



**NFM** | NATIONAL  
FORUM  
OF MUSIC











## **WELCOME TO THE NFM!**

The National Forum of Music has been built on a foundation of passion and belief that it is worth setting the highest goals and trying to pursue them. I have a strong conviction that sharing the emotions and beauty that come with music can help us, as humans in the early 21st century, to answer questions about who we are. This is the purpose of our work as artists. We don't make art for ourselves; we make it for you.

The NFM is a space in the heart of Wrocław: a meeting point where people come together to feel, however briefly, like part of a community, and fill their leisure time with art. It makes me happy to see how this project has grown to become a catalyst for change in the artistic life of Wrocław. I am overjoyed that the NFM can host people with different interests, presenting a variety of music genres, visual arts and dance shows, and that the building's interior can be used as a space for all the arts.

Our concert hall has been created out of dreams and passions, and we wish to share these passions with others – so I invite you all to visit the NFM in Wrocław.



**Andrzej Kosendiak**  
General Director  
of the National Forum of Music





## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Wrocław is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Poland. Its rich past mingles harmoniously with a modern and dynamically developing metropolis, encouraging visitors to discover its mysteries, and the welcoming nature of the city's residents inspires encounters and long conversations.

One of the iconic symbols of Wrocław is the National Forum of Music, located near the Royal Palace in the southern part of the historic Old Town. It is a real gem that should be a must-see for anyone visiting the city. The building, completed in 2015, is a remarkable modern concert venue where music takes on a new, sophisticated sound.

With its highly advanced design and specialised acoustic solutions, this new cultural institution has brought to Wrocław sounds of the highest quality. As a result, it has become a key travel destination not only for music fans from Poland and abroad, but also for world-class soloists, conductors and orchestras.

The National Forum of Music opened a new, wonderful chapter in the musical history of the capital of Lower Silesia. I now invite you to join us to co-create that history.

I look forward to seeing you in Wrocław!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jacek Sutryk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first letter "J" is large and loops around the first part of the name. The last letter "k" has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

**Jacek Sutryk**  
Mayor of Wrocław







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A decorative border made of wooden spiral ornaments, possibly made of wood or bamboo, arranged in a circular pattern around the central text. The ornaments have a warm, brownish-orange hue and a smooth, polished finish. They are set against a light blue background.

# About us

**‘The story of the NFM’s creation is full of difficult moments and dramatic turns of events.’**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK

## ART AND EMOTIONS AT THE NFM

For the National Forum of Music, the most important task is to share emotions and values through its activities. Among the roughly 250 varied concerts that make up the artistic season, every listener will find something for them. This is a fact proven by the number of visitors, which can reach up to 400,000 every year. The goals of the National Forum of Music are to inspire through art and to facilitate participation in culture for everyone.





We share our passion also at seven festivals, to which we invite outstanding artists from all over the world. The NFM has become the meeting place for representatives of many different art forms, not just music. We present classical and early music, ethnic, contemporary and electronic sounds, jazz, opera and interdisciplinary projects. Every year we host around 280 soloists, conductors and ensembles from Poland, along with around 300 from abroad. Their presence allows us to open ourselves to different cultures and hold a creative dialogue in which we learn respect and cooperation with others. The NFM is a member of several international organisations, and our partners from different continents stimulate us to produce even more creative work. This is why we are open to novelties and experiments, and every year the NFM sees the Polish and world premieres of around 40 compositions.

The NFM is not only a place to listen to the best performances of exceptional music. The building also serves the community of Wrocław and residents of Lower Silesia. Children, young people and artists at the start of their career, adults, seniors and people with special educational needs can all benefit from our varied educational and mobilising offers. The NFM hosts charity events, anniversary and jubilee concerts for distinguished people and public institutions, public holiday events, conferences, and school and music academy concerts. Among other events, through music we have expressed our solidarity with the protesters on Maidan and performed to raise funds for Aleppo. The NFM takes part in numerous social events, such as Miesiąc Rodzinny (Family Month), Noc Muzeów (Night of Museums) and the project Zamknięte sklepy – otwarte miasto (Closed Shops – Open City). This modern set of concert halls can be also rented to organise a variety of events; the building's broad technical possibilities and competent staff make it possible to set up even the most daring projects.





As many as thirteen ensembles (orchestras, chamber groups and choirs) can now develop under the patronage of the NFM, and more are invited to cooperate. We want to delight with valuable repertoire, dare to discover new compositions, fascinate with early music performed in an authentic and current way, provide entertainment at the highest level and promote Polish works. The NFM is a place where listeners can meet remarkable musicians, and artists can build relationships on an international scale. We engage in a wide range of recording activities – each year we release many albums with varied repertoire, including compositions that hadn't been recorded before. We also publish books inspired by music.

With joy we are building a strong Polish brand, representing Polish art abroad, contributing to an increase in the touristic and cultural appeal of the region, and co-creating an aesthetic city space in the centre of Wrocław. We are a partner for many music stars, organisations and companies from across the entire world, and a venue at which you can meet up with your guests and business partners or spend time with the family. Our music lovers can live through unforgettable moments, discover new interests, develop talents and spend their free time in an interesting way at the NFM. We jointly create a space for beauty.

**'In 2002 I met my friend, the composer Zbyszek Karnecki, to write down suggestions for the manifesto of Rafał Dutkiewicz, who was running in the elections for mayor of Wrocław. Having reviewed the list of objectives in the area of culture we put the construction of a new concert venue on the list, because many generations of Wrocław residents had been dreaming about a venue of adequate stature to reflect the city's relevance.'**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK





The former Concert House in Wrocław, 1903.  
The concert hall seated 1478 people.  
The photo comes from the collections of  
Wratislaviae Amici ([polska-org.pl](http://polska-org.pl)).





**'I met with the city mayor in his office. Rafał Dutkiewicz has a habit of writing down his proposed topics of conversation on a piece of paper, and I saw 'concert venue' written in his notes. The mayor said "OK, let's try to get to it. Do you know how to create the best concert hall in the world?" A short silence. "I have no idea, but I will try to find out, get to people who know" I answered. "Then do it."**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK



## TRADITION AND MODERNITY

Experiencing music together has a long tradition in Wrocław. The National Forum of Music was born out of the joining together of the Witold Lutosławski Philharmonic and the International Festival Wratislavia Cantans in 2014.

The beginnings of the Wrocław Philharmonic date back to 1945 – its first concert taking place in a city full of post-war rubble – but the tradition of public concerts and the city orchestra goes back even earlier, to the 1850s.

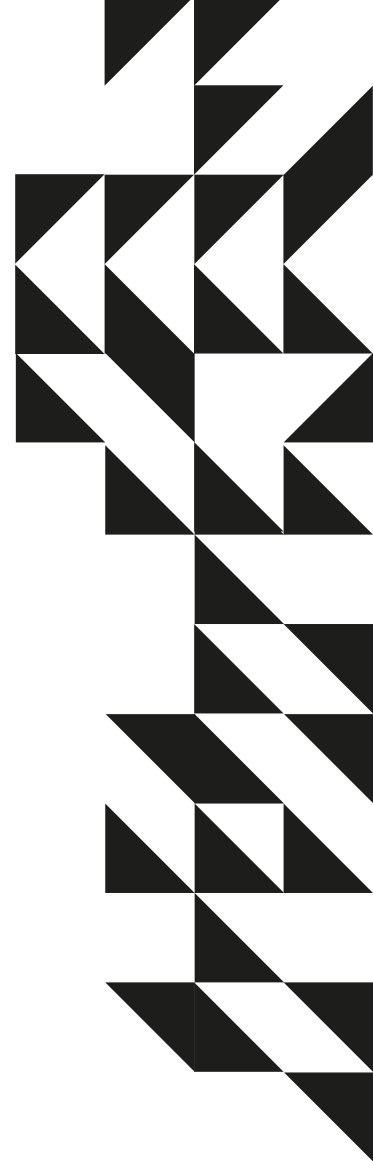
The Wratislavia Cantans festival, founded by Andrzej Markowski, has been a brand of Wrocław cultural life for over 50 years, and is known as one of Central Europe's most important classical music festivals. The first edition took place in 1966 under the name Oratorio and Cantata Festival Wratislavia Cantans, under the patronage of the Philharmonic.

Since 2005, with the construction of the new venue on the horizon, the Philharmonic and its director Andrzej Kosendiak began to bring together numerous Wrocław-based ensembles and classical and contemporary music festivals, as well as creating new ones. The new concert hall, originated by the then mayor of the city Rafał Dutkiewicz and Andrzej Kosendiak, brought to life entirely new cultural possibilities for the residents of Wrocław and Lower Silesia.

After many years of construction of this modern cultural institution, music sounded at the National Forum of Music for the first time on 4 September 2015. It was performed first and foremost by the Wrocław ensembles that found both a home and conditions for active development at the new building. The opening of the NFM was on everyone's lips in Wrocław, and the building was visited by thousands of guests, including musicians from Poland and abroad. Everyone felt that finally there was a concert venue that was a match for a dynamic European city.

**‘On trams and on the streets I met people working on the NFM construction site – carpenters, foremen – saying they were proud to be working there. They liked the fact that everything they did there was prototypical. They were proud to contribute to the construction of this building.’**


ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK











**'I remember many travels around the world, during which I visited concert halls and talked to their managers. Finland, California, the USA's east coast... visits of a couple of days, filled with conversations. I vividly remember Lucerne, and a visit to a building with remarkable architecture, where I was to meet the acoustician designing it. I was standing on the second level of the concert hall and on stage at the far end I saw Tateo Nakajima. He said he was the one that would be having the meeting with me. Now I think it was a trick to show me how well you could hear everything from every place in the hall.'**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK



**‘I was never able to come to terms with the phrase  
“this can’t be done”, as usually it turns out that  
“this could be done” somewhere in the world.’**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK

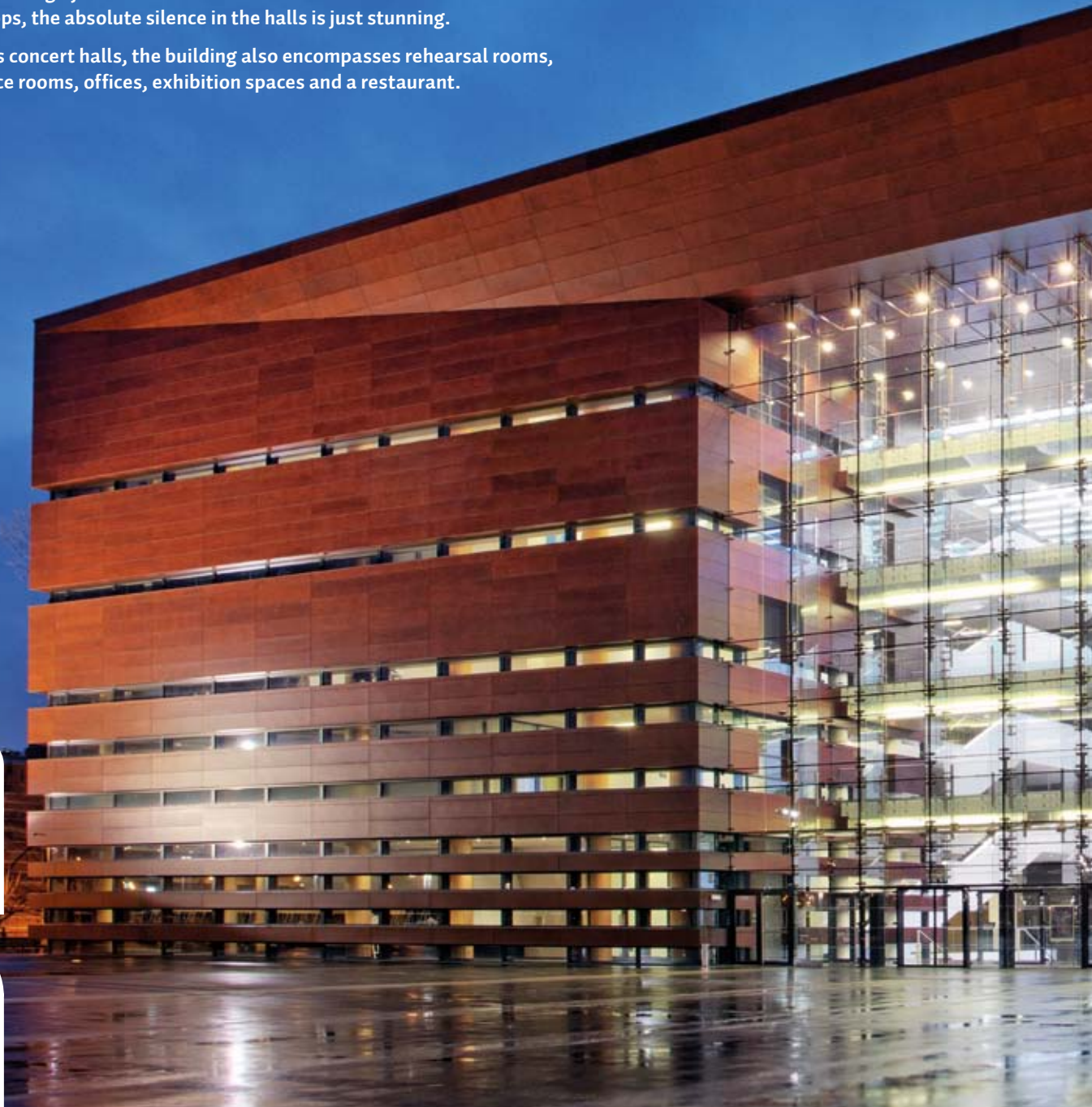
# **A space for beauty**






The National Forum of Music is one of the largest concert venues in Central Europe. This building, located in the heart of Wrocław, features four concert halls: the Main Hall (with 1800 seats) and three chamber halls (each with 250–450 seats). Each hall has been designed to adapt to all genres – from classical through jazz to alternative and electronic music. And when the music stops, the absolute silence in the halls is just stunning.

