

Warsaw, 6 July 2011

A FEW WORDS FROM THE INITIATOR

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Focusing on the European post-Romanticism, the festival "La Folle Journée Festival de Varsovie / Crazy Days of Music 2011 Les Titans" spans a century of music: from 1850 to 1950, from Brahms to Richard Strauss and the Viennese School.

Brahms, the last great composer of the Romantic Period whose artistic achievements originated from the rich German tradition, had a significant influence on many artists – from composers of the second half of the nineteenth century, to Arnold Schönberg of the early twentieth century.

Simultaneously, under the influence of Liszt's late works, and in the climate of Wagner who preached the idea of "music of the future", a strong artistic trend developed, whose goal was to profoundly renew the language of music. This trend attracted Austrian natives Anton Bruckner (staunch opponent of Brahms), Gustav Mahler, Hugo Wolf and Alexander von Zemlinsky, as well as German native Richard Strauss (whose long career began during the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and ended after the World War II.)

Viennese School, founded in the early twentieth century by Arnold Schoenberg and uniting his students Alban Berg and Anton Webern, was a synthesis of these two conflicting trends. It drew inspiration from Brahms, as well as from Wagner, Mahler and Strauss, while developing its own aesthetics, which influenced German composers such as Paul Hindemith and Hanns Eisler.

On the other side of the border, in Poland, there was a composer, whose works entered the main repertoire of Viennese School. At the same time, he sought to compose music that was typically Polish. At the turn of the century, Karol Szymanowski appeared as a poet of Polish national music, composing Slavic songs, and restoring the treasures of Polish folk music.

We would like to unfold the era of great music during this year's Crazy Days of Music in Warsaw, and therefore we kindly invite EVERYONE to participate in the event!

Yours faithfully,

René Martin

Artistic Director of the festival La Folle Journée