

I would like to express my deep gratitude for an exceptional welcome, which the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and I received in Wrocław last night. We were genuinely excited to perform in the new Concert Hall. In addition to being an attractive concert venue, its acoustic allows a wide range of expression, combining warmth and clarity of sound. This hall is fast becoming a place where people want to be, both the artists and their audience. Congratulations and best wishes for everything you are doing to bring classical music and culture in general to people. Wrocławiu ubiegłego wieczoru.

Semyon Bychkov
Conductor

The National Forum in Wrocław has for me the ideal acoustic for a symphonic repertoire as we performed in September 2015. The stage has the right size and the musicians could hear each other very well. I think it is a very successful cultural venue!"

Zubin Mehta

The hall combining extremes – huge from the outside, surprisingly intimate in its interior. No visual barriers between musicians and the audience, excellent acoustics provides warm, rich, round and very balanced sound. Perfect space for perfect music. Congratulations to Wrocław and inspiration for the others!"

Marie Kučerová,
Managing Director of the Brno Philharmonic

The inaugural concert at the impressive new venue of the National Forum of Music and the quite diversified and high quality short concerts the day after, have masterly demonstrated the wide ranging potentiality of Polish music and musicians. The second day, watching the long line of Wrocław people, on the esplanade just before the opening of the doors, I've noticed their perfectly justified joy and emotions, created by the architectural beauty of their state of the art "monument", which is an eloquent counterbalance to the old Opera house just at the opposite side. And later on, in the different halls of the Forum of Music their love for music was almost tangible. I keep a wonderful memory of these few September musical days in Wrocław. I'm sure, next year, as European Cultural Capital Wrocław will be the stage of marvellous events."

Prof. Dr. Ömer Bozkurt, Ankara International Music Festival

Walking into the National Forum of Music there was a palpable excitement in the air. The lobby areas are spacious and beautifully finished down to the slightest detail. The hall itself has a feeling of openness and yet retains an intimacy. The acoustic is quite simply splendid. There is little doubt that the NFM will take its rightful place among one of the world's great concert halls."

David Baile, General Director of the International Society for the Performing Arts

The opening of new concert halls around the world is always a special, thrilling moment in the lives of their communities, but the launch of Wrocław's National Forum for Music was extra special. The 4 halls each make powerful, distinct statements with excellent acoustics; the interior design of the building is stylish and very striking, and the presence in the NFM of 11 resident ensembles and 8 festivals promises the local community a rich and varied year-round musical diet. The route to creating ambitious new arts facilities is always beset with financial and organisational challenges, and director Andrzej Kosendiak and Mayor Rafał Dutkiewicz and their teams deserve every congratulation for overcoming Wrocław's challenges and producing such a successful result.

To hear those great Lutosławski and Szymanowski scores so well played was a joyful reminder of Poland's great musical traditions, while the Penderecki and Mykietyn works were vivid testimony to Poland's continuing creativity, and starting the gala with Bach's last, heartbreakingly unfinished Contrapunctus, played by remote unseen instruments in the darkened hall, was an unforgettable moment of theatre. Anyone who loves music and values the expansion of opportunities to hear, study and make music can only be thrilled at the opening of Poland's new National Forum for Music, and wish it the very best of success."

Anthony Sargent CBE, CEO at Luminato Festival

The opening of the National Forum of Music in Wrocław is a real celebration of Polish culture. (...) The beautiful, modern building already impresses with its architecture. (...) It is worth undertaking such challenges, because they are an expression of respect for the national culture and artists creating it. Polish musical art has played a significant role in the world for many years. It expands and stimulates interest in our country, is an expression and sometimes the main source of knowledge about Poland and Poles. Our composers and performers are known, valued, rewarded and honoured on all continents, they are good ambassadors of our homeland. That is why I want the National Forum of Music to become an expression of the proper appreciation of their artistry. "

Andrzej Duda

President of the Republic of Poland

One of the best concert halls in the world".

Lang Lang

pianista

The Narodowe Forum Muzyki in Wrocław has an immediate warmth, which you feel in your body. I would love to do my recordings here.

Ivan Fischer (Founder and Music Director of the Budapest Festival Orchestra)

I visited the National Forum of Music in June 2016 for a concert featuring the combined forces of Gabrieli Consort & Players and the Wrocław Baroque Orchestra and NFM Choir, and was absolutely blown away by the beauty of the venue, and in particular by its acoustics. At a time when the topic of new concert halls is at fever pitch in the UK, it is refreshing and pertinent to see just what can be achieved in a 21st century concert hall.

Mark Pemberton

Director

Association of British Orchestras

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, European Festivals Association secretary general

What an evening! It is always pleasure to meet with you, but this evening was truly memorable. Please allow me to once more congratulate you with the completion of the wonderful National Forum of Music! It is not only your brainchild, it also turned out to have become a bright new gem in the creative city of Wrocław. My wife and I... we have truly enjoyed to be able to be witness such daring programming, as well as attending the high level performances. We are convinced that this unique concert hall will play an important role in the future of your creative city Wrocław."

Prof. Erick van Egeraat

The wonderful piece by Haydn was so touching to give me goose bumps. Beautiful day, beautiful venue, beautiful space, great music. Today we listened to Bach and Haydn who are the favourite composers of my most famous protagonist, Eberhard Mock. I am convinced that if he were at this concert here today, he would be really content."