As well as concert halls, the building also encompasses rehearsal rooms, conference rooms, offices, exhibition spaces and a restaurant.







**‘The interplay of music and architecture and their interaction has been stimulating musical creativity throughout time – this holds true for composers and performers alike.’**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK

## LET THE MUSIC SOUND

How do you create ideal **ACOUSTIC** conditions? By adjusting how the concert venue sounds depending on the repertoire being performed that day. To obtain an excellent outcome, the design of the acoustics was created first, and only then did the architectural concept follow. The building's acoustic design was created by Artec Consultants Inc (Arup) from New York, with the lead acoustics designer being Tateo Nakajima.

A necessary element of good acoustics is a total isolation of the concert hall from external noise (both from other parts of the building and from outside of the building, which is located in a busy central area of the city). This was achieved using the **BOX-IN-BOX** technique, which isolates each of the concert halls with a space on every side. In the Main Hall, Red Hall and Black Hall, the only points of contact with the ground are in their **VIBRATION ISOLATORS**. This is a rubber layer located under the halls that prevents the transmission of vibrations.

**‘We entered the main hall from the third balcony high up above the stage. It felt like falling from heaven. The distance and at the same time the closeness to the stage is incredible. As are the visible and invisible structures which can be adjusted according to the needs of performances, and the most sophisticated acoustic system one can imagine which has been designed by Arup (selected as Artec Consultants Inc) from New York.’**

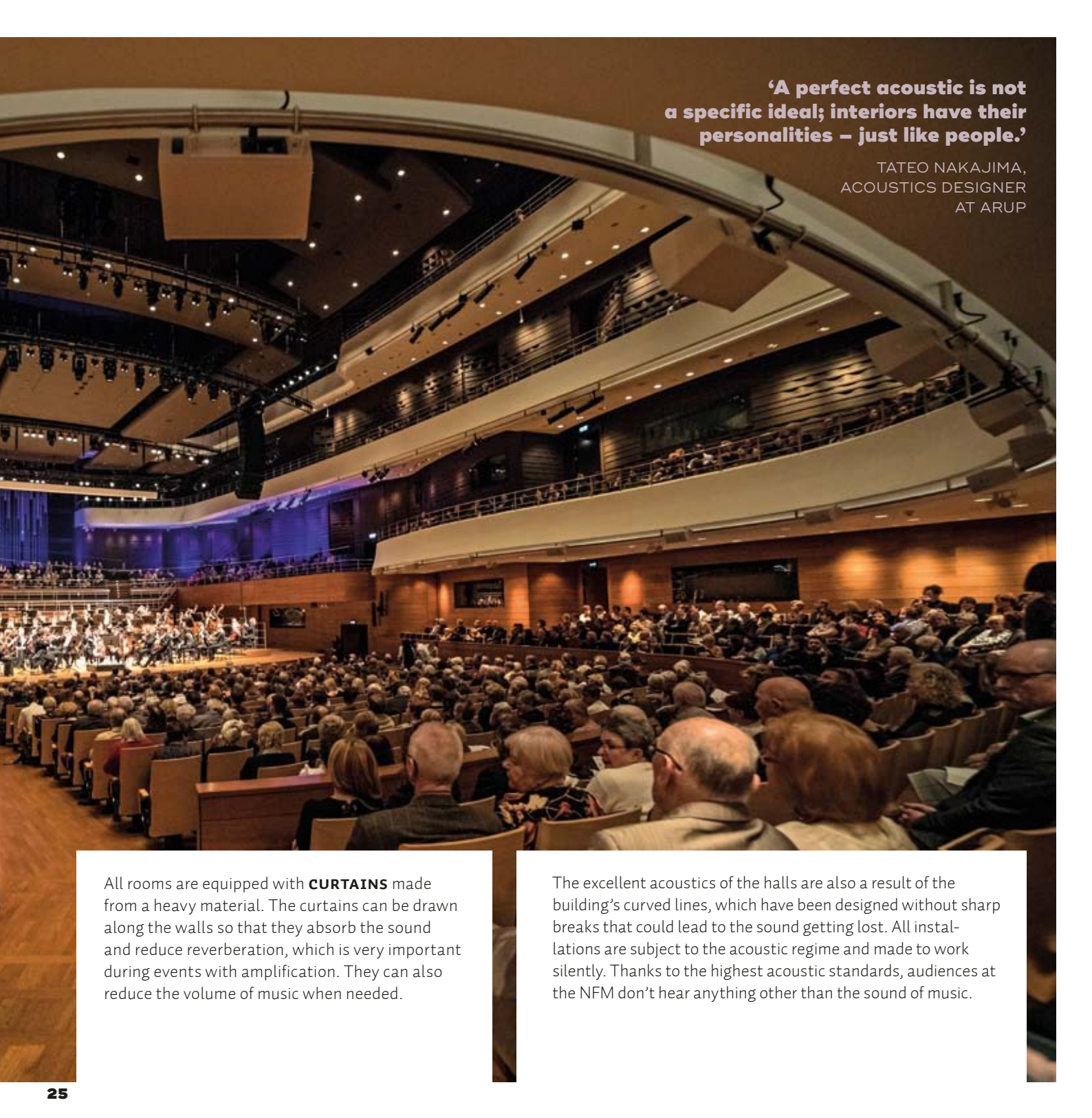
KATHRIN DEVENTER, SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE EUROPEAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION

The acoustics of the Main Hall are regulated by four systems: canopies, reverberation chambers, curtains and modifiable stage size. The **CANOPIES** are 23 panels hanging parallel to the ceiling – they are different in size and can be lowered to any height required. They are used not only to change the acoustic experiences of the audience, but also to adjust the volume of the room, depending on the size of an ensemble, and make it easier for the musicians to hear one another on stage.



**REVERBERATION CHAMBERS** are empty spaces surrounding the Main Hall that can be opened to different extents – the wider they are opened, the stronger the reverberation and the sound of music. When they are closed, they make the sound more focused and intimate. Inside the chambers there are curtains that allow for additional subtle sound modifications.





**‘A perfect acoustic is not a specific ideal; interiors have their personalities – just like people.’**

TATEO NAKAJIMA,  
ACOUSTICS DESIGNER  
AT ARUP

All rooms are equipped with **CURTAINS** made from a heavy material. The curtains can be drawn along the walls so that they absorb the sound and reduce reverberation, which is very important during events with amplification. They can also reduce the volume of music when needed.

The excellent acoustics of the halls are also a result of the building’s curved lines, which have been designed without sharp breaks that could lead to the sound getting lost. All installations are subject to the acoustic regime and made to work silently. Thanks to the highest acoustic standards, audiences at the NFM don’t hear anything other than the sound of music.



**‘The National Forum of Music is a one-of-a-kind acoustic wonder. The sound in the hall is surprisingly blended, and at the same time utterly transparent.’**

STEFAN ENGLERT, MANAGING DIRECTOR  
OF THE GÜRZENICH-ORCHESTER KÖLN

### **48,500M<sup>2</sup> OF MUSIC**

The NFM building, both functional and accessible to all, has been constructed with the idea of architecture serving excellent acoustics. At the same time, it is beautiful and timeless, fitting with the traditional style of Wrocław. The building has 48,500m<sup>2</sup> of floor space across its 10 levels, from level -3 (15 metres below ground level) to level +6 (30 metres above the surface).

The NFM has been built for both visual and auditory pleasure. The architects at Kuryłowicz & Associates architecture studio – under the direction of Stefan Kuryłowicz, and later Ewa Kuryłowicz – were inspired by music. The shape of the building and its façade bring to mind a string instrument, and the black foyer walls and white balconies are a reference to a piano keyboard. The colours of the foyer – white and black – also bring a piano to mind. Colours also set the ambiance of the chamber halls. Horizontal divisions, both in the Main Foyer and on the building’s external walls, bear resemblance to the characteristic architecture of early 1930s Wrocław.

**‘A modified ARUP (i.e. ex-ARTEC) shoebox with that variable acoustic [...], it offers seating with a good view from just about everywhere, good sound throughout, a really impressive stage-to-audience relationship, and a stage design that works beautifully for the musicians. And I can testify from personal experience that the variable acoustic can be a huge help [...]. Lang Lang called it “one of the best concert halls in the world”.’**

MARSHALL MARCUS, JOURNALIST



### **MUSICAL HEART OF WROCŁAW**

The heart of the NFM – the Main Hall – features three balconies, a flat ground level, an amphitheatre and a choir behind the stage. The music is equally well heard from any place inside.

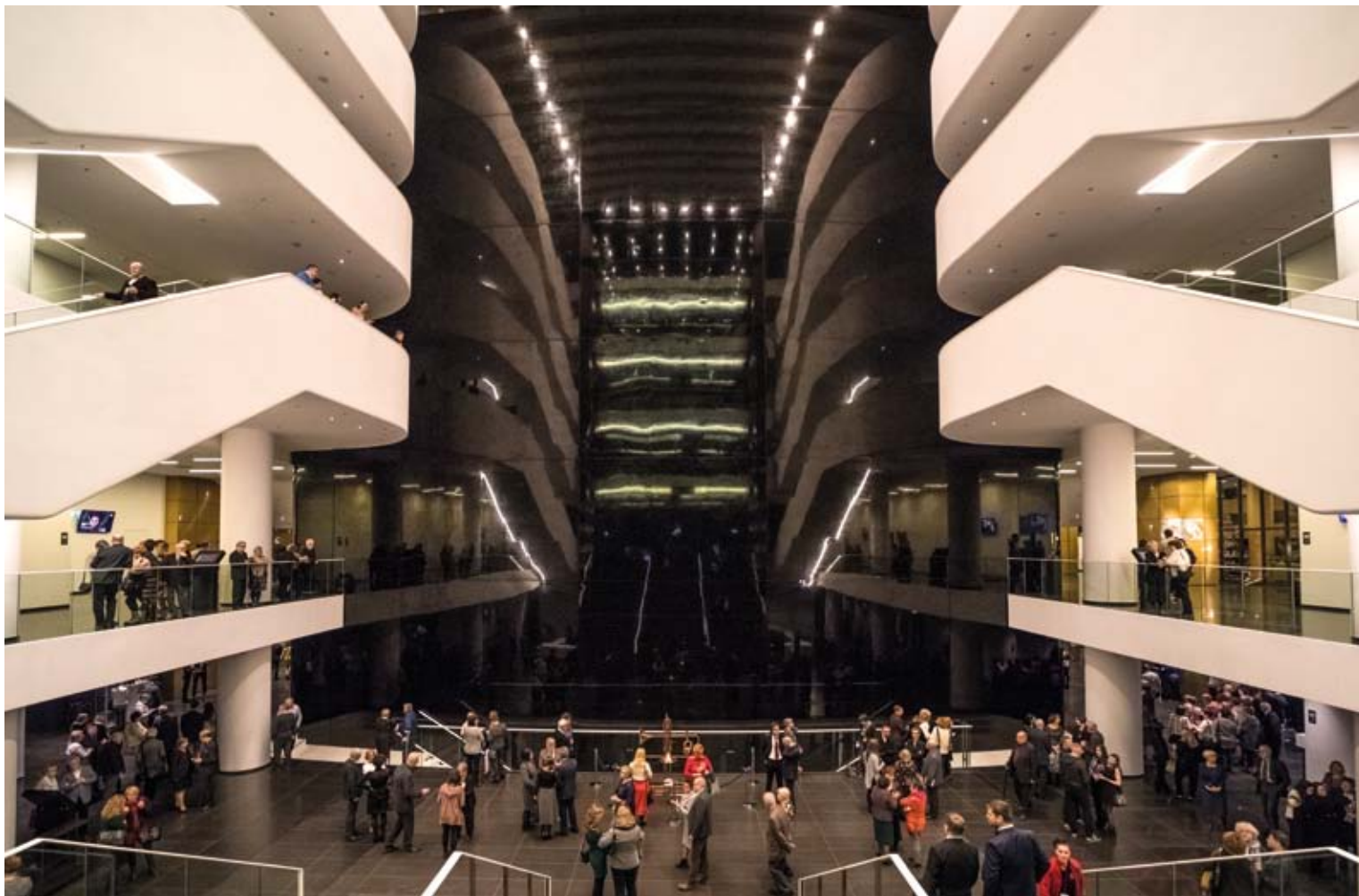
The hall has a **SHOEBOX SHAPE**, which means that the stage is located on one side of the room, with the majority of audience seats on the other side. This is the most universal solution, and one that has proven most effective when music is amplified.



It is possible to modify the stage size. The number of seats on the ground level is flexible – for concerts with very large ensembles, the stage can be enlarged by decreasing the number of seats by three or five rows. By shortening the stage and decreasing the audience capacity, part of the floor can be lowered in order to create an orchestra pit, located beneath the audience level (as in an opera house). The change in the stage size also affects the acoustics of the hall. The choir is the part of the hall above the stage, located above the back part of the stage and on its sides. This is not only a space for choir members; during concerts without a choir it becomes part of the audience. While seated there, audience members have an unusual opportunity to look the conductor in the eyes, peek at the orchestra musicians' sheet music, and view the entire hall from a different perspective.

