Warsaw, 24 January 2025  
Press release

***Villes Phares* – Sinfonia Varsovia   
at festivals in Nantes and Pays de la Loire**

***Ma Région Virtuose*: Challans, Fontenay, La Roche-sur-Yon, Laval, Les Sables d’Olonne, Saumur (24–26 January)   
La Folle Journée de Nantes *Villes Phares* (29 January – 2 February)**

**Sinfonia Varsovia and the Polish Chamber Orchestra have flown to France, where they will perform at two festivals in late January and early February: The 31st La Folle Journée in Nantes and Ma Région Virtuose in 6 cities of Pays de la Loire. The musicians will take part in 17 concerts over 10 days under the direction of conductors such as Kaspar Zehnder, Jean-François Verdier and Jesko Sirvend. They will be accompanied by artists of such stature as guitarist Raphaël Feuillâtre, violinists Fanny Clamagirand, Liya Petrova and Iris Scialom, pianists Jonathan Biss, François-Frédéric Guy, Dmitri Masleev, Marie‑Ange Nguci and Anne Queffélec, Paul Lay’s jazz trio and saxophone quartet Ellipsos.**

# *Villes Phares*

**La Folle Journée** is a festival of great interest to music lovers from around the world. Initially organized only in France (in Nantes and Pays de la Loire – the latter currently as **Ma Région Virtuose**), it now also has editions in Japan and Poland (as **Crazy Days of Music –** **Szalone Dni Muzyki**), and for several years it was also held in Portugal, Spain, Russia and Brazil. This year, more than **250 concerts** will be held at the Cité des Congrès in Nantes alone.

The 31st edition of the festival – in keeping with its adopted subtitle, ***Villes Phares*** (“beacon cities” in English) – outlines a map of the most important cities in the history of Western classical music. The event’s programme highlights Venice, London, Vienna, Paris and New York, among others. “It’s hard to deny that the narrative of music history is built around a number of great cities that have become centers of culture and creativity,” festival artistic director **René Martin** states in the curatorial note. “Like lighthouses illuminating the world, these particular cities attracted the greatest geniuses, concentrated the quintessential artistic and musical life of their era, forever making their mark on the history of civilization, radiating their influence through the centuries.”

# The programme and the artists

During their third trip abroad in January, the musicians, performing as **Sinfonia Varsovia** and its string ensemble, the **Polish Chamber Orchestra**, will play a total of 17 concerts in Nantes and Pays de la Loire. They will play Manuel de Falla’s Orchestral Suite *Homenajes*, Joseph Haydn’s Symphony in D major *The Miracle* Hob.I:96 and, as a premiere, Paul Lay’s *Cuban Interlude*. **Kaspar Zehnder, Jean-François Verdier and Jesko Sirvend** will conduct.

The orchestra will perform with such soloists as guitarist **Raphaël Feuillâtre** (Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquín Rodrigo), violinists **Liya Petrova** (Violin Concerto in A minor BWV 1041 by Johann Sebastian Bach, Violin Concerto in E minor Op. 64 by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy), **Fanny Clamagirand** and **Iris Scialom** (violin concerti cycle *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi), pianists **Jonathan Biss** (Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major *Emperor*, Op. 73 by Ludwig van Beethoven), **François-Frédéric Guy** (Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37 by Beethoven), **Dmitry Masleev** (Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15 by Johannes Brahms), **Marie-Ange Nguci** (Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major *Emperor*, Op. 73 by Beethoven) and **Anne Queffélec** (Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major, K.467 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart).

# Not only classics

Additionally, Sinfonia Varsovia will perform in two swinging programs at the main concert hall (Auditorium Apollon) of Cité des Congrès de Nantes. The musicians will play alongside a jazz trio and a saxophone quartet under the baton of conductor **Jean-François Verdier**.

On **January 31 at 9:45 PM**, the orchestra will join forces with the **Quatuor Ellipsos** saxophone quartet consisting of **Paul-Fathi Lacombe** (soprano), **Julien Bréchet** (alto), **Sylvain Jarry** (tenor), **Nicolas Herrouët** (baritone). Together they will perform *A Dream for Artemis*, a “lunar fantasy” by French composer **Fabien Waksman** from 2024. The programme will be rounded out with a performance of **George Gershwin’s** *Rhapsody in Blue* in Paul Lay’s reinterpretation for jazz trio and orchestra, composed for the 100th anniversary of the work’s premiere, which brought jazz to philharmonic stages. The arranger will sit at the piano, accompanied by double bassist **Clemens van der Feen** and percussionist **Donald Kontomanou**.

In a concert ***Gershwin in New York*** on **February 2 at 12:30 PM**, Sinfonia Varsovia will perform again with **Paul Lay’s jazz trio**. This time, in addition to the author’s arrangement of *Rhapsody* *in Blue*, other George Gershwin’s evergreens will be heard, such as *Nice work if you can get it*, *Summertime* or *It ain’t necessarily so* – in a colorful orchestration by **Philippe Maniez**. The concert will feature the premiere of **Paul Lay’s *Cuban Interlude***, in which improvised parts have been entrusted not only to jazzmen, but also to classical orchestra musicians. The concert will be broadcast live online at [**ARTE.tv**](https://www.arte.tv/en/videos/124010-002-A/gershwin-in-new-york/).

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Details about the programme can be found on the festival website: [**http://www.follejournee.fr**](http://www.follejournee.fr).

