

## **Message from Scott St. John, new Artistic Director**

Recital and chamber music have always been the preferred medium for great composers to express their most intimate and emotional feelings. Bringing these experiences to communities all over Canada is the mission that Janina Fialkowska pioneered. I believe strongly that every community should have access to the live concert experience, to hear and see great artistry in front of their eyes and ears - and feel the goose bumps! In a truly Canadian fashion, great music should be accessible, affordable and interactive.

As violinist in the St. Lawrence Quartet, I am fortunate to play all over North America and Europe, including all ten provinces of Canada. Often, our most treasured performances are for intimate audiences-- a class of orchestra or choral students, a group of Beethoven enthusiasts, or a small church. I remember very clearly when Yehudi Menuhin came to London Ontario when I was seven years old-- the best part was the personal experience of meeting him and realizing that he was a warm, engaging personality. The spirit of Piano Plus is this commitment to the live concert experience.

I would like to thank my friend Angela Cheng for her leadership over the past three years. Thanks to the Board of Directors and Debra Chandler of Piano Plus for giving me this opportunity.

Piano Plus artists are special. They are world-famous musicians who appear at Carnegie Hall and solo with the great orchestras-- but they also know their roots! All of them have made commitments to play in every corner of Canada, and I want to help them realize that goal.