**24th Chamber Music Festival
Arsenal Nights
25 June – 4 July 2021
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The musical feast in the Arsenal

After a year-long break due to a pandemic, the Chamber Music Festival “Arsenal Nights” is back! The event, which has been a part of Wrocław’s musical culture for many years, will traditionally take place at the turn of June and July – our open-air festival will begin on Friday, 25 June and will last until Sunday, 4 July.

The host of “Arsenal Nights”, as usual, will be the Wratislavia Chamber Orchestra, whose artistic director is Jan Stanienda. The organisers hope that the audience, thirsty after the lockdown for contact with live music, will not be disappointed and will turn up in crowds for the festival concerts. “Nights” have many advantages, and this year’s basic one is of particular importance: the concerts take place outdoors, in the courtyard of the historic Wrocław Arsenal. Of course, all sanitary safety considerations will be maintained, and the audience will be kept at an appropriate distance and in a smaller number than the Arsenal’s space would normally allow.

“Arsenal Nights” offers musical highlights this year that should make audiences forget the many months of cancelled concerts and the ban on outdoor events. The festival is devoted to chamber music and its various genres and conventions. Already the first “Night” on 25 June may surprise with “chamber curiosities” in the programme. Two well-known works – Chopin’s Piano Concerto in F minor and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1 in C major – will be performed in chamber versions, where the cast is limited to string instruments only. This results in a different sound of these valued masterpieces. The soloist in Chopin’s Concerto will be pianist Mateusz Krzyżowski.

However, the biggest star of the festival will undoubtedly be Magda Umer. You can meet the mistress of poetic song on 1 and 2 July (Thursday and Friday). We will hear such well-known songs as “Koncert jesienny”, “Okularnicy”, “Miasteczko Bełz”, “Ach panie, panowie”, “Portofino”, “Już czas na sen”. The singer will be accompanied by pianist Wojciech Borkowski. On the next day, the festival will still remain in the realm of poetry, but this time poetry expressed only through the sounds of an instrument. This will be brought about by a performance of the piano duo Duo Granat & Kreda (pianists Tamara Granat and Adrian Kreda), who will present a selection of compositions by Franz Schubert, the early Romantic master of song.

The fiery Argentine tango will make its appearance at the festival on Wednesday, 30 June, thanks to such works as Astor Piazzolla’s “The History of Tango” and fragments of his “Tango Suite”. The Night will be graced by the presence of violinist Roksana Kwaśnikowska and the Woch & Guzik Duo (guitarists Adam Woch and Robert Guzik). The festival will not lack a large portion of classical chamber music, represented by works of the most famous composers. On 27 June, the young cellist Piotr Olesz will perform Joseph Haydn’s Cello Concerto in C major (the programme also includes Felix Janiewicz’s Divertimento and Haydn’s Symphony No. 39). Pianist Krzysztof Stanienda and soloists of the Wratislavia Chamber Orchestra will play chamber works by Beethoven, Schumann and Saint-Saëns (Saturday 26 June). The festival will conclude on 4 July with the music of the Baroque masters. Performed by the artists of the Wratislavia Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Jan Stanienda, the audience will listen to works by Vivaldi, Bach and Telemann.

All concerts, except the final one, start at 8 pm.

We are very much looking forward to returning to Wrocław’s Arsenal – let’s all wish each other safe and musically wonderful evenings!