Marek Krajewski, writer

Basically, I have been in a state of shock since yesterday. I did not spend just a few minutes there, but the whole afternoon. I must say that I am astonished with the great sound, even when the instrument was located

basically at the end of the stage, almost under the balcony. This hall is stunning, very impressive. I still cannot believe it all happened in Wrocław. This room is very special, it has its own unique atmosphere, this peculiar warmth often missing from grand halls of this type. It is extremely intimate. There is something about it that does not make the person on stage feel exposed. It is very important for those who spend a lot of time on the performing side of the stage.”

Krzysztof Jabłoński, pianist

The Narodowe Forum Muzyki is a unique acoustic treat. The hall provides an amazingly blended sound while keeping the highest transparency.

Stefan Englert

Executive Director, Gürzenich-Orchester Köln

I am delighted to confirm that the National Forum of Music is an outstanding concert hall and stands amongst the very finest in Europe. I look forward to the Philharmonia Orchestra performing there.

Helen Sprott

Managing Director, Philharmonia Orchestra

A visit to Wrocław which does not include the NFM would be akin to going to Rome and skipping St Peter’s.

Jonathan Sutherland

Music Critic

A modified ARUP (i.e. ex-ARTEC) shoebox with that variable acoustic so argued over in the above quoted Beranek interview, 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 (I watched the acoustic being ‘tuned’ with a particularly large symphony orchestra during a rehearsal last year, whilst hopping between different seats to listen to the effects of that variation throughout the hall). Lang Lang called it “one of the best concert halls in the world”.

Marshall Marcus, A Tale of Three Cities: Why Dubai, Hamburg and Wrocław May Be the Answers, Once You Get the Question Right (fragment)

"I have had a warm place in my heart for Wrocław since my first concert there 2010. But now, with the completion of the new NFM concert hall, my heart beats faster in anticipation of each return. Just before my first concert at the new NFM last November, I was raving to Piotr Turkiewicz, the artistic director of Jazztopad, about the beautiful acoustics in the Maison Symphonique in Montreal. He interjected “ We used the same team for our sound design!” Indeed, from the beauty of the placement of the edifice in the open square, to the soaring open space of the foyer, to the impressive first view of the concert hall as I walked on stage, to the experience of such warmth and clarity of sound throughout our performance – I place it at the top of my list of preferred concert halls.”

Charles Lloyd

Jazzman

A jewel!

The NFM is one of those rare halls that wants for nothing. It has in equal share warmth, clarity and an atmosphere that is truly inspiring.

Nikolaj Znaider

Violinist and conductor

This concert hall has wonderful acoustics. It is interesting that you mention flying. I recall the words of Kurt Masur from a rehearsal before a concert with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. We were rehearsing the

Beethoven concerto then, and not everything was going the way we wanted. We could not get the sound of chamber music that we wanted. Kurt Masur stopped the playing and turned to the orchestra: Friends, let her fly. I have been playing with Lambert Orkis for thirty years, it's great for us to fly together, and in Wrocław's National Forum of Music concert hall in particular. This hall allows you to play any colour, any tone, a dynamic sound that is never forced, rough, never unremarkable. On the contrary, here the sound is always vibrant and never exaggerated. It's a real Stradivarius among concert halls, I can only congratulate you.

Anne-Sophie Mutter

Violinist

I like the hall very much. I thought the sound was good, I thought the feeling was good, I thought the communication between the audience and myself was very immediate and I also think that the way the hall relates to its' own environment is great. I had a very positive experience. And as I said right after the concert, the people of Wrocław should be very happy and should feel very lucky to have this concert hall in the middle of town, because they don't always work out as well. This is a concert hall for many, many generations to come, and I think already now it has changed the fate of music in Wrocław and Poland (...). So, you're lucky."

Esa-Pekka Salonen

dyrygent

Wrocław has one of the greatest European concert halls, a joy for us all to perform in. Lucky city! We hope to return frequently."

sir Simon Rattle

dyrygent

It's a very exciting time in the world for new concert halls. I have the pleasure of visiting many new concert halls. But this one in Wrocław, I actually heard about it a few years ago, because the acoustician Tateo is a well-known friend of mine. He did also the hall in Montreal where I am from and where my Orchestre Métropolitain is playing. So I am of course expecting something great. What I was really surprised with in the good way in the rehearsal is how different it sounds than Montreal. And I spoke with Tateo and he said: 'yes, it was an intention to have a very different kind of sound.' So the proportions are the same, the seats look similar, but it's not the same materials, not the same shape, and I would qualify this one as very honest in terms that when we play a sound it does exactly what we want, but also it has overall more depth than in Montreal. This is a very, very special quality for a new hall like this, and I know that the orchestra and I were very, very happy to experience and play with this kind of acoustics.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Music Director

Metropolitan Opera

It's spectacular I think. The acoustic in London, for example, at the Barbican hall, the acoustic is quite dry. And you get a little bit of assistance but not too much. It is perfectly tuned as far as I can see.

Michael Moran

Music Critic

Wrocław's new concert hall is extraordinary, definitely top 5 acoustics in Europe!"

Pablo Ferrández