

La Folle Journée 2012 "RUSSIA"**28-30 September 2012****3 days – 60 concerts – 950 artists****"Youth Approaches ..."**

Ten of the best ensembles selected from among music schools all over Poland will perform in a week's time – on 28-30 September on the stages of the Grand Theatre – National Opera in Warsaw, during the international "La Folle Journée – Russia" festival, playing works by the greatest Russian composers, including Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Stravinsky and Shostakovich. The genius of the greatest Russian composers will be presented over three days by approximately 950 artists from all over the world.



In order to join this elite group, all young, albeit accomplished adepts of the music arts had to record their performances and send them in together with a proposed programme to the Centre for Artistic Education (CEA), go through the preliminary, but very tough selection process and finally had to convince the acute ears of the Commission, composed of Janusz Marynowski, General Director of the Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra – Head of the Commission and Zdzisław Bujanowski, Director of the CEA.

And that's not all. The ultimate step in the selection process of the young artists was René Martin, Artistic Director of the festival, who made the programme selections so that the Young Performers, as the

winning ensembles who will have the honour of playing in the international festival are called, fit the overall concept of La Folle Journée "Russia".

"These are very young, distinctive ensembles. Performances during the La Folle Journée "Russia" festival, especially those together with world class artists are a major challenge, but also an honour. The performances of these ensembles also increase the prestige of our event. We are proud to host these promising young virtuosos. I trust that they will do very well", says Janusz Marynowski.

Ultimately, the winning group consists of eight orchestras, one choir and one accordion quintet from such cities as **Bielsko Biała** (Stanisław Moniuszko State General Primary and Secondary Music School in Bielsko-Biała), **Bydgoszcz** (The Artur Rubinstein State Music School Complex), **Gdańsk** (Feliks Nowowiejski General Secondary Music School in Gdańsk), **Cracow** (The Mieczysław Karłowicz State Music School Complex), **Lublin** (Karol Lipiński General Primary and Secondary Music School), **Łódź** (The Stanisław Moniuszko Music School Complex), **Rzeszów** (The Karol Szymanowski Music School Complex no. 1), **Warsaw** (The Fryderyk Chopin State Music School Complex and the Karol Szymanowski State Music School Complex no. 4), **Wrocław** (Karol Szymanowski General Primary and Secondary Music School).

The winning ensembles will perform individually on stages of the Grand Theatre – National Opera, in the Gogol Hall (the tent set up in Theatre Square, to which admission is free) and at concerts with other artists in the Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Chekhov Halls.

The Young Performers project has been implemented thanks to the support of the Department of Artistic and Cultural Education of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and of the Centre for Artistic Education.

The organisers of the Festival in Poland – Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra, CREA (Centre de Réalisations et d'Études Artistiques à Nantes), the "Ogrody Muzyczne" Foundation and the Grand Theatre – National Opera extend a warm invitation to participate in a wonderful encounter with Russian classical music.

Tickets priced at PLN 5, 7 and 10 are already on sale at the box office of the Grand Theatre – National Opera, on-line at www.teatr Wielki.pl and www.eBilet.pl and in e-Bilet locations. More information is available at www.szalonedn muzyki.pl.

About La Folle Journée

La Folle Journée RUSSIA is the Polish edition of the international La Folle Journée festival, conceived and directed by René Martin – founder of festivals and organiser of many classical music concerts all over the world. Martin established the Centre de Realisations et d'Études Artistiques a Nantes (C.R.E.A.). The festival was held for the first time in Nantes, in 1995. Soon after annual editions of the festival moved to Portugal, Spain, Japan, Brazil and Poland. This international event has become so popular that in 2013 it will expand to include Canada and China, with more countries waiting in line to join. La Folle Journée is an exceptional encounter with music to which everyone is invited, without exception.

Previous Warsaw editions of La Folle Journée were devoted to the music of Chopin ("Chopin Open" in 2010), and Brahms, Mahler, Liszt, Strauss and Szymanowski ("Les Titans" in 2011). **Each time, approximately 100 concerts performed by hundreds of artists from around the world were attended by an audience of nearly 30 000, while the accompanying educational events were attended by a total of 6 500 children from Warsaw's primary schools. This year, La Folle Journée was preceded by "The Labyrinth Event".**

As in previous years, the concert programs and Polish and foreign artists will satisfy even seasoned music lovers, while the duration of each concert (45-60 minutes) and low ticket prices should encourage all those to attend, who've had little contact with classical music or who have resisted its charm.

www.follejournee.pl / www.szalonedn muzyki.pl

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