

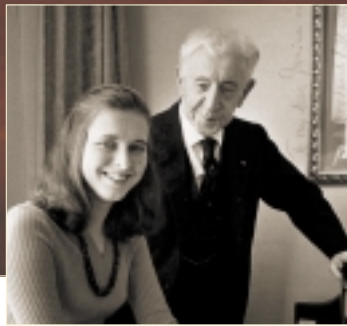


# *Celebrate Chopin 2010*

In the year 2010 the Master celebrates his 200th birthday. To mark this momentous occasion, experience "Chopin playing at its finest" (Munich Abendzeitung) with one of the world's leading Chopin interpreters



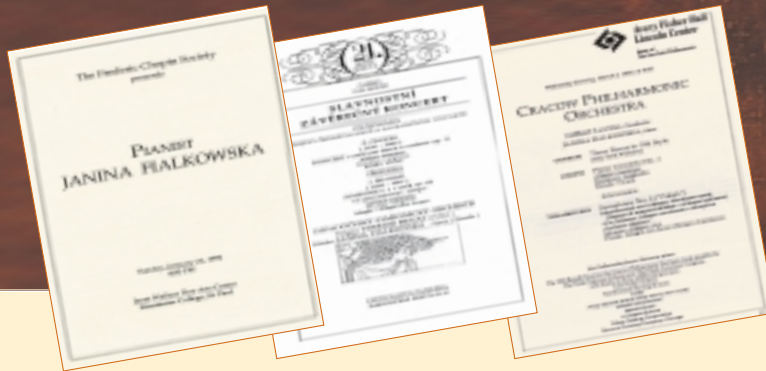
*with  
Janina Fialkowska*



# ...a born Chopin interpreter!

Arthur Rubinstein about Janina Fialkowska

Janina and her mentor Arthur Rubinstein  
New York 1975



# Celebrate Chopin 2010

The elderly Maestro was exuberant! After hearing Janina Fialkowska play the E minor concerto for the first time, the legendary Arthur Rubinstein delivered his verdict: "a born Chopin interpreter" he wrote.

Critics all over the world praise Janina Fialkowska's Chopin, mentioning over and over again her beautiful, expressive sound, her lyricism, her elegance, her phrasing, her passion for and deep understanding of the music.

Chopin's music is in Janina Fialkowska's Polish blood which explains her instinctive understanding of the Chopin rhythms, aristocratic moods and Slavic melancholy. With her early studies in Paris, she also acquired Chopin's French attributes including his sense of refinement and stylish elegance.

Janina Fialkowska's lifelong obsession with beautiful, singing keyboard sounds coupled with her brilliant technique are a perfect match for the Chopinesque bel canto-inspired melodies, the powerful bravura passages and the delicate ornamental filigree.

## Critics...

... review her Fall recital tour (October/November 2007)

### MONTREAL VIRTUOSO STILL A WORLD-CLASS ROMANTIC

The experience magnified this master pianist's finest attributes: sensitivity, honesty and a lack of pretension ... This is music that sings as its composers explore rich harmonies and embellish with runs and arpeggios. It is also music that can tip too easily from evoking emotion into wallowing in melodrama. But Fialkowska, now in her mid-50s, is a master of restraint. Yet from the moment Fialkowska sat down at the piano, her focused attention and even-tempered playing brought out the music in each piece.

Chopin's Barcarolle floated gently in clear waters. His waltzes sparkled as if lit by dozens of crystal chandeliers. Then, in a flourish fit for any virtuoso performer, Fialkowska closed the official program with a bracing rendition of Chopin's Scherzo No. 1 – just to remind us of the world-respected concert artist she is, and deserves to be.

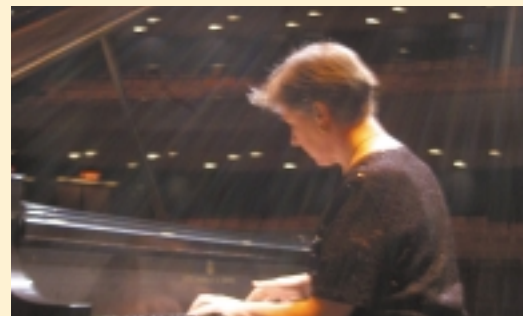
*The Toronto Star*

where many of these jewels were first heard. Fialkowska changed moods entirely with Opus posthumous #2, which was delicate and bittersweet, full of poignant little hesitations, almost like sighs. You could feel her love for this work in this most personal rendition.

