski's *Trzy Kolory*, Agnieszka Holland's *Tajemniczy Ogród*, *Ogniem i Mieczem*, *Przedwiośnie* and *When a Man Loves a Woman* — an American production with Zbigniew Preisner's music.

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