MSA
Malta Society of Arts

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Valletta

Polish Quintets: Bacewicz &Tansman

Palazzo de La Salle,
8th November @7.30pm



Agnieszka Kuźma, Emilia Wiśniewska- violin,
Mateusz Kuźma- viola, Ákos Kertész- cello,
Julia Miller- piano

Tickets: showshappening.com

Programme

Aleksander Tansman: Musica a cinque

- I. Praeludium
- II. Toccata
- III. Elegia
- IV. Divertimento
- V. Finale

Grażyna Bacewicz: Piano Quintet no.1

- I. Moderato molto espressivo – Allegro:
- II. Presto:
- III. Grave
- IV. Con passione:

Aleksander Tansman (1897–1986) – Musica a cinque (1955)

Born in Łódź, Aleksander Tansman spent much of his professional life in Paris, where he developed a distinctive musical voice shaped by Polish traditions, French neoclassicism and influences from jazz. An internationally recognised composer and pianist, he combined elegant melodic writing with rhythmic inventiveness and sophisticated counterpoint. His *Musica a cinque*, composed in Paris in 1955, reflects these qualities through five contrasting movements: *Praeludium, Toccata, Elegia, Divertimento* and *Fuga*. Drawing inspiration from Baroque forms while embracing the harmonic colours of the twentieth century, the work moves between virtuosity, lyrical reflection and playful instrumental dialogue. Its transparent textures and intricate interplay between piano and strings reveal Tansman's refined approach to chamber music, offering a fascinating contrast to the dramatic intensity of Bacewicz's quintet.

Grażyna Bacewicz (1909–1969) – Piano Quintet No. 1 (1952)

Also born in Łódź, Grażyna Bacewicz was one of Poland's most distinguished twentieth-century composers, as well as an accomplished violinist and pianist. Her music combines neoclassical clarity with rhythmic vitality, expressive intensity and influences from Polish folk traditions. Composed in 1952, her First Piano Quintet is a striking example of this distinctive musical language. Across its four movements, dramatic contrasts unfold between passionate lyricism, the energetic rhythms of the Polish *oberek* dance, and the sombre, deeply expressive *Grave*. The work culminates in a powerful finale, bringing together contrapuntal writing and rhythmic drive. Throughout the quintet, Bacewicz balances emotional depth with remarkable structural discipline, creating a work of both intimacy and dramatic force.

This evening would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsor: The Embassy of Republic of Poland in Valletta. We appreciate your collaboration and financial support in cultivating Polish music in Malta.

Performers



Agnieszka Kuźma was born in Poland and started her musical education at the age of seven. After graduating from the Music University in Wroclaw, Poland, with a master's degree, she continued her studies in the class of Katalin Sebastyen at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, where she graduated with a distinction.

She was a member of various orchestras such as The World Orchestra, Leopoldinum Chamber Orchestra (Poland), and Symphonia Assai (Belgium). She is the founder of the Omnia String Quartet.

Agnieszka joined the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in 2014. In 2016 she performed as soloist and premiered Concerto Notturno by Gorecki with the MPO.



Born in Poland, **Emilia Wiśniewska** started learning the violin at the age of five. She made her violin debut with Zielona Gora Philharmonic at the age of sixteen, winning first prize at the national competition, and special award at the international violin competition in Dubai. She studied in Sweden and Hungary, graduating with a postgraduate degree in violin performance.

She has participated in numerous international competitions, masterclasses and festivals, and played in prestigious concert halls around the world. In 2012, she toured China performing Brahms' Double Concerto with a Swedish orchestra, and in 2018 received an award at the International Violin Competition, Kazakhstan.

She worked with Copenhagen Philharmonic, BBC Manchester, Malmö Opera.

Emilia joined the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in 2014.



Mateusz Kuźma was born in Poland to a musical family and started his violin education at the age of seven. After graduating from the Music University in Łódź, Poland, in the class of Anna Wódka with a master's degree.

He continued his studies in the class of Katalin Sebastyen at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels. He was a member of Symphonia Assai (Belgium), Fundacao Orchestra Estudio (Portugal), and Koszalin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mateusz joined the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017. He is a member of the Omnia String Quartet and violin teacher at the Malta School of Music.



Hungarian cellist **Ákos Kertész** studied at the Liszt Academy of Music (Budapest) and the Royal Conservatory of The Hague (Netherlands), obtaining a master's degree.

He played in several professional orchestras, including the Hungarian State Opera, the Hyogo Performing Arts Center (HPAC) Orchestra in Japan, and the Limburgs Symfonie Orkest in Maastricht.

Ákos joined the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in 2012. Since 2019, he has been the MPO's principal cellist and has appeared as soloist in Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante with Toru Yasunaga and the HPAC Orchestra, and in Haydn's Cello Concerto with the MPO.



Polish-born pianist **Julia Miller** is an internationally active soloist, chamber musician and educator based in Malta. A graduate of the Music Academy of Łódź, where she studied piano performance and chamber music, she has performed across Malta, Poland and Italy, appearing at festivals and events including the Malta Baroque Festival, Malta International Spring Festival, Gaulitana Festival, TEDx Lublin and Festival Musicale delle Nazioni in Rome.

Since moving to Malta in 2012, Julia has collaborated regularly with leading musicians and ensembles, including the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and KorMalta. In 2024, she made her concerto debut with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under Michael Laus, performing Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor. She is also the creator of the recital series Julia Miller Plays and has initiated and curated a number of international and interdisciplinary concert projects.

Julia completed her Doctor of Music degree at the University of Malta in 2026. Her research explored music by late nineteenth-century women composers from Sweden and the United States, reflecting her particular interest in bringing lesser-known repertoire into contemporary concert life.

Alongside her performing career, she teaches at the Malta School of Music and the Malta Visual and Performing Arts School. Her work brings together performance, research and education, driven by a continuing curiosity for repertoire, collaboration and musical discovery.