

***The Krzysztof Penderecki Festival***

Marking the Composer’s 85th Birthday

**Warsaw, 16 – 23 November 2018**

We are in for eight days of Krzysztof Penderecki’s music on the occasion of the joyful celebrations of his 85th birthday. The cream of artists from all over the world will appear in Warsaw. Polish orchestras will be conducted by internationally renowned conductors Jerzy Maksymiuk, Christoph Eschenbach, Leonard Slatkin, Alexander Liebreich, Lawrence Foster, Jacek Kaspszyk, Rafael Payare, Tadeusz Strugała, John Axelrod and Sergey Smbatyan. “Each of the invited masters of the baton will conduct one of Krzysztof Penderecki’s works,” announced Elżbieta Penderecka, the artistic director of the festival. Outstanding soloists with the German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter heading the list, will take us through different stages of the birthday celebrator’s work and the music genres that define his oeuvre – from chamber pieces (*Sextet*, *Quartet for Clarinet and String Trio*) to monumental vocal and instrumental works (*Credo*, *Symphony No. 6 “Chinese Songs”*). We will be able to trace the composer’s stylistic transformation when listening to his string quartets performed by the Shanghai Quartet and his symphonies – from *No. 1*, which the composer himself sees as a summary of his love affair with the avant-garde, to *No. 6*, which he completed last year. Though Penderecki is a fulfilled artist, he is still creative – the author of the legendary *St Luke Passion* is working on new compositions. The festival will witness the world premiere of his *Piano Trio,* which will coincide with the debut by a new chamber ensemble – the Penderecki Piano Trio composed of JarosławNadrzycki (violin), Karol Marianowski (cello) and Konrad Skolarski (piano).

Penderecki’s juvenile chamber works will serve as a counterpoint to the main focus of his oeuvre – the festival provides a unique opportunity to hear live performances of the *Violin Sonata No. 1*, *Three Miniatures* for violin and piano, and *Emanations* for two string orchestras. And to admire the ingeniousness and brilliant sense of humour found in his works for violin as well as wind instruments.

Maestro Penderecki’s birthday is on 23 November. That day will see a great final concert with the participation of the star Anne-Sophie Mutter and with the monumental vocal and instrumental work *Dies illa*, which the composer wrote to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.