The three chamber halls are suitable for concerts, meetings, balls and conferences. In the Chamber Hall and Black Hall the flat floor and mobile elements allow for any configuration of stage and audience. The Red Hall features an amphitheatre-style mobile audience. All chamber halls are equipped with a sound system, and their acoustic properties can be adjusted with sound amplification.





### **A MEETING WITH ART**

While getting ready for their artistic experience, the audience walks through an elegant foyer. An open, wide staircase leads through several levels, with the higher ones providing a wonderful view over the impressive foyer and towards Wrocław. At all levels the audience can enjoy paintings, sculptures and art installations. The space is also perfect for banquets, networking and even concerts! The -3 level is suitable for movie screenings, with the white wall used as a screen.

### **EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE**

The Main Hall is equipped with a folding full-size movie screen, a cinematic sound system and a surround sound system. It is possible to hang equipment from the ceiling, including recording microphones, additional screens or elements of scenography. All halls feature their own control booth, which can also be used by interpreters or sound engineers; this also means that they can instantly be converted into recording studios. Thanks to the installations hidden in the floor, the acousticians can also work directly in the hall. A broadcasting vehicle outside of the building can be easily connected to the systems in the wall.



## AN ART DISTRICT

Plac Wolności is a large space in the very heart of the city. It was restored during the construction of the NFM building and is now a bustling space for outdoor events, a favourite spot for skaters, and a set for many photo shoots. On the southern side, alongside the NFM building, is the Old Town Promenade – a picturesque boardwalk along a moat that goes around the historic part of the city, and a place for walks beloved by Wrocław residents.

The NFM is also part of the district of culture. Its neighbour is the classical Wrocław Opera building, and to the north are the Theatre Museum and the Historical Museum, located in a stunning royal palace with a French-style garden adjoining pl. Wolności.

At the NFM we are proud to be part of the vibrant city of Wrocław, a vigorous urban culture full of young people and an open-minded community that makes everybody feel welcome. Wrocław has been awarded the title of European Best Destination 2018 thanks to its rich history and exceptional beauty, as well as modern facilities for tourists. The city was named European Capital of Culture 2016, winning acclaim for its flourishing culture and countless arts venues. Whether you are a culture lover, a sightseeing enthusiast, a keen party goer or a foodie on holiday, you will enjoy every moment of your stay in Wrocław.

**‘We came into the Main Hall and took part in the first concert tests with Tateo Nakajima, a genius acoustics engineer. I don’t even know how to describe what we experienced – we were in shock that things like that were at all possible; that it was possible to modify the size of the hall and the colour of the air, adjusting the space to suit the ensemble size.’**

ANDRZEJ SASIN, SOUND ENGINEER AT CD ACCORD





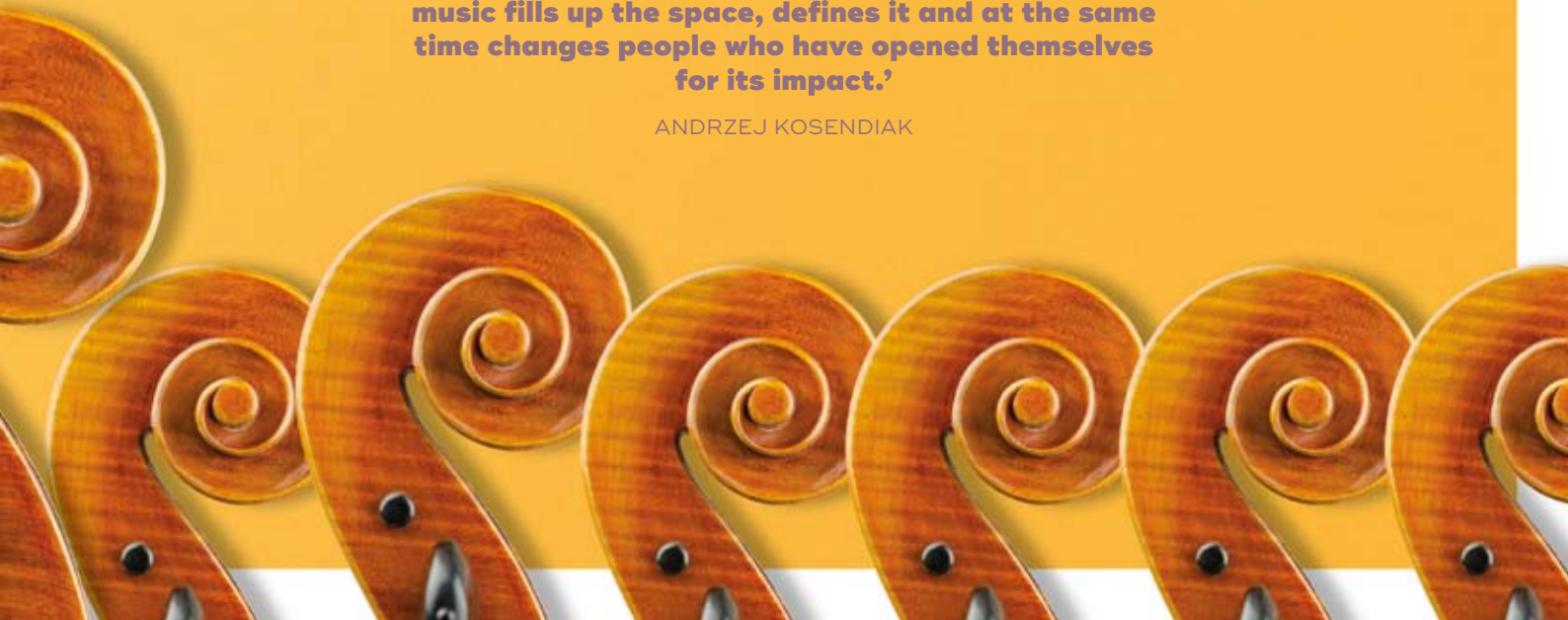




# MUSIC

**'This is how the great power of music is revealed – music fills up the space, defines it and at the same time changes people who have opened themselves for its impact.'**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK









# Festivals

**'Art presented by artists at the NFM will be shown to the fullest, as much as possible.'**

RAFAŁ DUTKIEWICZ,  
MAYOR OF WROCŁAW (2002–2018)









**ANDRZEJ MARKOWSKI  
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL  
WRATISLAVIA CANTANS**

The International Festival Wratislavia Cantans is one of the most important classical music festivals in Europe. Founded in 1966 by Andrzej Markowski as an event celebrating oratorios and cantatas, it focuses primarily on presenting the beauty of human voice. The festival's name is now synonymous with the highest artistic and organisational quality. Each year, concerts featuring international celebrity performers attract thousands of music-lovers to the beautiful historic interiors of Wrocław and Lower Silesia. Among the distinguished guests that have performed at Wratislavia Cantans are Philippe Herreweghe, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Zubin Mehta, Paul McCreech, Cecilia Bartoli, Julia Lezhneva, Philippe Jaroussky, Mariusz Kwiecień and Jordi Savall. Visiting ensembles have included Collegium Vocale Gent, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Gabrieli Consort & Players, Il Giardino Armonico and the English Baroque Soloists. The current artistic director of Wratislavia Cantans is Giovanni Antonini, the Italian conductor, flautist and director of Il Giardino Armonico.

**‘I think the Main Hall at the National Forum of Music is one of the best concert halls in Europe. When I mention it while visiting different countries, I notice that musicians and managers know it already. Many new concert halls have been built in recent years, but they are not as good. The NFM is not just a beautiful building – its acoustics also cannot be forgotten. I am very pleased with the albums I have recorded here. The hall has a beautiful, natural sound, and all the sound engineers I had supervising the recordings were impressed by its acoustics – they are so good that the engineers actually didn’t have a lot to do.’**

GIOVANNI ANTONINI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL WRATISLAVIA CANTANS

# jazztopad

## FESTIVAL

### JAZZTOPAD FESTIVAL

Jazztopad's most distinctive feature is its commitment to commissioning music and presenting premiere performances. Other unique aspects of the festival are: exploring sounds coming from regions not frequently associated with jazz (Korea, Turkey, Japan and India), house concerts and educational projects with film screenings and live improvisation. Some of the major names commissioned by Jazztopad include Charles Lloyd, Wayne Shorter, Amir ElSaffar, Kenny Wheeler, Vijay Iyer, Benoit Delbecq, Terje Rypdal, Jason Moran, John Surman, William Parker and more. The festival, artistically led by Piotr Turkiewicz, had some of its commissions released on the prestigious ECM, Blue Note and AUM labels. For the last five years Jazztopad has staged a New York edition as well as presenting Polish artists in Mexico, Canada, Israel, Japan and South Korea.

**‘Wrocław has had a special place in my heart since my first concert there in 2010. But now, with the completion of the new NFM concert hall, my heart beats faster in anticipation of each return to this city. Just before my first concert at the new NFM building, I was gushing to Piotr Turkiewicz, the Artistic Director of Jazztopad, about the wonderful acoustics of the Maison symphonique de Montréal. He interjected, “We used the same team for our sound design!”. Indeed, from the beautiful location of the building in the open square, through the soaring open space of the foyer and the impressive view of the concert hall as I walked on stage, to the experience of warmth and clarity of sound throughout our performance – all this makes me place it at the top of my list of favourite concert halls.’**

CHARLES LLOYD, JAZZ MUSICIAN

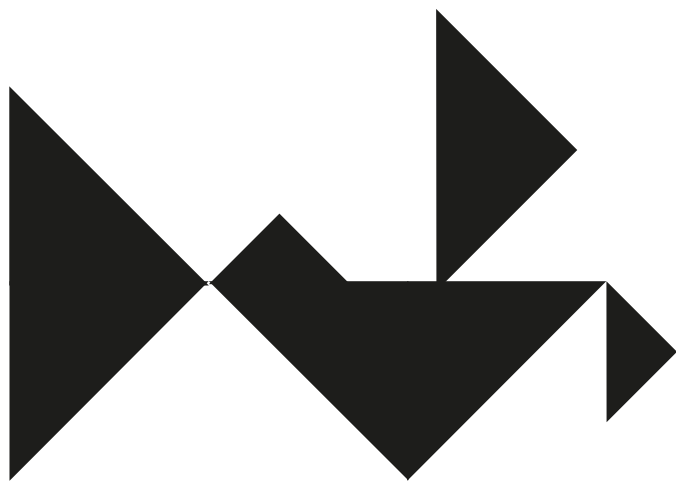






## EARLY MUSIC ACADEMY

The essence of the festival is to connect the genre's prominent artists with young musicians at the beginning of their careers. Teachers and students work together on performances of works by well-known composers, and present the results of these collaborations at the concerts. Audience members can also attend lectures and open rehearsals as part of the programme. Previous editions have seen the participation of such masters as Philippe Herreweghe, Rachel Podger, Robert Hollingworth, Giovanni Antonini and Rinaldo Alessandrini. The festival's programme director is Jarostaw Thiel, artistic director of the Wrocław Baroque Orchestra.





## **MUSICA ELECTRONICA NOVA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

Taking place biennially, the festival focuses on new forms of performance in the field of contemporary music, including electronics and new media, as well as combining with other art forms such as dance, cinema or visual arts. The MEN festival promotes international artists as well as Polish musicians and composers, and for a couple of days the city of Wrocław becomes a crossroads of cultures and artistic exchanges. Taking place at the National Forum of Music, the festival is co-organised by the Polish Composers' Union, with composer Pierre Jodkowski becoming artistic director in 2019.







## **MUSICA POLONICA NOVA FESTIVAL OF POLISH CONTEMPORARY MUSIC**



Musica Polonica Nova, which has been held every two years for more than half a century, is co-organised by the Polish Composers' Union. The programme features a large number of premieres (mainly works commissioned by the festival) and presents the latest trends in music and composition that have influenced the development of Polish art in the 20th and 21st centuries. Scored pieces prevail, although improvisation is also included, and electronics and new media (audio-visual) are gaining an ever-more important role in the repertoire. The festival, whose artistic director is the composer Paweł Hendrich, reflects its surroundings and current reality, redefines what music is and sets out new methods of creative work.





# LEO FESTIWAL

## LEO FESTIVAL

Leo Festival is brought to life by the artistic direction of Ernst Kovacic and co-created by the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra. The festival presents music in dialogue with other art forms such as architecture, poetry, dance, film, visual arts, theatre as well as sport and *haute cuisine*. Concerts are held at the NFM and other important locations in Wrocław, and at private apartments too. Participation by children's ensembles and students is a well-established tradition of Leo Festival, as are humour and interaction with the audience.





## forum musicum

### FORUM MUSICUM


The early music festival Forum Musicum takes place in August and is dedicated to historically informed performances on period instruments. The concerts introduce audiences to works from the era spanning the Middle Ages through to the romantic period, presenting the music within a wider historical and social context. Performers at previous festivals have included such renowned ensembles as L'Arpeggiata, the Hilliard Ensemble and Ensemble Peregrina. To foster a deeper understanding of the music and its context, the festival's programme also features supplementary events such as musical plays and dance evenings. The artistic director of the festival is Tomasz Dobrzański.

