**Mazurkas of the World Festival - Dancing Poland**

**24–28 April 2018**

**Five days of concerts and dance events, best folk bands, hot Spanish rhythms, more than 30 hours of workshops, children’s activities, instrument building shows and meetings with more than one hundred craftsmen from Poland and abroad. Finally, there is also the Dance Night - ten hours of great music, more than 30 bands and dance craze until dawn. Mazurkas of the World is a Spring carnival and it is going to be held for the ninth time in Warsaw, a celebration of traditional music, dance and song. You must try it!**

Full of live music and dance, the ninth edition of Mazurkas of the World festival, held in the year marking Poland one hundredth annivesary of independence, bears the name ‘Dancing Poland’ and dance is going to be its main focus. From village inns, salons and manorhouses the village dances, whose earliest mentions come from medieval chroniclers, and choreographed national dances have intertwined and inspired each other. On Thursday, 26th April, Cenralna Biblioteka Rolnicza hosts a concert called “A Dialogue of Polish Dances. Folk vs. National”, where two dance groups: folk dancers and historical ensemble will exchange their visions. We will be able to see a polonaise and chodzony, noble mazur and village oberek, as well as ballroom contredanse. Sabionetta Quartet and The Niwińskis Band will play live music. It is a match that we haven’t seen before.

Other festival concerts also focus on dance music. “East to West Songs and Rhythms” is a concerts that presents rhythms from Spain and Mazovia, on Friday 27th April in Centralna Biblioteka Rolnicza. It is a musical combination of songs by two singers: Maria Nieto from El Carpio del Tajo in Castile and Maria Siwiec from Gałki Rusinowskie in Mazovia. It is a joint project by Maria Siwiec, Janusz Prusinowski Kompania and Vigüela from Spain.

The festival concerts will include as well little known musical landscapes from different regions of Poland: the vicinity of Przemyśl and eastern part of Greater Poland. On Friday 27th of April, before the Polish-Spanish project, we will hear Music and Song from the Banks of the San: Easter songs and Spring vesnianky from the Ruthenians who inhabited the banks of the San performed by Krayka ensemble. The older generation of violinists and their students, Gołoborze band, will bring the music from Kalisz region. They use very characteristic archaic bass instruments carved out from one piece of tree trunk. The concert takes place on Wednesday, 25th April in Centralna Biblioteka Rolnicza.

There will be a separate concert devoted to the winners of the Old Tradition. It is a music competition for young performers organised by AllMazurkas of the World Foundation and its winners, the 12 best bands perform on Tuesday, 24th April in the Centre for the Promotion of Culture.

Workshops take place from Tuesday to Friday. There is a wide variety of workshops teaching violin, drum, song and dance.

There are also children’s activities: Little Mazurkas on 25th and 26th April at Children’s Museum in the State Ethnographic Museum. They will be accompnaied by children’s band Wesołe Mazurki from Praga district, Warsaw, under the direction of Paula Kinaszewska of the WoWaKin ensemble (Wednesday) and the Spanish group Vigüela (Thursday).

The great finale of the festival happens on Saturday in the Fort (Forteca Kręglickich), where the INSTRUMENT FAIR is held during the day and the DANCE NIGHT starts in the evening. The Instrument Fair welcomes more than a hundred instrument builders from Poland and oter countries, who bring hurdy gurdy, drums, pipes, clay whistle birds, harpsichord, which they build or reconstruct by themselves. The Dance Night features more than 30 bands from all over the place who play dance music until dawn.

The project is co-financed by: The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the capital City of Warsaw, Warsaw Voivodship Self-government.

The President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda as assumed the honorary patronage over the festival on the 100th year of Poland’s Independence 1918-2018.

Acción Cultural Española (AC/E) supports the participation of the Spanish band Viguela in the Festival through the Programme for the Internationalisation of Spanish Culture (PICE).

Media coverage: Polskie Radio PR 2, Polskie Radio RDC, TVP Kultura, Cojestgrane24.pl Kraina Bugu, Folk24.

For more details visit: www.festivalmazurki.pl

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