The final scherzo was fiery and aggressive, with bursts of feverish energy interspersed with gentler, caressing passages incorporating the theme from the Polish carol Sleep, Jesus, Sleep. Fialkowska shared a gift with her audience on Sunday night -- a gift of musical emotion that words could never express. In appreciation, the audience gave her a prolonged standing ovation. *Winnipeg Free Press*

Fialkowska's playing is pure song: no showy hand, head or face jive: what you get is the music... Her account of works by Chopin was lucid, and in every part of the flow, you get a sense of her grasp of the whole... Fialkowska's devotion to Chopin is legend. Chopin's music is passion and drama recollected in tranquility. Fialkowska's engrossing rendition of the Scherzo No. 1. in B Minor, Op.20. in particular, makes vivid the alternation of dramatic and lyrical ideas, and turbulence of passion.

*showtimemagazine.ca*



Who said romance is dead? It was most certainly alive and well at Sunday night's piano recital given by Canadian pianist Janina Fialkowska. Hailed by Arthur Rubinstein as "a born Chopin interpreter," this treasured compatriot brought a generous sampling of the Polish composer's works to an appreciative audience ... One of Fialkowska's many charms is her pure dedication to her music. In a time when so many performers seem wrapped up in their images - with the music simply a vehicle for their fame - this artist shows that she is just that, a true artist, who brings her best to each performance. No bravado, just her modest smile and her amazing talent.

Fialkowska dedicated the entire second half of the program to works by Chopin, and this is where she really shone. The Barcarolle had a nice rolling motion, perfectly suited to its origins as a gondolier's folk song. Rich in nuance, Fialkowska's sensitive interpretation and instinctive approach made this a masterpiece.

What would a program of Chopin be without some waltzes? ... Her fingers fairly tripped across the keys, taking us back to the ballrooms of Paris,

The exceptional Polish-Canadian pianist, Janina Fialkowska, was the soloist in a recital of Mendelssohn, Schubert and Chopin. Fialkowska is probably one of the least 'showy' of all the pianists that have either played, or are scheduled to play, during the series: Steven Osborne, Maurizio Pollini, Lang Lang, Piotr Anderszewski, Angela Hewitt, Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Richard Goode are the others...

After the interval we were treated to six works by Chopin, and it was here that Fialkowska's renditions were at their most passionate. ... and her performance in this genre (waltzes), especially, was like no other: she brought to the first three of them an unexpected turbulence that the concluding, most well-known C-sharp minor waltz struggled to top. In fact, only the finale, Scherzo No. 1 in B minor, Op. 20, could rival the waltzes for their dramaticism.

*MusicalCriticism.com, London (England)*

*Southbank International Piano Series*

When Janina Fialkowska returned to the concert stage after a two-year hiatus during which a cancerous tumour in her left arm had threatened to end her career, she performed the Chopin B minor Sonata on her first comeback recital and two months later, she performed not only one but both Chopin piano concertos in one evening.

It comes as no surprise that her comeback CD was also devoted to none other than the two Chopin Concertos played with the Chamber Players of Canada. She continues to regularly play both concertos together in one evening or on separate evenings, either with full orchestra or in Chamber Version. She has also prepared an All-Chopin birthday recital especially for the anniversary year.

Janina Fialkowska's last recital tour made it quite clear that she is back and better than ever ("Janina Fialkowska is still a world-class Romantic" *Toronto Star* headline) and she is looking forward to celebrating her favourite composer's 200th birthday with you and your audiences either during the 2009/2010 or 2010/2011 season.

# Janina Fialkowska

one of the world's leading Chopin interpreters

... there is no time to procrastinate!

Book now for Chopin's birthday year!