**'The wonderful piece by Haydn was so touching that it gave me goosebumps. Beautiful day, beautiful venue, beautiful space, wonderful music. Today I've listened to Bach and Haydn, the favourite composers of my protagonist, Eberhard Mock. I am sure that if he were here at this concert today, he would be really pleased.'**

MAREK KRAJEWSKI, WRITER





A decorative header featuring several wooden gongs with spiral patterns and two brass bells, all set against a bright orange background.

**'Venues with adjustable acoustics are like painting canvas. We can easily adapt the size to a portrait miniature as well as an epic landscape. It's equally easy to predict what will be the ideal acoustics for symphonic music, and what's needed for chamber works. Canvases have to be properly primed. We know well that the texture of early works is different than that of works by Wagner, and compositions by Szymanowski have yet another different one from these two.'**

TATEO NAKAJIMA, ACOUSTICS DESIGNER AT ARUP

# Concert series

A decorative footer consisting of a dense, overlapping pattern of wooden gongs with spiral patterns, matching the header's theme.





**‘I remember the first rehearsal of *The Dream of Gerontius*. I think it was the first sound played by the orchestra, actually by the enormous ensemble, with solo singers and a choir that was composed of several groups. So when we heard this first sound during the rehearsal, everyone started looking around and we heard it: “It was beautiful!”. And it was beyond our wildest expectations.’**

ALEKSANDRA NAGÓRKO, SOUND ENGINEER AT CD ACCORD









**‘[...] We were really excited about the opportunity to perform in the new concert hall. It’s an attractive concert venue, with acoustics that allow for a wide range of expression, combining warmth and clarity of sound. The hall will quickly become a place to spend time – for artists as well as the audiences. My congratulations and best wishes for all that you do to bring classical music and culture, in its broad terms, closer to people.’**

SEMYON BYCHKOV, CONDUCTOR





### **SYMPHONIC, CHORAL AND CHAMBER**

The artistic season at the NFM is filled with visits from world-famous ensembles, such as Berliner Philharmoniker, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Wiener Philharmoniker and The Swingle Singers; renowned soloists including Lang Lang, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Midori and Leszek Możdżer; and the greatest conductors of our time, including Antonio Pappano, Semyon Bychkov, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Eiji Oue. These performances sit alongside those by the remarkable ensembles that are part of this institution. The NFM's diverse series of symphonic, chamber and choral concerts include the great symphonic works along with early and contemporary music, numerous premieres, performances by winners of major music competitions, intimate vocal and instrumental recitals, a cappella choral presentations, inspiring oratorios, concert and semi-staged operas, and cross-genre projects.

## WORLD MUSIC

Original improvisation, blues, traditional instruments, sounds from the farthest corners of our planet and ethno music's brightest stars – the World Music series is the definition of cultural diversity. So far the series has presented such artists as Sona Jobarteh, Maarja Nuut, Buika, Lula Pena and Black String.



## THE GREAT IMPROVISATION

The Great Improvisation series presents various faces of jazz – from bold avant-garde and daring improvisation through to the mainstream. The ideal acoustics of the NFM halls provide a perfect environment for both young Polish bands as well as established artists. The series has presented such musicians as Wynton Marsalis, Bobo Stenson, Gregory Porter, Tomasz Stańko, Kuba Więcek, Brad Mehldau and Dianne Reeves.





## DANCE AT THE NFM

The beauty of the human body in motion, exceptional choreography, perfect synchronisation, masterful dance technique and inspiring music guarantee unforgettable experiences during Dance at the NFM performances. This series presents a fusion of dance theatre, ethnic dance, and classical and contemporary dance, performed by artists from different parts of the world. So far the NFM stage has hosted such artists as Akram Khan Company, Farruquito and Red Sky Performance.









# Ensembles

**‘Music should be shared!  
Performers cannot close  
themselves off in their own circles  
and make art for art’s sake.  
This is why we have built the NFM.’**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK





## NFM WROCŁAW PHILHARMONIC

The NFM Wrocław Philharmonic is one of the Polish music scene's leading symphonic ensembles, working with many well-known guest artists. Since the 2017/2018 artistic season the ensemble's artistic director has been multiple Grammy Award-winner Giancarlo Guerrero.

The orchestra was founded in 1945 and in 1994 it chose Witold Lutosławski as its patron. In 2015, when it moved to its new home at the NFM, it adopted the name of NFM Wrocław Philharmonic.

During the season, as well as performing subscription concerts, the orchestra works in a variety of artistic settings, including educational projects, open-air concerts and recording sessions. In its educational activities, the ensemble does not just focus on concerts for children and youth, but also on working with students at the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław, and the NFM's own Orchestra Academy and Choral Academy projects. Its involvement with NFM festivals, such as Jazztopad and Musica Electronica Nova, means that NFM Wrocław Philharmonic also performs with some of the leading names on the avant-garde and jazz scenes.

The orchestra has built up a particular reputation for performing symphonic repertoire from the 20th and 21st centuries, and it regularly performs works commissioned by the NFM. The ensemble's activity includes album recordings and performances at prestigious concert venues in Poland and abroad. On its albums and at its concerts, the orchestra regularly performs works by such renowned composers as Witold Lutosławski, Krzysztof Penderecki and Arvo Pärt.

### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:



- Albums from the *Witold Lutosławski: Opera Omnia* series (NFM and CD Accord), including *Symfonie nr 2 i 4* (2010), recorded with Jacek Kasprzyk, awarded a Fryderyk award in 2011; and *Koncert na orkiestrę – Symfonia nr 1* (2013), recorded under the baton of Stanisław Skrowaczewski
- *Paweł Mykietyn* (2017, NFM and CD Accord); nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2018
- *Arvo Pärt: The Symphonies* (2018, ECM) under the baton of Tõnu Kaljuste; winner of an International Classical Music Award in 2019; nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2019

**‘From the very first moment when I stood in front of this orchestra I felt a very strong connection. I don’t know why. If you ask the musicians they will most probably say that they don’t know either. It just happens. Not only was I impressed by the beauty of the city and by an amazing concert hall but also, from the very first sound played, I felt there is something special about this orchestra.’**

GIANCARLO GUERRERO, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
OF NFM WROCŁAW PHILHARMONIC



## NFM LEOPOLDINUM ORCHESTRA

In its 40 years of existence, the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra has become a well-respected ensemble on the classical music scene. Its current standing has been shaped by different methods of ensemble direction (the group has been headed by Karol Teutsch, Jan Stanienda, Zbigniew Szuffat, Heinrich Schiff, Antoni Wit, Ernst Kovacic and Hartmut Rohde) and creating an approach to music that allows both emotional aspects and clarity of musical structure and voices to shine through.

Initially focused mainly on classical and baroque repertoire, later the orchestra expanded its repertoire through to the 20th century. The ensemble's recordings are highly praised for the quality of both the performance and repertoire. For several years now the priority of the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra has been to perform compositions by renowned 20th- and 21st-century composers. The ensemble presents listeners with works of the highest standards, including those that rarely feature on mainstream concert programmes despite impressing with their quality and originality.

The remarkable violinist and conductor Joseph Swensen took on the role of artistic director of the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra in September 2017.

### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:



- *Berg by Arrangement* under the baton of Ernst Kovacic (2014, Toccata Classics); named in *The Sunday Times* as one of the best albums of the year
- *Erich Wolfgang Korngold* under the baton of Hartmut Rohde (2017, CPO); nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2018
- *Made in Poland* (2017, DUX) with Atom String Quartet; winner of a Fryderyk award and a Wrocławská Nagroda Muzyczna award in 2018
- *Supernova* starring Atom String Quartet (2018, NFM and CD Accord), winner of a Fryderyk award in 2019

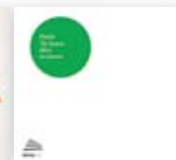


## WROCLAW BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

The orchestra was founded in 2006 by Andrzej Kosendiak, and is one of the few period ensembles in Poland with a residency at a cultural institution. During each artistic season at the NFM, the orchestra presents its own series of concerts, which are enthusiastically received by the audience. The ensemble's repertoire includes compositions from the early baroque period through to the romantic era, and from chamber works to large-scale oratorios. From its beginning, the artistic director of the orchestra has been the cellist Jarosław Thiel.

Wrocław Baroque Orchestra is considered to be one of Poland's most important ensembles performing on period instruments. The orchestra's achievements and artistic standards – acclaimed by audiences as well as critics – have led to it working with some of the greatest stars of the international early music scene. The ensemble is often invited to prestigious festivals and participates in radio broadcasts and recording sessions.

### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:



- *Koželuh, Rejcha, Voříšek – Symphonies* (2009, NFM and CD Accord); winner of a Fryderyk award in 2011
- *Bella mia fiamma... Mozart Concert Arias* starring Olga Pasiecznik (2012, NFM and CD Accord), nominated for a Fryderyk award 2013 and singled out by *Diapason* magazine
- *Joseph Haydn. The Seasons* under the baton of Paul McCreesh (2017, Winged Lion, Signum Records, International Festival Wratislavia Cantans); nominated for a Gramophone Award 2017 and chosen as an album of the month (June 2017) by *BBC Music Magazine*
- Premiere recording of the original version of *Widma* by Moniuszko (2018, NFM and CD Accord); winner of a Fryderyk award in 2019
- *17th-century Sacred Music in Wrocław* with Gli Angeli Genève and Concerto Palatino under the baton of Stephan MacLeod (2018, Claves); winner of an International Classical Music Award 2019





## NFM CHOIR

The NFM Choir was formed in 2006 by Andrzej Kosendiak, and has been under the direction of Agnieszka Franków-Żelazny since the beginning. The ensemble has quickly earned a strong reputation for its work in several genres, performing a cappella works as well as large-scale oratorios, opera and symphonic compositions. The choir has worked with such renowned conductors as Giovanni Antonini, Bob Chilcott, Iván Fischer, Jacek Kasprzyk, Stephen Layton, James MacMillan, Paul McCreesh and Krzysztof Penderecki. They have performed more than 300 concerts, among



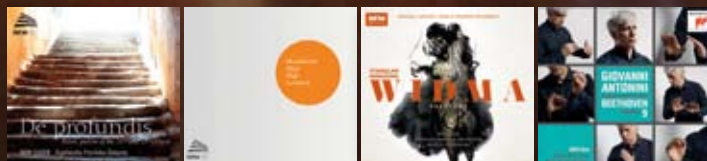
others, at the Barbican Centre and Royal Albert Hall in London, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, and the Philharmonie de Paris and Salle Pleyel in Paris.

The NFM Choir has frequently been invited to perform at international festivals such as the BBC Proms, International Ankara Music Festival, Gent Festival van Vlaanderen, Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy, Klarafestival, Serenade! Choral Festival and Warsaw Autumn. The ensemble has worked with, among others, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Gabrieli Consort & Players, Il Giardino Armonico and the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (NOSPR).





#### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:



- A series of recordings under the baton of Paul McCreesh, released by Winged Lion (in conjunction with the International Festival Wratistavia Cantans), which received BBC Music Magazine Awards, Gramophone Awards and a Diapason d'Or de l'Année
- A cappella albums, including *De profundis. Polskie psalmy XXI i XXI wieku* (2016, NFM and CD Accord), which received a Fryderyk award in 2017
- Premiere recording of the original version of *Widma* by Moniuszko (2018, NFM and CD Accord); winner of a Fryderyk award in 2019
- Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* under the baton of Giovanni Antonini (2018, Sony Classical)

## WROCLAW BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

The ensemble specialises in period performance, with a focus on discovering rarely presented repertoire from Central Europe. It performs mainly Polish renaissance and baroque music, from chamber works through to oratorios and cantatas. It was founded in 2012 by Andrzej Kosendiak and since the beginning it has been operating under his artistic direction. The core of the ensemble is made up of outstanding musicians and singers from around Europe (including Poland, Czech Republic, United Kingdom and Germany).

Wrocław Baroque Ensemble has appeared at prestigious festivals all over Europe, including International Festival Wratislavia Cantans, Ohrid Summer Festival, Emilia Romagna Festival and Usedom Music Festival, and performed throughout Poland. A series of albums recorded by the ensemble, featuring works by Polish baroque composers, is available on Spotify and distributed worldwide by Naxos; it has been gaining critical acclaim from, among others, MusicWeb International, ClassicsToday.com, Pizzicato and Fanfare Archive.

### DISCOGRAPHY:

- *Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki* (2012, International Festival Wratislavia Cantans and CD Accord); nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2013 and a Wrocławska Nagroda Muzyczna in 2013



- *Grzegorz Gerwazy Gorczycki II* (2014, NFM and CD Accord); nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2015
- *Bartłomiej Pękiel* (2016, NFM and CD Accord); nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2017

- *Bartłomiej Pękiel II* (2017, NFM and CD Accord)
- *Marcin Mielczewski* (2017, NFM and CD Accord); nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2018
- *Marcin Mielczewski II* (2018, NFM and CD Accord); winner of a Fryderyk award in 2019





## WEST SIDE SINFONIETTA

The ensemble is a joint initiative of the artists of the NFM and the Mieczysław Karłowicz Philharmonic in Szczecin, through which musicians from these two renowned institutions from Western Poland exchange various artistic experiences. The orchestra is not led in the traditional way by a conductor, but by the first violinist. This function is performed by the concertmasters Paweł Maślanka and Marcin Danilewski who, together with the double bass player Jacek Sosna, form the core of the ensemble.

The orchestra's repertoire includes classical works as well as chamber music. The ensemble owes its existence to the NFM's director Andrzej Kosendiak and the director of the Szczecin Philharmonic, Dorota Serwa.

