Warsaw, 10 February 2023  
Press release

***An Opera about Warsaw.  
The Best City in the World*– a musical monument  
to the post-war builders of the capital**

**Our new project entitled *An Opera about Warsaw – The Best City in the World* project has been kicked off. It will give rise to a new operatic work for a large orchestra to commemorate the rebuilding of Warsaw after World War II. The project is run by Sinfonia Varsovia in collaboration with partners: Teatr Wielki – The Polish National Opera, the International Festival of Contemporary Music "Warsaw Autumn", and the Museum of Warsaw. The premiere of the work is planned for 2025.**

**Opera about hope**

"Warsaw's opera scene undoubtedly attracts crowds of spectators thanks to its great productions", says Jarosław Trybuś, a head and initiator of the project. “I believe that the genre of opera is a great medium for a living memorial to the rebuilding of Warsaw”. “We talk a lot about the destruction, we live in its shadow, but we talk very little about the miracle of reconstruction”, he points out. “It was an unprecedented event that brought together many communities in the hope of building a better reality and «the best city in the world» for themselves and future generations".

Sinfonia Varsovia has been working on the project since last year. "It’s natural that we took on organizing this project", says Janusz Marynowski, the director of Sinfonia Varsovia and a member of the musical and literary jury. “We are an orchestra of the city of Warsaw, so we are proud to promote the capital and its music. *An* *Opera about Warsaw* is an obvious continuation of our previous activities. A few years ago, we successfully organized the *Warsaw Polonaise for Independent*, so we have experience in this field", he adds.

**Modern language and a universal message**

"We want the piece to carry a universal message", stresses Trybuś. “It will be about overcoming fate, living despite destruction, and bringing hope wherever people need to rebuild their ruined homes. Warsaw proved that this is possible and showed how to do it”. The lyrics of the opera (libretto) will be based on Grzegorz Piątek's book *The Best City in the World*. *Rebuilding Warsaw 1945-1949*, which received the Literary Award of the Capital City of Warsaw and the Historical Award of the Capital City of Warsaw, and was nominated for the Nike Literary Award.

The piece is to be performed on a big stage and will feature a full-scale symphony orchestra, soloists, choir, dancers, as well as electronics and audiovisual projections. It will be a communicative and modern work, which combines new means of expression and contemporary musical language with an innovative approach to traditional operatic forms.

**Choice of music and libretto**

“Due to the considerable effort required to prepare the application materials, we decided to extend invitations to the leading Polish composers of the middle generation”, explains Jarosław Trybuś. “We expect compositions of the highest quality, which can only be written by artists undisturbed by other creative commitments. We decided to do the same with the author of the libretto”.

The names of the composers commissioned to write the music and libretto for the opera will be announced in May this year. The musical jury is chaired by the director of the "Warsaw Autumn", composer Jerzy Kornowicz, and the literary jury is chaired by playwright Piotr Gruszczyński. Both juries are made up of recognized experts in their respective domains.

**Production schedule**

The winning tandem of composer and librettist is expected to complete the opera by July 2024. The production is considered to be premiered in late September/early October 2025 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the start of the rebuilding of Warsaw, as part of the 68th Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music, as well as to mark the opening of the 2025/26 season at Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera. Contact for media:

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