# Janina Fialkowska

www.fialkowska.com

# Celebrate Chopin 2010

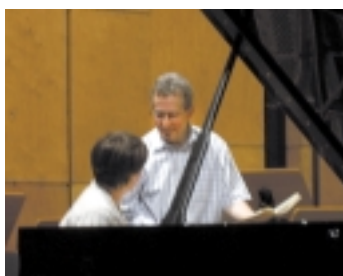
## Conductors

Some of the conductors with whom Janina Fialkowska has performed Chopin

Janina with the legendary Polish conductor and Chopin expert Stanislaw Skrowaczewski after a concert with the Houston Symphony (2003)



Janina with Leonard Slatkin after a concert with the Detroit Symphony (2007)



Discussing Chopin with German conductor Bernhard Klee in Rostock, Germany (2006) for a tour along the Baltic Sea with the Norddeutsche Philharmonie

Montreal 2006, Janina with Austrian conductor and dear friend Hans Graf after a concert with the Montreal Symphony

- Kazuyoshi Akiyama
- Enrique Bátiz
- Peter Bay
- Gary Bertini
- James Conlon
- Charles Dutoit
- Bernhard Klee
- Hans Graf
- Bernard Haitink
- Peter Leonard
- Zubin Mehta
- Tania Miller
- Peter Oundjian
- Eiji Oue
- Zoltán Peskó
- Leonard Slatkin
- Hubert Soudant
- Stanislaw Skrowaczewski
- Muhai Tang
- Kirk Trevor



## Critics...

... commenting on Janina Fialkowska's Chopin in recital

It was that ability to absorb and project the character of the tiniest unit of sound that made the beginning and ending of her Chopin F sharp minor Polonaise so exciting ... her rubato is restrained, yet its seemingly organic fusion with the music's inner pulse brought fresh inflections of joy and exuberance to her G minor Ballade.

*The Times (London)*

... her Chopin playing had singing poetry, strength, an unmannered rubato and the kind of flair that seems to elude so many younger Chopin interpreters.

*Chicago Tribune*

She recalls an earlier school (of Chopin Playing) that cherishes sound, allows the phrase to hesitate and linger without losing the pulse and form ... her playing was elastic, often brilliantly articulated, poetic, hushed and ardent.

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

**FIALKOWSKA AT HOME IN CHOPIN CONCERT**  
Fialkowska's pianism demonstrated genuine feeling and fantastic technique ... Fialkowska's ease, elegance and poetic feeling made this performance a rewarding experience.

*Montreal Gazette*

... a volcanic flow of emotional power. It was the music which mattered to this pianist and even more the emotion which had called the music into being.

*The Scotsman (Edinburgh)*

**PIANIST PUTS FIRE, ROMANCE IN CONCERT**  
The concert's second half was devoted to Chopin's four Scherzi...sweat-inducing anguish, heartfelt lyricism ... spontaneous elasticity of phrasing ... sunny gracefulness...

*The Pittsburgh Post*

**PIANIST'S CHOPIN IMPRESSIVE**

*The Toronto Star*

Fialkowska's playing is noted by her flawless, dazzling technique, while her melodies are perfectly spun in a delicate singing style. With the Chopin, she was in total control, utterly secure and intensely musical.

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*



Where Chopin's heart beats ... (warming up in the Warsaw Philharmonic Concert hall)



Where Chopin's heart lies - Janina with husband Harry in front of the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw



All about Chopin: the Chopin museum in Warsaw

... the exhilarating verve of Miss Fialkowska's Chopin, her heroic vigour and colossal technical resource in the First Ballade and Fifth Polonaise were brilliantly successful.

*The Daily Telegraph (London, England)*

To Chopin, she gave eloquence, authority ... beautiful in outline and exquisite in detail.

*Los Angeles Times*

... she finds the deeper meaning lying within the notes and works through them. Chopin's language seemed second nature to her as she uncovered the emotional charge in his music..

*The Washington Post*

The Chopin Sonata in B minor was the undoubted highlight of the evening. Here, Fialkowska comes into her own, illustrating beyond a doubt why she is considered one of the great Chopin interpreters. Coming alive during this challenging work, she opened with stately drama, then moved from the most sensitive of the musical moments to the boldest, almost raucous ones. The transformation of this gifted musician was unmistakable. Here is where she is most comfortable. She played with unmitigated vigour and finesse. It was mesmerizing.

