

Tuesday
MAR 1
7:30 pm

The Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra

with Wojciech Rodek, principal conductor



Sponsored by

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Our family has been attending performances at the Lied Center since it opened. We feel our community is blessed to have a performing arts center of this caliber, and we are pleased to be able to sponsor tonight's performance.

This event is made possible through the generous support of Robert K. and Dale Jellison Weary.

PROGRAM

Variations on a Theme of HaydnJohannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Violin ConcertoPyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)
Sara Dragan, violin soloist

20-Minute Intermission

Symphony No. 9 (“The Great”) Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

Program is subject to change.

Please see your pre- and post-performance emails for program notes.

The Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra

The Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1944, and its beginnings go back to numerous chamber and solo concerts given by musicians who, after World War II, established ties within Poland. The repertoire and artistic considerations, as well as the joy of making music together, led to a premiere chamber music concert held on February 10, 1945, in the hall of the Music Society. This concert provided the catalyst to extend the orchestra, and a classical music gala was held on May 18 of the same year—the first symphony concert in post-war Poland. The Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra has been on many international concert tours. Performances in Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Germany, South Korea, Denmark and Ukraine were acclaimed both by the critics and the public.

The Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic is under the artistic direction of its principal conductor, Wojciech Rodek, one of the most prominent conductors of his generation. Since 1944 until today, the Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic has attracted a glittering list of illustrious conductors, such as Krzysztof Penderecki, Antoni Wit, Kazimierz Kord, Philippe Herreweghe, Jerzy Maksymiuk and Jan Krenz, as well as soloists: Sviatoslav Richter, David Oistrakh, Konstanty Andrzej Kulka, Wanda Wiłkomirska, Nigel Kennedy, Eugen Indjic, Rafał Blechacz, Kevin Kenner, Ingolf Wunder and many others.

Wojciech Rodek, Principal Conductor

Wojciech Rodek was born in 1977 in Brzeg, Poland—the birthplace of legendary conductor Kurt Masur. Following the traditions of Silesian music culture cultivated in Wrocław, Otto Klemperer’s birthplace, he continues the best traditions of the Polish school of conducting. While remaining under the influence of the German performing tradition, he studied in Moscow under three of Russia’s leading conductors: Mark Ermler, Evgeny Svetlanov and Yuri Simonov. He has been an assistant to Kurt Masur, Stanisław Skrowaczewski, Krzysztof Penderecki, Antoni Wit, Pinchas Steinberg, Marc Minkowski and Charles Dutoit.

Since 2005, he has been affiliated with the Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra as its principal conductor. Rodek was also music director of the Gliwice Music Theatre, Lower Silesian Philharmonic and Grand Opera Theatre in Łódź. In 2005, he won a competition for the post of assistant conductor to Maestro Antoni Wit at the National Philharmonic in Warsaw, where he worked from 2005 to 2007. Currently, he teaches conducting at the Academy of Music in Wrocław. He holds a doctorate in musical arts degree and was the second-prize winner at the 3rd National Witold Lutosławski Competition for Young Conductors (2002). In 2011, he was awarded the Polish Theatrical Music Award in the Best Conductor category.

In 2015, he was awarded the Medal of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for “Merit to Culture-Gloria Artis.” He has conducted many of Europe’s leading orchestras, including the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Cracow Philharmonic, Wrocław Philharmonic, Polish Baltic Sea Philharmonic, Ankara Presidential Symphony Orchestra, European Johann Strauss Orchestra, Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Camerata Bucharest, among others. He has worked with outstanding soloists, including Rafał Blechacz, Idil Biret, Gülsin Onay, Ingolf Wunder, Paweł Wakarecy, Lukas Geniušas, Alexandre Dubach, Alexander Markov and many more. Rodek believes it is necessary to introduce young people to the world of classical music. On his initiative, the Youth Orchestra of the Wieniawski Philharmonic was established, which brings together the most talented young musicians from across Poland.

Sara Dragan, violin soloist

Sara Dragan is a 21-year-old award-winning concert violinist, who is emerging as one of the finest violinists of her generation. Sara is a protégée of legendary pedagogue Professor Zakhar Bron. She is a student of Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid as well as Zakhar Bron Academy in Switzerland. This exceptional young violinist is currently playing on an old Italian violin—Nicola Amati (1666), on generous loan from Florian Leonhard Fine Violins (FLFV). In 2021, she recorded her debut CD for Orpheus Classics with Roustem Saitkoulov, who is a regular collaborative pianist for Maxim Vengerov.

Despite her young age, Sara has won first prize in about 50 violin competitions in Europe, Asia, the U.S. and more, including the International Competition for Young Violinists in Honour of Karol Lipinski and Henryk Wieniawski, New York International Artists Association Competition and the International Global Music Partnership Competition. She has played thousands of concerts as a soloist, including with orchestras as the BVG Orchester Berlin, the RRCMC Moscow Orchestra, Royal Chamber Orchestra, Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra, Uzbekistan National Symphony Orchestra and many others.