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7th International ——— Music Festival
of Central and Eastern ——— Europe

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Afterglows & Afterimages

Messengers: Bach /
Schubert / Čiurlionis



Warsaw ——— 27 November 2025

Messengers: Bach / Schubert / Čiurlionis

27 November (Thursday) ——— 7.30 pm

Warsaw Philharmonic
Concert Hall
5 Jasna Street
Warsaw

Honorary patronage: His Excellency Valdemaras Sarapinas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Poland

Concert programme —————

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis
(1875–1911)

String Quartet in C minor
arranged by:
Vilhelmas Čepinskis (b. 1977)
(1901/2022)

Allegro moderato
Andante
Menuetto

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)
Harpsichord Concerto in D minor,
BWV 1052
piano performance
(1736)

Allegro
Adagio
Allegro

Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)
String Quartet in D minor,
“Death and the Maiden”
arranged by:
Gustav Mahler (1860–1911)
(1824/1896)

Allegro
Andante con moto
Scherzo: Allegro molto
Presto

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Performers:

Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra

Sergiej Krylov
Conductor

Lukas Geniušas
piano

Messengers: Bach / Schubert / Čiurlionis

The String Quartet in C minor by Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875–1911), which opens the concert, introduces us into the world of this extremely interesting, although little known, Lithuanian painter, composer, choral conductor and writer. We celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth this year, and although he was primarily associated with Lithuania, Poland also played an important role in his life. He attended the music school of Prince Michał Mikołaj Ogiński (the grandson of the famous Michał Kleofas) in Plungė in the Žemaitija region. Thanks to the financial support of the prince, he continued his education at the Music Institute in Warsaw (1894–1899) under the supervision of Antoni Sygietyński and Zygmunt Noskowski. In Warsaw, he also studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts (1904–1906) with Ferdynand Ruszczyc and Konrad Krzyżanowski, establishing close contacts with the Polish artistic community, including Eugeniusz Morawski, also a composer and painter. Interestingly enough, it was only at the age of thirty that Čiurlionis (Polish: Mikołaj Konstanty Czurlanis) learned Lithuanian, partly thanks to his fiancée, Lithuanian writer Sofija Kymantaitė. Today, it is mainly in Lithuania that the memory of this outstanding painter and musician from the turn of the 20th century has been preserved, and he is considered to be one of the leading figures of Lithuanian culture.

Author of almost 400 musical works and 300 paintings, Čiurlionis created art transcending the boundaries of genres by transferring musical structures to canvas and arranging his painterly visions into sounds. He is best known for his symphonic poems *In the Forest* and *The Sea*. Among his chamber compositions, the String Quartet in C minor (arranged for string orchestra by Vilhelmas Čepinskis) occupies a special place, with classicising outermost movements and a nostalgic slow movement providing an expressive melodic line outlined against a dense, highly chromatic accompaniment.

The next compositions featured in the evening's programme are well known to music lovers, being so-called "staples" of classical music canon. The Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052 by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), often also performed on the piano, is one of his most admirable works of this kind, impressing the listener from the very first bars with its extraordinary energy and spirit. The outermost movements, reminiscent of Vivaldi's concertos (especially the Violin Concerto in D major "Il grosso mogul", RV 208), begin with ritornelli performed in unison, which develop into ingenious dialogues between the soloist and the orchestra. The middle *Adagio* introduces an atmospheric, melancholic aura, standing in contrast with the dynamic finale.

The famous String Quartet in D minor "Death and the Maiden" by Franz Schubert (1797–1828) was written at a time when the composer, although still young, was already seriously ill and felt the end approaching. In the second movement, the outstanding creator of the Romantic Lied used one of his own Lieder, composed a few years earlier to a text by Matthias Claudius, which served as the title of the entire work. The struggle between life and death is reflected through stark contrasts of tempo, rhythm and key, while the final tarantella – heavily relying on syncopation and sudden turns – brings to mind the 'danse macabre'. The value of the piece was appreciated by Gustav Mahler, who arranged it for string orchestra 70 years after its creation.

Although the pieces included in the programme were composed in different eras and represent various stylistic conventions, all of them are highly expressive. None of the presented works will leave the listener indifferent due to the tensions they accumulate – built gradually or emerging like a violent storm. The range of emotions is enormous – unbridled joy, which can be an apotheosis of life, is juxtaposed with reflection on death. We are faced with both light and shadow.

Jolanta Guzy-Pasiak



Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra

The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra (LCO, founded in 1960 by Saulius Sondeckis) is one of the most outstanding and highly acclaimed Lithuanian ensembles in the world. Over the years, tour itineraries of the LCO, an ambassador of Lithuanian music culture, have covered the length

and breadth of Europe, and reached both Americas, the Republic of South Africa, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, China and Lebanon. The orchestra has collaborated with a number of prominent musicians. The LCO has recorded over 100 vinyl records and CDs showcasing the most diverse repertoire.

Sergej Krylov – conductor



© Tomas Juskaitis
Effervescent musicianship, intense lyricism and beguiling tonal beauty belong to the qualities that have secured Sergej Krylov's place among

today's most renowned performers. Krylov has received numerous awards for his outstanding contribution to the development of the art of music. In 2022, the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Society honoured him with the 1st degree honorary insignia "In the Service of Music". Krylov became the artistic director and principal conductor of the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra in 2008 and has given more than 200 concerts with the orchestra worldwide.

Lukas Geniušas – piano



© Max Ardeev
Hailed by *The Guardian* for his 'brilliance and maturity', Lukas Geniušas has emerged as a standout voice of his generation, celebrated for his

electrifying artistry and unmistakable individuality. Geniušas is heard in recital at the most prestigious venues all over the world, and is invited to perform with major international orchestras. A large and critically acclaimed discography has earned him the Diapason CD of the Year, and the Gramophone CD of the Year in the Song category.

Organisers

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Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland



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