**‘Adaptation from the musicians is as important as the tuning of the hall. While performing, a musician establishes a relationship with the space, adjusting their way of generating sounds from the instrument to suit the acoustics.’**

TATEO NAKAJIMA, ACOUSTICS DESIGNER AT ARUP

## NFM BOYS' CHOIR

Founded in 2009 by Andrzej Kosendiak, the NFM Boys' Choir set out ambitious plans to be an active participant in the artistic life of the NFM. It now performs with leading directors and ensembles, and is frequently invited to participate in major events taking place during the International Festival Wroclavia Cantans (where it has performed under Sir John Eliot Gardiner, among others) and Leo Festival. As well as attending choir classes throughout the year, the young singers also take part in several workshop sessions conducted by experts from Poland and abroad. Since the very beginning, the NFM Boys' Choir has been involved in the cultural life of the city, working alongside Opera Wroclawska, Teatr Polski and Wroclawski Teatr Lalek. The ensemble has also performed in Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Japan. The choir's artistic director is Małgorzata Podzielny.



### DISCOGRAPHY:

- *Salzburger Messe Mozart* (2015, NFM and CD Accord), an album of works by Mozart
- *Witold Lutosławski. Opera Omnia 07 – piosenki dla dzieci* (2018, NFM and CD Accord)

## LUTOSŁAWSKI QUARTET

The quartet was created in 2007, with its name making reference to the great 20th-century composer Witold Lutosławski. It is known as one of the leading string quartets in Poland.

The group has performed at prestigious festivals including Warsaw Autumn, Klarafestival in Brussels, International Ankara





Music Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival and ISCM World Music Days. They have also appeared in renowned concert halls such as Kioi Hall in Tokyo, YST Conservatory of Music in Singapore, Hangzhou Grand Theatre, Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, Megaron in Athens, Konzerthaus Berlin, Bozar in Brussels and SESC in São Paulo.

The ensemble has performed with Garrick Ohlsson, Piotr Anderszewski, Bruno Canino, Michel Lethiec and Tomoko Akasaka, and with outstanding jazz musicians such as Kenny Wheeler, Uri Caine and Charles Lloyd. The quartet has also worked with IRCAM in Paris.

The majority of the Lutostawski Quartet's repertoire is made up of music from the 20th and 21st centuries, and the group devotes a lot of attention

to Polish music by such composers as Lutostawski, Szymanowski and Mykietyn, as well as performing works by the ensemble's own violinist Marcin Markowicz.

#### SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:

- *Lutostawski, Mykietyn. String Quartets* (2014, DUX); nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2015
- *Grażyna Bacewicz: String Quartets Nos 1, 3, 6 & 7* (2015, Naxos); nominated for a BBC Music Magazine Award and a Fryderyk award in 2016
- *Grażyna Bacewicz: String Quartets Nos 2, 4, 5* (2015, Naxos)
- *Space Kiss* (2016, 816 Music) with Uri Caine
- *2016* (2017, NFM and CD Accord) – string quartets composed for Lutostawski Quartet by Markowicz, Kwieciński and Mykietyn; awarded Emocje 2017 by Radio Wrocław Kultura and nominated for a Fryderyk award in 2018
- *Light over Darkness* (2017, Odradek Records) with Erato Alakiozidou



## LUTOSAIR QUINTET

LutosAir Quintet was created in 2013, the year that marked the centenary of Lutosławski's birth. It consists of soloists from the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic and NOSPR:

Jan Krzeszowiec, Karolina Stalmachowska, Maciej Dobosz, Alicja Kieruzalska and Mateusz Feliński.

The quintet is currently known as one of Poland's most active and versatile wind instrument ensembles. LutosAir Quintet's achievements include performances at major Polish festivals, such as Warsaw Autumn, International Chamber Music Festival "Music on the Heights", Poznańska Wiosna Muzyczna, La Folle Journée and HMG Festival, along with concerts in the United Kingdom, Germany, Egypt and Denmark. The ensemble has performed alongside the outstanding jazz musician Wayne Shorter and his band at Jazztopad festival and the London Jazz Festival. The quintet has also collaborated with, among others, Piotr Satajczyk and Rafał Łuc.

LutosAir Quintet has given many premiere performances, both in Poland and abroad. It also recorded Fazıl Say's composition for the short musical film *Neither Peace nor Quietness* (dir. Zbigniew Bodzek and Michał Dawidowicz), which received awards at numerous international film festivals.

### DISCOGRAPHY:



- *Canto for Winds* (2017, NFM and CD Accord)
- Featured on Witold Lutosławski. *Opera Omnia 07 – piosenki dla dzieci* (2018, NFM and CD Accord) and *Metaforma* with works by Paweł Hendrich (2017, DUX)







#### DISCOGRAPHY:

- *Discoveries* (2017, NFM and CD Accord)
- Featured on *Bacewicz – Chamber Works* (2018, Chandos), winner of a Fryderyk award in 2019

## POLISH CELLO QUARTET

The ensemble was founded in 2011 by the cellists Tomasz Daroch, Wojciech Fudala, Krzysztof Karpeta and Adam Krzeszowiec, with the aim of presenting the original sound of a cello quartet to a wider audience. The ensemble's musicians studied with leading cellists and educators in Poland (including Paweł Głombik and Stanisław Firlej) and around the world (including Frans Helmerson, Gary Hoffman, Michael Flaksman, Jelena Očić, Julius Berger and Jeroen Reuling). Their artistic experience was developed in, among others, Cologne, Mannheim and Brussels, and each player has won numerous prizes at cello and chamber music competitions.

The Polish Cello Quartet regularly performs at international music festivals, such as International Festival Wratislavia Cantans, International Chamber Music Festival Schiermonnikoog and Jazztopad. The ensemble has collaborated with many other musicians, including Gary Hoffman, Jadwiga Rappé, Dominik Połowski, Tony Malaby and Nate Wooley. Its repertoire includes mainly original works for

cello quartet, and is constantly expanded with compositions by contemporary composers from Poland and abroad, such as Agata Zubel, Artur Zagajewski, Piotr Moss and Annelies Van Parys. The four players use a democratic model of working together, regularly changing places within the ensemble on stage to add variety of sound and interpretation. The members of the Polish Cello Quartet are the founders and organisers of the International Cello Academy in Nysa.



## NFM LEOPOLDINUM STRING TRIO

The trio was founded in 2009 by the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra's concertmaster and principal players Christian Danowicz, Michał Micker and Marcin Misiak, all three of them winners of numerous major music competitions in Poland and abroad. As recipients of a scholarship at the Reina Sofía school in Madrid, the artists studied under the outstanding violinist and chamber musician Günter Pichler, the first violin in the famous Alban Berg Quartett. The trio regularly performs in the NFM's artistic seasons and at Leo Festival. The artists have also appeared in Madrid, Hannover and Thonon-les-Bains, and given performances at Festival Pablo Casals in Prades and ISCM World Music Days. The members of the Trio are lecturers at the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław.



## NFM ENSEMBLE

The NFM Ensemble performs with various line-ups using between two and fifteen musicians. Its artistic mission is to present chamber music masterpieces composed for non-standard instrumental combinations. The only common denominators of the ensemble's works are the bass instruments in the line-up: cello and double bass. The ensemble's repertoire gives audiences an opportunity to listen to compositions with a variety of tone colours, including pieces that have not been performed before in Poland. The ensemble includes leading musicians from the NFM (NFM Wrocław Philharmonic and NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra) and soloists from outside Wrocław who are invited to participate in selected projects.





## NFM WORLD MUSIC ORCHESTRA

NFM World Music Orchestra emerged from the NFM project World Music Workshop. The ensemble plays on instruments from all over Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and the Americas. This mosaic of sounds is enriched by Piotr Wojtasik's guest appearances on jazz trumpet, conch or trembita. In combining exotic and classical instruments, the group seeks to discover a universal musical language. The artists frequently experiment with contemporary harmonic, rhythmic and formal solutions, and place a high degree of importance on improvisation. The ensemble's director is Jerzy Adam Nowak.

**'Over seventy years ago, the first Polish musicians in Wrocław certainly thought about themselves – they just wanted to earn a living. But I think there was something else that was more important to them – sharing beauty, even in the rubble.'**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK







# For our music lovers

**‘From the beginning it wasn’t only about the building, but also about the change of cultural life in Wrocław. The NFM was to become a catalyst of these changes. New ensembles, festivals, conductors, soloists, new music schools, comprehensive educational programmes – all this has now been seen in Wrocław. We have a gorgeous venue, with exquisite sound. It’s an exceptional space for musical beauty, a building that will last for generations, although everything else is fragile. But transience and constant change are also the spice of life.’**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK







To make participation in culture attainable for the widest possible audience, we have prepared some attractive propositions for music lovers. To foster music education, we have the **“NFM FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS”** programme for students of music schools and academies.

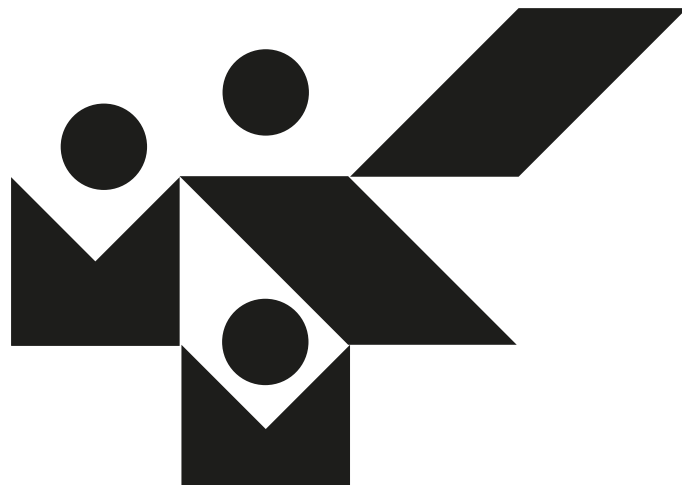
In addition, all tertiary education students can take advantage of our **“NFM FOR STUDENTS”** promotions, which allows them to purchase tickets for selected concerts at prices that suit any budget, and also take part in competitions and meetings with artists!

We also wish to create a pleasant space for those who would like to spend their free time with family, and we hope that our **“FAMILY TICKETS”** project will help to bring people closer together. We make sure that the unique journey through the world of music begins for babies from the first moments of their life, so **EXPECTANT MUMS** can also use our family promotional offer. In the series **“NFM FOR PARENTS”**, during selected concerts adults savour musical experiences while their children are looked after by qualified carers and entertainers.

The **“MUSIC LOVER’S CARD”** is a loyalty programme that entitles you to a discount on your purchases, and gives access to exclusive promotions for cardholders. You can also collect points and exchange them for rewards. With the **“NFM SUBSCRIPTION”**, music lovers can regularly take part in events with some of the most important stars of the classical music scene. We have also prepared an offer for **GROUPS**, from Wrocław and beyond, and for **TOURISTS**. We cooperate with numerous **COMPANIES** to provide social and employee benefits, and we help to organise business events.

**‘[...] I really liked this hall. For its sound, ambiance and contact with the audience, which is made here instantly. It also should be appreciated how the building corresponds with the architecture of this city. I have very positive memories. As I already said right after the concert, the residents of Wrocław should feel proud to have such a concert venue in the centre of the city. It is a space that will serve many, many generations. It is already certain that the National Forum of Music has changed the fate of music in Wrocław, and in Poland [...]. Yes, you’re lucky.’**

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, CONDUCTOR









# Plan your visit

**‘I remember the first sounds played at the NFM, during the first rehearsal – they were exquisite and beautiful. We knew that was it – something for which we strived for a dozen or so years, one of the best concert halls in the world.’**

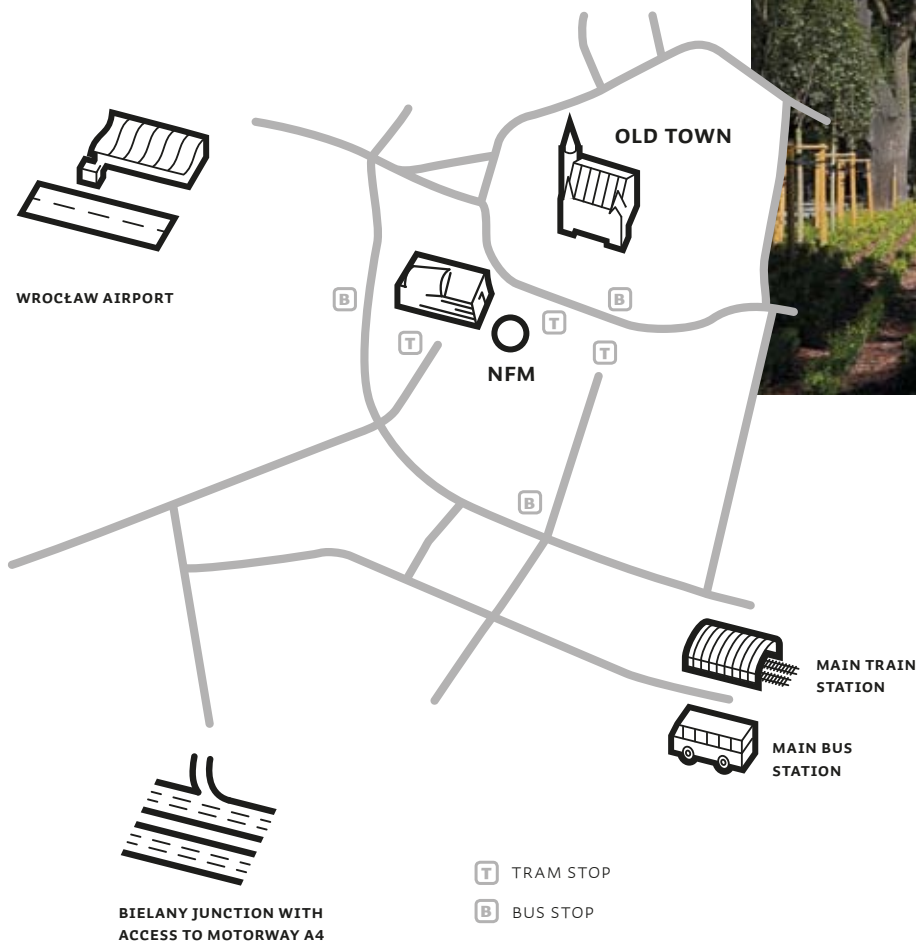
ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE NFM

Located in the heart of Wrocław, the NFM is well served by public transport routes which connect it to many spots in the city, including the airport and the main train station. You can easily reach the NFM by **TRAM** (nearest tram stops: Narodowe Forum Muzyki, Zamkowa, Opera) or by **BUS** (nearest bus stops: Świdnicka, Renoma, pl. Orłąt Lwowskich). Alternatively, it is just a short walk from the Market Square and other popular locations in Wrocław's Old Town.

### THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING IS AT PL. WOLNOŚCI.

Visitors can use the **CLOAKROOM** in the -1 level foyer free of charge, and luggage can also be stored here.



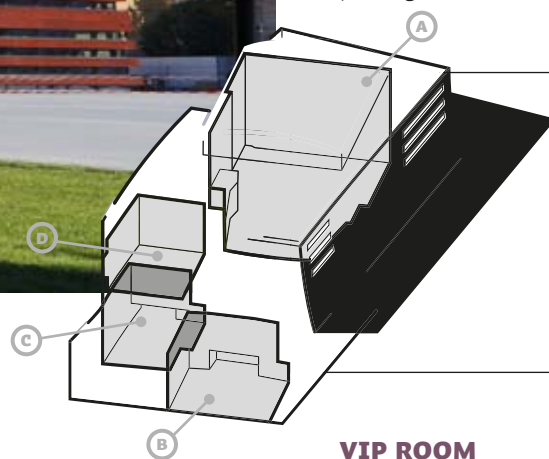




## PARKING LOT

Music lovers travelling by car can use a paid **UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT** located underneath pl. Wolności, managed by Wrocławskie Inwestycje sp. z o.o. and offering 650 parking spaces (including motorcycle parking spaces). There are no coach parking spaces, so buses will only be able to drive down the tunnel to drop off or pick up passengers. The entrances to the parking lot are located at ul. Krupnicza and ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego (through ul. Zamkowa), and the exits are towards ul. Świdnicka (through ul. H. Modrzejewskiej) or ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego. You can enter the NFM building directly from the parking lot, using the lifts or the stairs located at pl. Wolności. The construction itself incorporates visible fragments of a historical medieval bastille wall.

We kindly ask visitors travelling by car to plan their arrival with time to spare, because there can be heavy traffic before major events at the NFM, which can make access to the parking lot more difficult.



LOCATION OF THE CONCERT HALLS  
IN THE NFM BUILDING:

- (A)** MAIN HALL
- (B)** RED HALL
- (C)** BLACK HALL
- (D)** CHAMBER HALL

## FOOD & DRINK

**FORUM RESTAURANT** is located on the ground floor with a view of the city moat and pl. Wolności. It is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from noon to 6pm (if there is no concert) or until the beginning of an evening event and during the intermission, if there is one.

**TWO BARS – “WHITE” AND “RED”**, on either side of the Main Hall in the -1 level foyer, are open from an hour before each event in the hall and during the intermission, offering beverages, sweets and light refreshments.

## VIP ROOM

The NFM is not only a place to listen to excellent music – it's also somewhere to have a pleasant evening with friends and family, and to have a break from work and other duties. To make this time even more pleasant, we have a VIP room offer (with two options), which you can select when purchasing a ticket in any category. Before a concert and during the intermission, we invite you to the room located on the -1 level (at the level of the 2nd Balcony of the Main Hall). There you can enjoy comfortable sofas, refreshments and a view towards the city moat.

## SOUVENIRS AND MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

**A COSY NISKIE ŁĄKI BOOKSTORE**, located on the ground floor, offers NFM souvenirs, niche publications, children's books, sheet music, branded stationery, CDs and vinyl albums, including those published by the NFM and recordings by the artists performing at the NFM. The bookstore is also a place where you can relax and even play a game of chess. It's open between Monday and Friday, from 11am until 6pm, and for an hour before events taking place in the Main Hall. You can enter the bookstore through the foyer on the ground level or directly from pl. Wolności (from the hotel side).

Souvenirs and NFM publications can also be found at the **NFM BOX OFFICES** and at **SPECIAL STANDS** before the concerts.







## GUIDED TOURS

You can also take a **GUIDED TOUR OF THE NFM BUILDING** in Polish. Tour dates are published on the NFM website. We encourage you to contact us about **INDIVIDUAL TOURS**, for example in English or German, or with a program customised for a group, such as a tour created specifically for children.

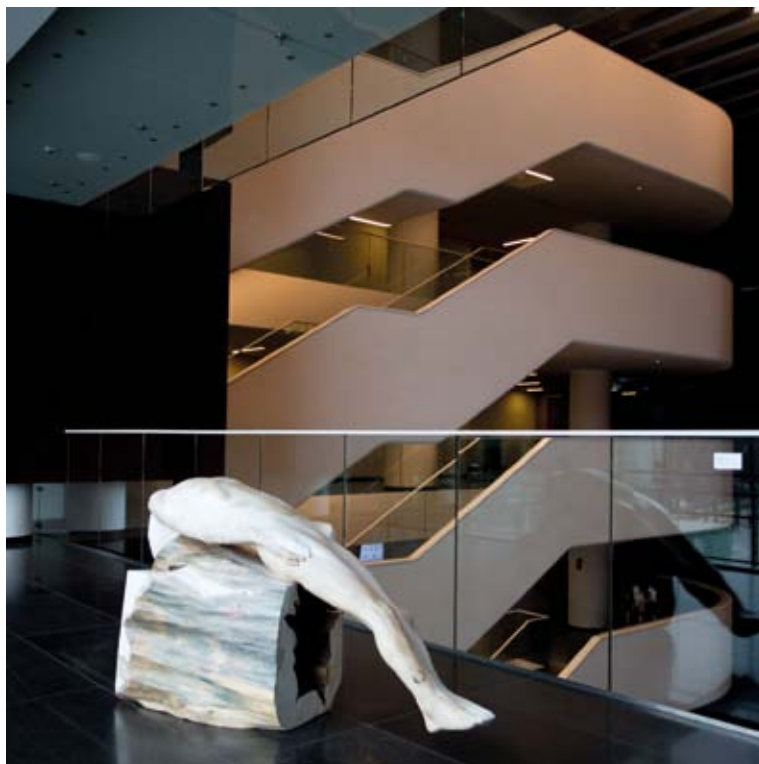
The NFM building is open every day. Visitors are welcome to walk through the foyer, use the lifts and stairs, see the glass portal from above, take a tour through the exhibitions located on different levels, and admire the architecture of the foyer.

Individual visits to other rooms (including concert halls) are not possible due to a busy schedule of rehearsals, educational classes and other activities, and for safety reasons. From an hour before a concert, only ticket holders for the given event will be allowed into the building. From time to time (such as during conferences or congresses) the building may not be available for visitors; we will keep you informed of such closures.



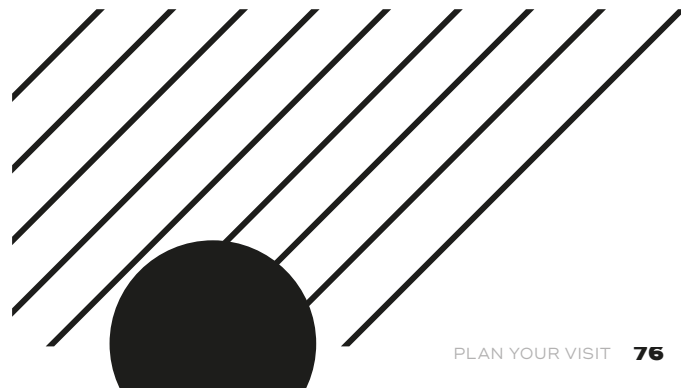
## EXHIBITIONS

Art, especially contemporary art, looks splendid in the intriguing interior of the NFM building. Among the past exhibitions of paintings, graphics, sculptures and installations taking place in the foyer have been those organised jointly with Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Centre of Polish Sculpture in Orońsko and Triennial of Polish Contemporary Drawing in Lubaczów. Many exhibitions have also been set up in cooperation with the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław.



## NFM'S WALK OF FAME AND THE DWARVES

Next to the NFM entrance, your attention is drawn to the Walk of Fame, which displays the autographs of great musicians connected with Wrocław, such as Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Stanisław Skrowaczewski, Charles Lloyd and Krzysztof Penderecki. As you take a walk around the building, look out for the Wrocław dwarves playing music.







### **ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY**

The concert halls, foyer, toilets and other rooms have all been designed to enable users of wheelchairs and other mobility aids to move around freely. All levels of the building are accessible by a lift. In the Main Hall, selected seats in a row can be removed so that guests can watch a concert alongside their companions without the need to move from their wheelchair. Information about assistance throughout your visit to the NFM is available at the NFM box offices, along with information about ticket discounts.

**WE ALSO INVITE YOU TO VIEW  
THE BUILDING ONLINE, TAKING  
A VIRTUAL WALK ON THE NFM WEBSITE:**

**[WWW.NFM.WROCLAW.PL/EN/VIRTUALNY-SPACER](http://WWW.NFM.WROCLAW.PL/EN/VIRTUALNY-SPACER)**

**‘A visit to Wrocław which  
does not include the National  
Forum of Music would be akin  
to going to Rome and  
skipping St Peter’s.’**

JONATHAN SUTHERLAND,  
BACHTRACK.COM





**'I remember many travels around the world, during which I visited concert halls and talked to their managers. Finland, California, the USA's east coast... visits of a couple of days, filled with conversations. I vividly remember Lucerne, and a visit to a building with remarkable architecture, where I was to meet the acoustician designing it. I was standing on the second level of the concert hall and on stage at the far end I saw Tateo Nakajima. He said he was the one that would be having the meeting with me. Now I think it was a trick to show me how well you could hear everything from every place in the hall.'**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK

# **Boost your creativity**



At the NFM we know that everyone can be creative and express themselves through art. For this reason we offer many art-related activities. Our wish is for everyone – regardless of age, background, or financial status – to have an opportunity to participate in culture. We believe that coming together to experience the value brought to our lives by music brings people closer, teaches respect and builds a sense of community.



# Children and Youth

## THE NFM EDUCATIONAL CENTRE: INDIVIDUAL OFFER

The NFM Educational Centre introduces children aged 0–15 to the beautiful world of art. Working with children, we use various methods of developing musical skills through games, created by, among others, E. E. Gordon, V. Sherborne and C. Orff.

## FAMILY CONCERTS

Going out for a concert on Sunday morning is a great way to spend some quality time with the family. These concerts – full of theatre, dance and humour – are fun for all generations.

## CHORAL ACADEMY: SINGING POLAND

Through this programme the NFM supports, in numerous ways, the development of school and pre-school choirs in Poland.

## VOLUNTEERING (YOUTH)

This is an ideal solution for those who like music and want to meet famous artists in person and see big events from behind the scenes! We invite young people aged 16 and over to join our volunteering programme.







### THE NFM EDUCATIONAL CENTRE: GROUP OFFER

Songs, instruments, music and language games, participation in ensemble rehearsals, visiting the building's vast spaces – while at the NFM, pre-schoolers and students will form their perception and motor skills, discover their abilities and develop creativity.

# Schools and Preschools

## CONCERTS

Actors, ballet, costumes, props, captivating plots and, first and foremost, exquisite music – these are the concerts we offer to educational institutions. Pre-schoolers and younger children can participate in the **PHILHARMONIC FOR THE YOUNG** series, and youth aged 13 and above can attend **EDUCATIONAL CONCERTS FOR THE YOUTH**.

## OFF-SITE MUSIC PROGRAMMES

The NFM comes to those who cannot attend a concert, through chamber ensembles performing specially prepared concerts for children at educational institutions around Lower Silesia.





# Young Artists

Singers and vocal ensemble conductors, aged 18–26, have the chance to improve their skills under the specialists of the **POLISH NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR** (part of the Choral Academy project). String-playing students in the last grades of music secondary schools, along with students and graduates of tertiary music institutions, are welcome to participate in the **NFM ORCHESTRA ACADEMY**. Young-in-spirit musicians looking to broaden their horizons are invited to take part in the **WORLD MUSIC WORKSHOPS**.







### **MUSIC LOVERS' CHOIR**

All people who like to sing are invited to join the Music Lovers' Choir. You do not need to read music or attend every rehearsal, and age doesn't matter.

# **Adults**

### **MUMMY, DADDY, SING TO ME**

We strongly encourage expectant mothers, young parents, grandparents and carers to take part in these workshops, singing lullabies to children. They take place at the NFM, as well as at parenting schools, libraries, cafés and many other places.