*Winnipeg Free Press*

... Chopin's Sonata Op.58. It was a songful performance, and not without virtuosity ... Fialkowska has always aligned herself to the Rubinstein rather than the Horowitz school of pianism, making her points with beauty of sound and nobility of gesture rather than with expressive and technical extremes.

*Montreal Gazette*

Also Chopin's Barcarolle, although quite severe but richly refined in the nuances of her touch, was convincing. Four Waltzes, performed as "painted miniatures" were followed by a stormy urgent b minor - Scherzo, that ... ended in a well deserved never ending ovation.

*Augsburger Allgemeine, Germany*

Her recital was spectacular ... Her tone has a wonderfully warm fullness, never forced or sharp. Her subtly creative transitions are quite literally "breathtaking." Chopin's "Barcarolle" and Waltzes shone, shimmered masterfully and wondrously between strength of attack, rhythmic accuracy and freedom of rubato.

*Suedwest Presse, Germany*

## CDS Janina Fialkowska's Chopin recordings



**Frédéric Chopin: Piano concertos No.1 in e minor and No.2 in f minor**  
Chamber Players of Canada  
Atma Classique ACD 2 2291

**DISTINGUISHED PIANO RETURN**  
Returning to the music of Frédéric Chopin she has so often championed in the past, she has produced not just another recording of the two piano standard concertos but a unique one ... Fialkowska could hardly have chosen a more suitable project for her return to recording and has risen to the challenge of the music with real distinction.

*The Toronto Star*  
Her interpretation of the beautiful slow movement to the F Minor Concerto, where the opening wind entries are taken by the piano (thus establishing it from the first as a protagonist) is a case in point. The biggest change is in immediacy, for a smaller, more flexible accompaniment permits more rhetorical detail, consistently moving the sentimental focus from the general to the particular. Even modest string melodies carry more import, and Fialkowska makes every note, however ornamental, significant. The recitative-like section is especially eloquent, while elsewhere she catches the pathos in passages that others toss off like so much glitter."

*The Globe & Mail*  
Si l'on accepte cette approche assez curieuse des Concertos de Chopin, le disque de Janina Fialkowska est tout à fait recommandable. En plus de la partie soliste, la pianiste joue plusieurs passages habituellement confiés aux vents; elle s'approprie même le fameux appel du cor qui annonce la coda à la fin du Concerto op. 21. Comme tel, son jeu est toujours musical, énergique dans les mouvements rapides, poétique dans les mouvements lents, et avec, partout, des trilles très nets. Impeccables également, les cinq cordistes qui l'entourent



**Memories of Poland**  
Frédéric Chopin: Andante Spianato & Grande Polonaise, op. 22  
Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony,  
Conductor: Raffi Armenian  
CBC Records SMCD 5140

Janina Fialkowska is an absolute dream of a pianist, and in this repertoire she is also a consummate musician. ... There's no exaggeration, only subtle shaping of every musical idea and phrase. It's miraculous!

*Piano & Keyboard Magazine*  
... Janina Fialkowska brings dash and flair to this pairing ... The vigorous piano writing, designed for maximum impact, gives opportunity for Fialkowska to display her own virtuosity. But she and the orchestra also respond sensitively to the reflective moments in among the thrills.

*Daily Telegraph (London)*  
... livre une interprétation consistante, convaincante et fort belle

**CDS** Janina Fialkowska's Chopin recordings



**Chopin Book Two**  
Frédéric Chopin :Sonata no. 2  
in B-flat minor, op.35  
Sonata no. 3 in B-minor, op. 58  
The Four Impromptus  
Fantaisie Impromptu Opus 66  
in C sharp minor  
Opening Day Recordings ODR 9318

The beautiful music ... is matched by very beautiful playing - entirely of the kind, one imagines, that Chopin himself would

have admired. Fialkowska's formidable technique tends to make these extremely challenging works seem effortless, natural, and ...spontaneous. She never pounds the piano but cultivates a tone that is refined and elegant. Best of all, she is able to communicate her deep psychic identification with some of Chopin's most gripping works in terms of elevated expressivity, elegance and drama. This disc could well prove to be the premier Chopin release of the present decade. *American Record Guide*

Vital, intelligent readings. It's an invigorating display, with Fialkowska's superb technique piloting everything unflinchingly and Chopin's vast range of drama vividly explored. As with everything from Fialkowska, a strong recommendation. *Winnipeg Free Press*