*Gershwin in New York* concert on February 2 at 12:30 PM will be broadcast live on [**ARTE.tv**](https://www.arte.tv/en/videos/124010-002-A/gershwin-in-new-york/).

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# Ma Région Virtuose Festival

24–26 January 2025

Challans, Fontenay, La Roche-sur-Yon, Laval, Les Sables d'Olonne, Saumur; France

## Friday, 24 stycznia 2025, 8:30 PM

**Le Centre de Congrès Les Atlantes, Les Sables d'Olonne, France**

Performers:

**Fanny Clamagirand** violin, leading

**Sinfonia Varsovia – strings**

**Lilianna Stawarz** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

## Saturday, 25 January 2025, 7:00 PM

**Espace Mayenne, Laval, France**

Performers:

**Iris Scialom** violin, leading

**Polish Chamber Orchestra**

**Emmanuel Arakélian** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

## Saturday, 25 January 2025, 8:30 PM

**Théâtre Le Dôme, Saumur, France**

Performers:

**Fanny Clamagirand** violin, leading

**Sinfonia Varsovia – strings**

**Lilianna Stawarz** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

## Sunday, 26 January 2025, 2:30 PM

**Espace René Cassin, Fontenay, France**

Performers:

**Iris Scialom** violin, leading

**Polish Chamber Orchestra**

**Emmanuel Arakélian** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

## Sunday, 26 January 2025, 3:00 PM

**Le Manège, La Roche-sur-Yon, France**

Performers:

**Iris Scialom** violin, leading

**Polish Chamber Orchestra**

**Emmanuel Arakélian** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

## Sunday, 26 January 2025, 6:30 PM

**Salle Louis-Claude Roux, Challans, France**

Performers:

**Fanny Clamagirand** violin, leading

**Sinfonia Varsovia – strings**

**Lilianna Stawarz** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

# 31st La Folle Festival Journée de Nantes “Villes Phares”

January 29 – February 2, 2025

Cité des Congrès, Nantes, France

## Monday, 27 January 2025, 8:00 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

**Opening concert**

Closed event

Performers:

**Fanny Clamagirand** violin, leading

**Sinfonia Varsovia – strings**

**Emmanuel Arakélian** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

## Wednesday, 29 January 2025, 7:30 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Raphaël Feuillâtre** guitar

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Kaspar Zehnder** conductor

Programme:

**Manuel de Falla** Orchestral Suite *Homenajes*

**Joaquín Rodrigo** Concerto For Guitar and Orchestra *Concierto de Aranjuez*

## Wednesday, 29 January 2025, 9:00 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Marie-Ange Nguci** piano, leading

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

Programme:

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major *Emperor*, Op. 73

## Thursday, 30 January 2025, 1:00 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**François-Frédéric Guy** piano, leading

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

Programme:

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

## Friday, 31 January 2025, 6:15 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Anne Queffélec** piano

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Kaspar Zehnder** conductor

Programme:

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major K.467

**Joseph Haydn** Symphony in D major *The Miracle*, Hob.I:96

## Friday, 31 January 2025, 9:45 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Paul Lay** piano

**Clemens van der Feen** double bass

**Donald Kontomanou** percussion

**Quatuor Ellipsos**

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Jean-François Verdier** conductor

Programme:

**George Gershwin/Paul Lay** *Rhapsody in Blue Extended 1924–2024* in version for jazz trio and orchestra

**Fabien Waksman** *A Dream for Artemis. Lunar Fantasy* for saxophone quartet and orchestra

## Saturday, 1 February 2025, 9:30 AM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Fanny Clamagirand** violin, leading

**Polish Chamber Orchestra**

**Emmanuel Arakélian** harpsichord

Programme:

**Antonio Vivaldi** *The Four Seasons*,Op. 8

Violin Concerto in E major *Spring* R.269

Violin Concerto in G minor *Summer* R.315

Violin Concerto in F major *Autumn* R.293

Violin Concerto in F minor *Winter* R.297

## Saturday, 1 February 2025, 12:45 PM

***Une journée a Leipzig***

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Liya Petrova** violin

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Kaspar Zehnder** conductor

Programme:

**Johann Sebastian Bach** Violin Concerto in A minor BWV 1041

**Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy** Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

## Saturday, 1 February 2025, 5:45 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Dmitry Masleev** piano

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Jesko Sirvend** conductor

Programme:

**Johannes Brahms** Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15

## Sunday, 2 February 2025, 12:30 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

***Gershwin in New York***

ARTE live stream online

Performers:

**Paul Lay** piano

**Clemens van der Feen** double bass

**Donald Kontomanou** percussion

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Jean-François Verdier** conductor

Programme:

**George Gershwin** (arr. Paul Lay, orch. Philippe Maniez)

*Nice work if you can get it*

*It ain't necessarily so*

**George Gershwin/Paul Lay** *Rhapsody in Blue Extended 1924–2024* in version for jazz trio and orchestra

**Paul Lay** *Cuban Interlude* (orch. Philippe Maniez)

**George Gershwin** *Summertime* (arr. Paul Lay, orch. Philippe Maniez)

## Sunday, 2 February 2025, 3:30 PM

**Auditorium Apollon**

Performers:

**Jonathan Biss** piano

**Sinfonia Varsovia**

**Jesko Sirvend** conductor

Programme:

**Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major *Emperor*, Op. 73

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