### **MEETINGS, LECTURES, OPEN REHEARSALS**

At the NFM, music lovers can learn more about the work and life of the artists or simply see their favourite musicians more closely. Information about such events is available on [www.nfm.wroclaw.pl](http://www.nfm.wroclaw.pl).

### **VOLUNTEERING (ADULTS)**

Volunteers gather valuable professional experience, meet new people, and attend concerts for free. Regardless of what a volunteer does as an occupation, we invite everyone – especially seniors!







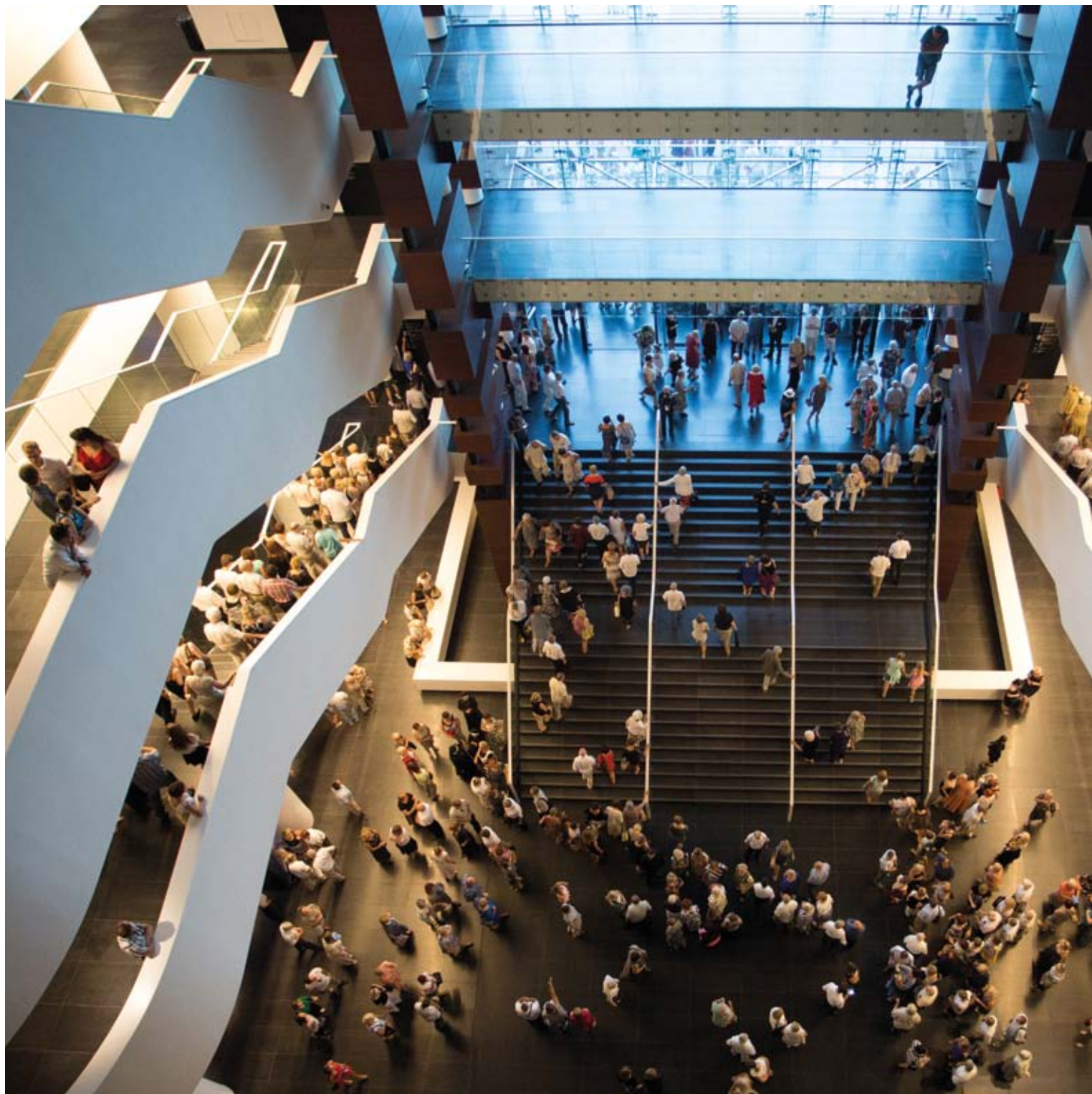


# The space for you

**‘How do I feel in the completed NFM building?  
I think it has been always here. I walk through the foyer  
and it is difficult to imagine it not being here.’**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK









## WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A SPACE FOR BEAUTY

If you love music and think culture is important, if you would like to see valuable cultural projects carried out in Wrocław, and you would like to help contribute to all of these, we encourage you to get involved in the NFM's activities.

Sponsoring a seat at the Main Hall of the National Forum of Music in honour of someone important to you is a perfect gift, or a way of commemorating somebody truly special. Participating in our **CONNOISSEUR'S SEAT** programme allows you to place someone's name on a seat or purchase **BOX SEATS** for your company. You can also become a member of the **NFM FRIENDS CLUB**, which brings together people interested in the development of our institution – members select a specific ensemble, festival or educational project to support. Companies and individuals can build their image as patrons of the arts by acting as **NFM SPONSORS**. There are many more ways to support the NFM, and information about all of them can be found on our website. But however you choose to get involved, you'll benefit from the special privileges offered to all our partners.

Financial contributions that come through such programmes support the NFM itself along with initiatives such as projects for children and youth, outreach for the elderly, composition commissions, and events promoting Polish artists and music both in Poland and abroad.

MORE INFORMATION:

**[WWW.NFM.WROCLAW.PL/EN/PARTNERS](http://WWW.NFM.WROCLAW.PL/EN/PARTNERS)**







Seven banjos are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text. They are positioned at approximately the 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 11 o'clock positions. The banjos have light-colored bodies and dark fretboards. The central text is in a large, bold, black font.

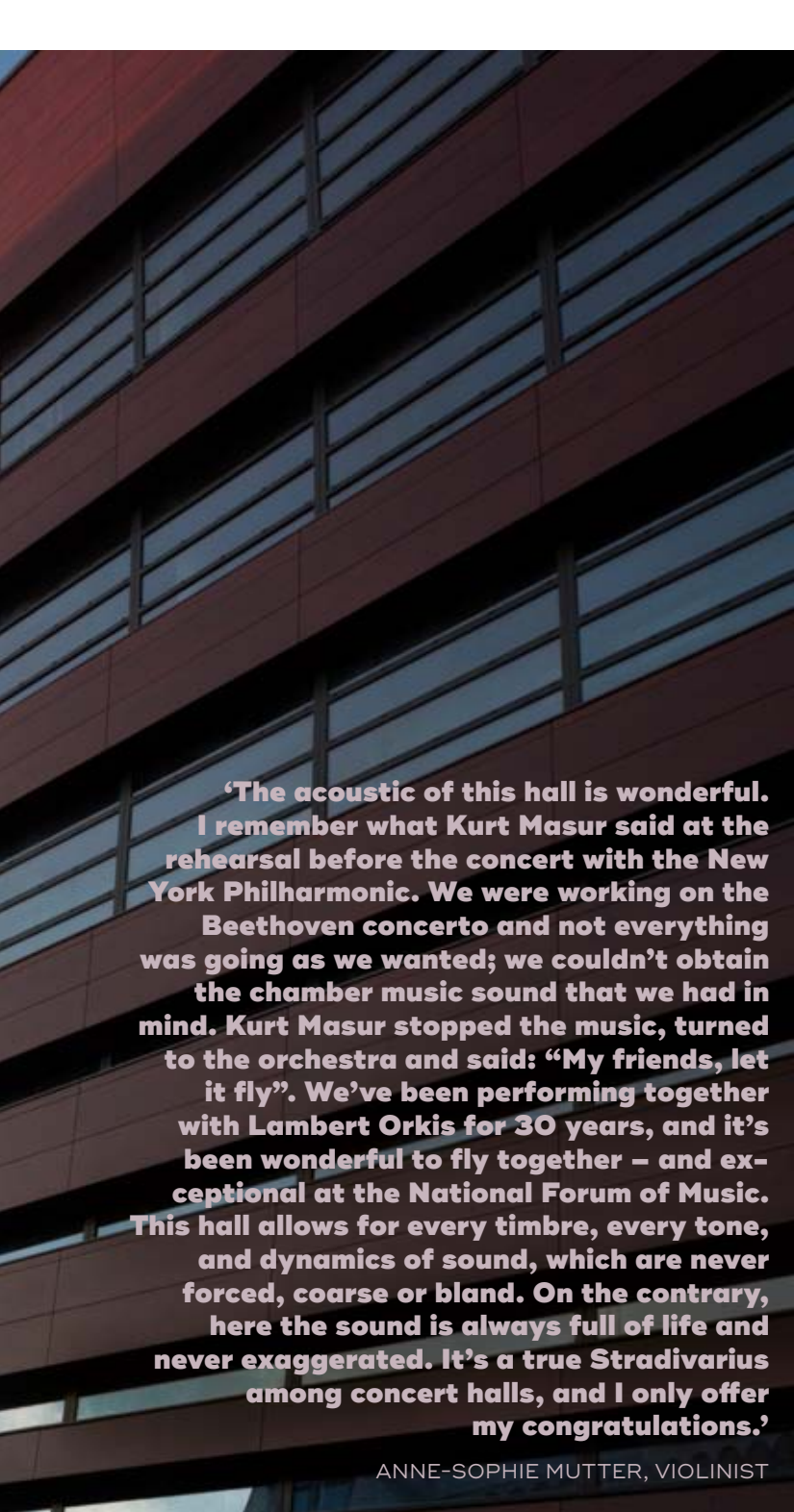
# Venue hire

**‘The NFM, with its four concert halls, will add to the richness of Wrocław and give an opportunity for music to be heard in ideal conditions.’**

ANDRZEJ KOSENDIAK







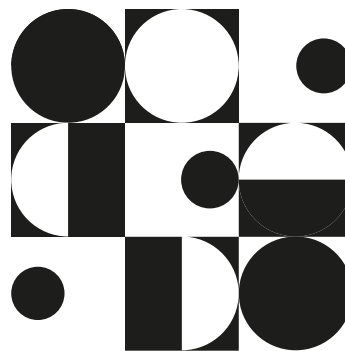
**‘The acoustic of this hall is wonderful. I remember what Kurt Masur said at the rehearsal before the concert with the New York Philharmonic. We were working on the Beethoven concerto and not everything was going as we wanted; we couldn’t obtain the chamber music sound that we had in mind. Kurt Masur stopped the music, turned to the orchestra and said: “My friends, let it fly”. We’ve been performing together with Lambert Orkis for 30 years, and it’s been wonderful to fly together – and exceptional at the National Forum of Music. This hall allows for every timbre, every tone, and dynamics of sound, which are never forced, coarse or bland. On the contrary, here the sound is always full of life and never exaggerated. It’s a true Stradivarius among concert halls, and I only offer my congratulations.’**

ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER, VIOLINIST

The NFM is an event venue of almost 50,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with world-class technical and design standards. External hirers can rent our concert halls, private rooms and adjoining foyers for a variety of different events.

The NFM, located at pl. Wolności 1, is a modern building equipped with:

- top-quality wardrobe facilities for artists
- a large backstage area
- buffet and restaurant
- toilets on each level
- three cloakrooms
- facilities for persons with disabilities
- adjacent underground parking with more than 600 parking spaces



These facilities make the NFM an ideal place for staging exceptional events. Below are just a few of the special events that have taken place at our venue:

- concerts: King Crimson, Brodka, Bobby McFerrin, Dawid Podsiadło, Pat Metheny, Leszek Możdżer
- congresses/conferences: IX Kongres Regionów, IV Kongres Mieszkaniowy
- business meetings and lectures: Brian Tracy’s Psychologia w biznesie
- dance shows: Moscow City Ballet, Russian National Ballet “Kostroma”
- galas: European Film Awards (EFA), ceremonial gala for the 20th anniversary of KRUK
- special events: World Games, 4th Gault & Millau Polska Gala, Game Music Festival

Learn more about the capabilities of our venue.

## MAIN HALL

- Maximum seating capacity: 1804 seats\*, including:

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Ground Floor            | 543 seats |
| Amphitheatre            | 336 seats |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Balcony | 263 seats |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Balcony | 192 seats |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Balcony | 202 seats |
| Choir                   | 268 seats |

\*The number of seats available will depend on the dimensions of the stage and other technical requirements.

- Stage dimensions:
  - width: 22.30m (front), 20.00m (back)
  - depth: 19.34m (large stage)  
17.25m (medium stage)  
14.23m (small stage)
- Equipped with sound and light systems, as well as a professional projector and a full-size movie screen.
- Ideal for events such as acoustic and amplified concerts, dance shows, galas, conferences, congresses, business meetings, training sessions, film screenings and other special events.