**Fialkowska plays Chopin**  
Frédéric Chopin Twelve Études  
Op. 10, Twelve Études Op. 25  
Opening Day Recordings ODR 9312

Tossing off the Études daunting technical challenges, Fialkowska turns her attention to their imaginative possibilities. The result is personal, visceral interpretations that capture much of the excitement, warmth and spontaneity of her concerts. ... These fresh

performances should stand alongside major recordings of this repertoire. *The Globe & Mail (Toronto)*

Fialkowska's Chopin is authoritative, dramatic and, where, appropriate, touching.....a splendid rendition. *Fanfare magazine*

Taken as a whole, Fialkowska's Études are as brilliant as any complete set I have heard: disciplined, transcendent Fialkowska is one of the few who has somehow managed to strike a happy medium between the styles of the two greatest pianist-composers of the romantic age (Liszt and Chopin)! Her style and approach to the piano in Chopin are close to Rubinstein's, which in itself is a supreme compliment. *American Record Guide*

**Critics...**

... about Janina performing Chopin's piano concertos

Miss Fialkowska upheld the extreme sophistication of the solo part. Her Chopin is both generous and refined  
*The New York Times* (e minor concerto)

**JANINA FIALKOWSKA BRINGS DARING AND A RARE MATURITY, POETRY AND SPACIOUSNESS TO CHOPIN'S CONCERTO NO.2**

Fialkowska's performance of the Chopin emerged as the highlight of the evening. In her achingly beautiful interpretation of the slow movement where she filled Thompson Hall with the sweetest pianissimos I've ever heard in that venue, the piano became a bel canto singer.

*Toronto Globe and Mail* (f minor concerto)

Under her sensitive fingers the Chopin Concerto No.2 sang with rare poetic feeling and lyrical elegance.

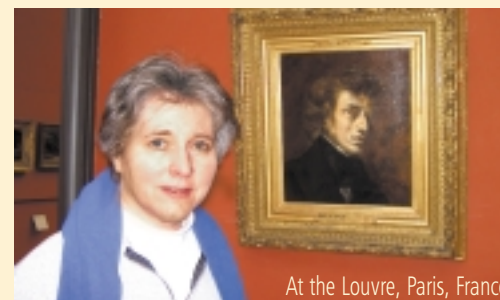
*Chicago Tribune* (f minor concerto)



Chamber Players of Canada



Mexico State Orchestra



At the Louvre, Paris, France

... stylish and technically stunning Chopin concerto. Fialkowska's first chords announced a performance in the grand manner, and the elegance of what followed revealed a pianist worthy of the tradition that goes straight back to Chopin. *The Detroit News* (e minor concerto)

There was a moment at the end of the second movement when one was almost afraid to breathe for fear of breaking the spell cast by Fialkowska.  
*Winnipeg Free Press* (f minor concerto)

... a performance of genuine inspiration ... she stole the hearts of the audience with a technique as fine as the most delicate filigree.  
*The Oregonian, Portland* (f minor concerto)

The soloist at the Hong Kong Philharmonic's concert last night played Chopin's Piano concerto as only a Pole can with a glow of incandescence and feeling bordering on reverence for the Polish composer's work.  
*Hong Kong Standard* (e minor concerto)

Fialkowska was so self-effacing, so honest, so effortless that she all but disappeared, leaving nothing to hear but Chopin.  
*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (e minor concerto)

**FIALKOWSKA STUNNING WITH COLORADO SYMPHONY**

The 19th -century romantic heart didn't just beat. It surged with excitement then ebbed with anguish. That's the quality the marvelous Polish-Canadian pianist Janina Fialkowska brought to Chopin's piano concerto No.1. *Denver Post* (e minor concerto)

It was a performance awash in romantic nuance and singing sensitivity that would have earned a huge smile from a man so influential on her career, the late Arthur Rubinstein. *Edmonton Journal* (e minor concerto)

It is hard to conceive of a more musical performance of the Chopin e minor piano concerto than that given by the orchestra with Janina Fialkowska as soloist. This Polish-Canadian artist played in such a sensitive manner and with such a lovely tone that the result was pure poetry. *Winnipeg Free Press* (e minor concerto)

... A painter rather than a percussionist, she made the scales glow like pearls and cultivated an intimate air in the Larghetto ...

*The Gazette Montreal* (e minor concerto)

**A FIREWORK OF PIANISM**

Janina Fialkowska delights with her Chopin piano concerto ... With a delicate touch rich in colorful nuances and incredible finger work ... Searching more for the inner soul of the piece she never showed superficiality. *Kieler Nachrichten, Germany* (e minor concerto)

... The interpretation put forth by Janina Fialkowska had, in the end, nothing to do with flashiness or cheap effects. Its sobriety, lightness, transparency – notably in the central slow movements – invited the listener along the path of subtlety in a perspective filled with poetry...

*Le Soleil, Quebec City* (e minor and f minor concertos)

**CHOPIN WORK IN GOOD HANDS**

**Canadian-born pianist shows her mastery in performance with symphony**

There's a tenderness in playing the works of a composer like Frédéric Chopin that only a great musician can master. This was evident in Janina Fialkowska's moving performance of Chopin's Concerto No.1 in E-Minor with the Victoria Symphony ...she plays with technical mastery and dynamic restraint ... *The Times Colonist, Victoria* (e minor concerto)

**Concert halls**

... just some of the world's great musical venues where Janina has performed Chopin. There are many more, of course, but she says she can't remember them all!



Toronto, Roy Thomson Hall



St. Paul's Covent Garden, London  
Recital for the Chopin Society London



Montreal, Place des Arts

- Boston: Jordan Hall
- Calgary: Jack Singer Hall
- Chicago: Orchestra Hall
- Duszniki: Chopin Pavilion
- Edmonton: Winspear Centre
- Hong Kong: City Hall Concert Hall
- Jerusalem: Jerusalem Theatre
- Los Angeles: Mark Taper Forum
- Lisbon: Gulbenkian Hall
- London: Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wigmore Hall
- Madrid: Palacio Nacional de Congresos y Exposiciones
- Mexico City: Palacio de Bellas Artes, Sala Nezahualcoyotl
- Montreal: Salle Wilfrid Pelletier
- New York City: Avery Fisher Hall, 92nd street Y
- Osaka: Symphony Hall
- Ottawa: National Arts Centre
- Paris: Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Salle Pleyel
- Philadelphia: Academy of Music
- Quebec City: Le Grand Théâtre
- Rome: Teatro Ghione
- San Francisco: Opera House, Davies Hall
- Tel Aviv: The Mann Centre
- Toronto: Roy Thomson Hall
- Vancouver: Orpheum Theatre
- Venice: Teatro La Fenice
- Warsaw: Philharmonic Concert Hall
- Washington: Kennedy Center



# Celebrate Chopin 2010

## Chopin programs

**... there is no time to procrastinate! Book now for Chopin's Birthday Year!**

*For the 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons Janina Fialkowska offers an All Chopin recital:*

Polonaise in C# Minor, Opus 26 #1  
Ballade No.3 in A flat major  
Two waltzes  
Nocturne in B major Opus 62 #1  
Two preludes  
Tarantella  
Scherzo No.4 in E major  
-  
Three Mazurkas  
Sonata in B minor

*... and by the way, LEST WE FORGET, it is also Robert Schumann's 200th birthday so Janina is offering a very special Schuman/Chopin Birthday program:*

Schumann  
Faschingsschwank aus Wien (Carnival of Vienna)  
Humoreske  
-

Chopin  
Polonaise in C# Minor Opus 26 #1  
Two waltzes  
Nocturne in B major Opus 62 #1  
Two preludes  
Scherzo No.2 in B flat Minor

### Repertoire with orchestra:

Chopin  
Piano concerto No.1 in E minor  
Piano concerto No.2 in F minor  
Fantasy on Polish Airs

*Ms Fialkowska also offers both piano concertos in the rare but completely authenticated CHAMBER VERSION for Piano and string quintet. If necessary, Janina can provide the scores for this version and, of course, she has also made a CD of the concertos with the Chamber Players of Canada with whom she has performed these pieces in Chamber version many times.*



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[www.fialkowska.com](http://www.fialkowska.com)**

# with Janina Fialkowska