**‘When I was entering the National Forum of Music, I felt excitement in the air. Both foyers are airy and beautiful down to the tiniest details. The concert hall is spacious and cosy at the same time. The acoustic is just wonderful. I have no doubts that the NFM deserves a place among the best concert venues of the world.’**

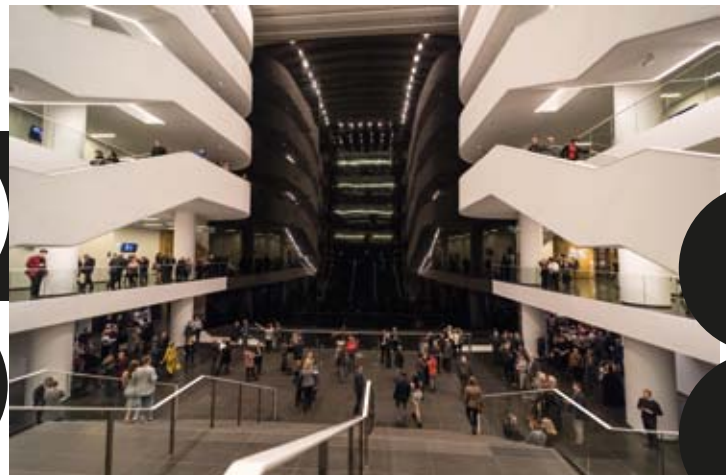
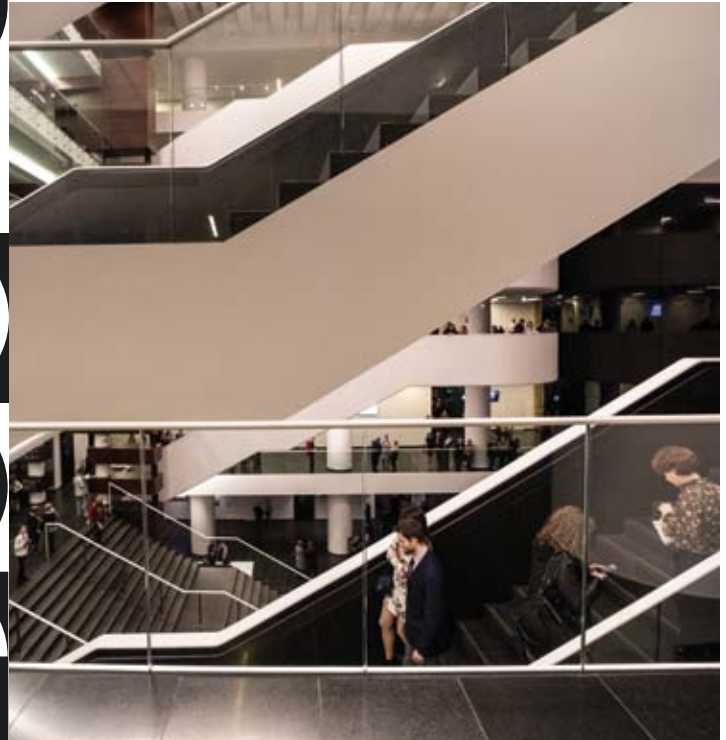
DAVID BAILE, CEO OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS





## MAIN FOYER

A prestigious and spacious part of the building surrounding the Main Hall, ideal for informal meetings, exhibitions and catered events such as banquets.





## RED HALL

- Hall dimensions:  
19m width, 22m length
- Maximum seating capacity: 350 seats
- Mobile seating in an amphitheatre layout  
up to 300 seats
- Fully mobile and flexible space
- Equipped with sound and light systems



## BLACK HALL

- Hall dimensions:  
12m width, 19m length
- Maximum seating capacity: 200 seats
- Fully mobile and flexible space
- Equipped with sound and light systems



**‘It is so incredible here: this space, this air is extremely lively and enriching, as a good resonance cavity. We are not fighting the matter, we try to use the way that this hall can help everyone.’**

ANDRZEJ SASIN, SOUND ENGINEER AT CD ACCORD

### CHAMBER HALL

- Hall dimensions:  
12.6m width, 17.6m length
- Maximum audience capacity: 180 seats
- Fully mobile and flexible space
- Equipped with sound and light systems



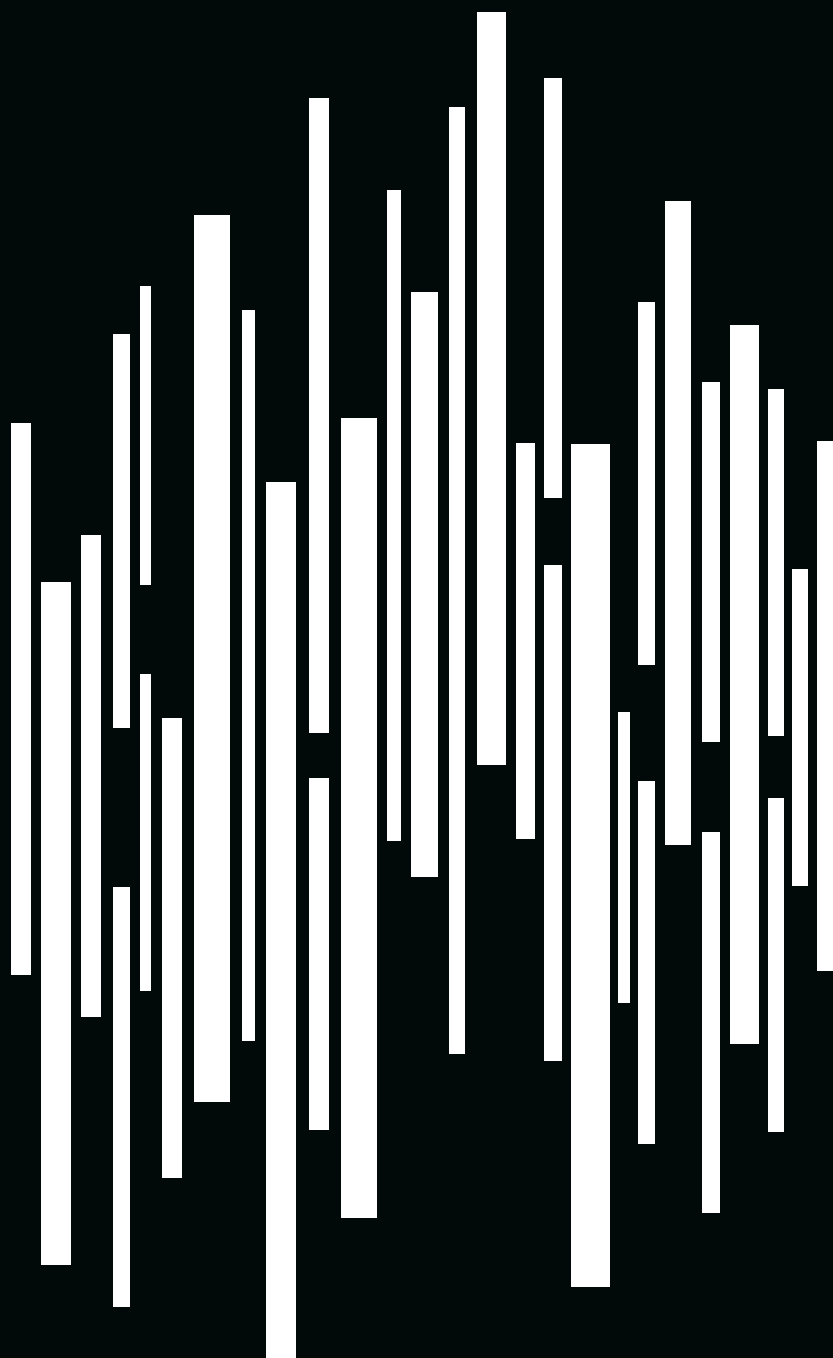
### FOYER -3

The area adjoining the Red Hall and Black Hall is ideal for banquets, drinks receptions and exhibitions accompanying events taking place at these two halls. It can also be used for meetings and networking events.

### VIP ROOM

An area located on the first floor, ideal for small meetings, workshops, training sessions, conferences and more intimate banquets or drinks events. Maximum capacity: 80 seats.





Listen to the organ



# THE ORGAN AT THE NFM

## Feel the power of sounds!

A state-of-the-art organ will crown the NFM Main Hall. Equipped with 4 700 pipes, of which the shortest is just a few millimetres, and the longest over 10 metres long, it can produce sounds from the lowest heard by humans, 16 Hz, to very high – 18 000 Hz. The organ stop action has 80 voices (colours), including high-pressure and percussive. It can be played from two independent playing consoles – fixed and portable. The organ is also fitted with recording equipment.

The NFM organ will be an outstanding work, inscribing itself for ever into the history of Wrocław, Lower Silesia, Poland, Europe and the world. Designed and made by organ builders from Orgelbau Klais Bonn, a workshop boasting over a century of tradition and experience, they are an ideal crowning of the NFM acoustic.

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## OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT 2014–2020

**PRIORITY AXIS VIII:** Protection of cultural heritage and development of cultural resources

**ACTIVITY 8.1:** Protection of cultural heritage and development of cultural resources

**Project title:** Development of NFM artistic and educational activities through purchases of equipment



European  
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Ministry of  
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bookstore

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general and thematic books  
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we are in the NFM building

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## niskielaki.pl

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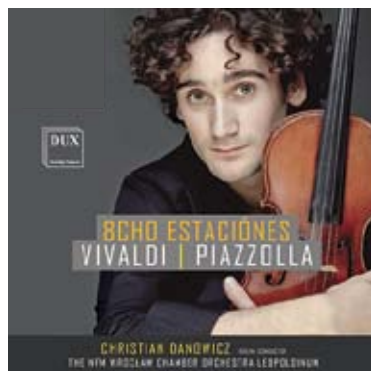
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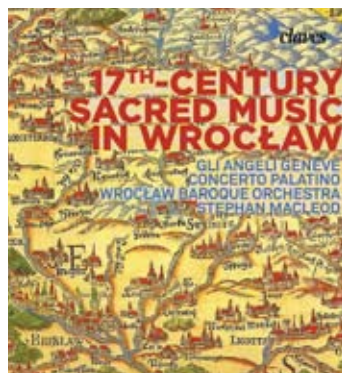


# P

Do you want  
to enjoy music  
after the concert  
has ended?



# O



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at the NFM!



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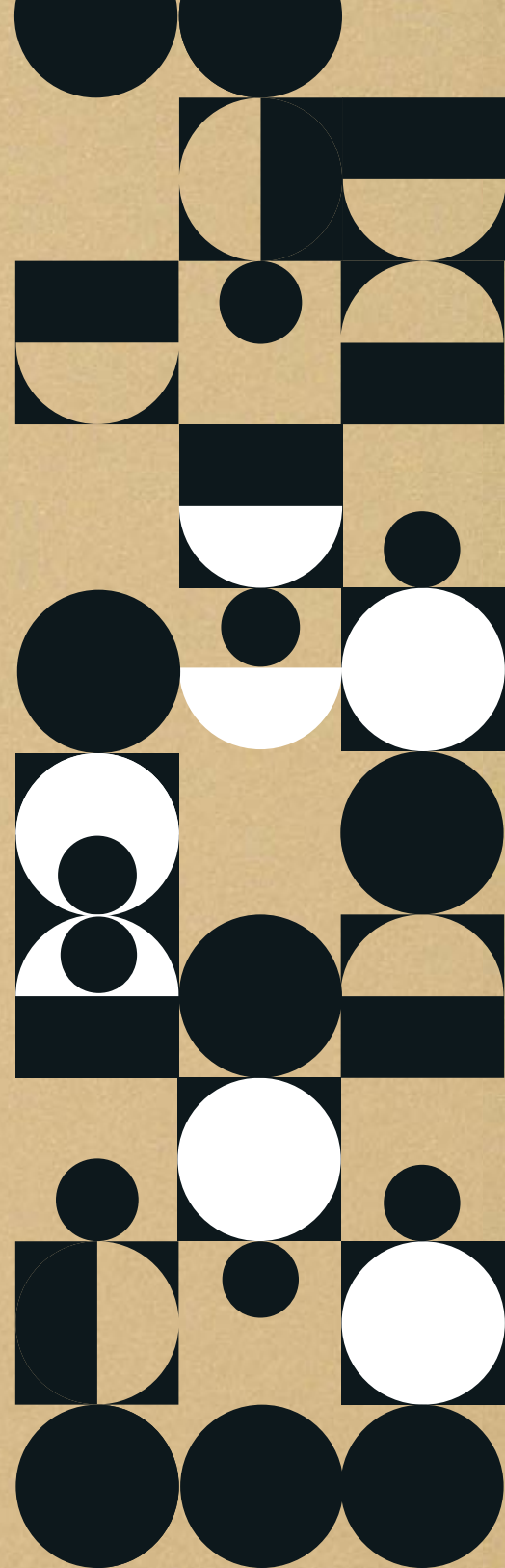
### **BOOKINGS:**

phone: +48 71 715 97 00  
rezerwacje@nfm.wroclaw.pl  
(Mon–Fri: 9 am–5 pm, Sat: 3 pm–8:30 pm)

**BOX OFFICE** (entrance from pl. Wolności) working hours:  
Mon–Fri: 11 am–6 pm (or until the start of the evening  
concert; break between 3 pm and 3:30 pm)  
Sat: 3 pm–8:30 pm (or until the start of the evening concert)  
Sun: two hours before the concert

**TICKETS ONLINE:** [www.bilety.nfm.wroclaw.pl](http://www.bilety.nfm.wroclaw.pl)

**[WWW.NFM.WROCLAW.PL](http://WWW.NFM.WROCLAW.PL)**





NFM – City of Wrocław institution of culture co-managed by:

**Wrocław** *the meeting PLACE*

**Ministry of  
Culture  
and National  
Heritage of  
the Republic  
of Poland**

**LOWER  
SILESIA**



**DOLNY  
ŚLĄSK**

