

First dedicated tour to Alberta by Piano Plus features cellist Denise Djokic and pianist David Jalbert

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Rosebud, Manyberries, Lethbridge and Olds are the anchor dates for Canada's top outreach touring program, Piano Plus. This is its first dedicated tour to Alberta since the original Piano Six program began in 1993, founded and directed by pianist Janina Fialkowska.

From a recital and master class at the University of Lethbridge on Friday, January 27, to the school program for the 24 students and their parents at the Manyberries school, due south of Medicine Hat, **cellist Denise Djokic and her pianist, David Jalbert**, are looking forward to experiencing the warmth of new Alberta audiences and the expected cold of the travel along beautiful Alberta roads.

At both the Rosebud School of the Arts, on Wednesday, February 1 and at the Olds High School on Thursday, February 2, Djokic and Jalbert will play concerts and host Q&A sessions on the topic of what is like to be a performing artist touring Canada.

Program: Denise and David have chosen a program of both beauty and variety, sure to capture the imaginations of audiences young and old, familiar with and new to classical music. Their music includes *Vaughan Williams: Six Studies in English Folksong*, *Johannes Brahms: Sonata for Cello & Piano No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38*; *Alexina Louie: Bringing the tiger down from the mountain*; *Robert Schumann: Five Pieces in Folk Style*; and *David Popper: Hungarian Rhapsodies for Cello and Piano, Op. 68*.

Piano Plus is the touring program of the Piano Six Foundation, which oversees a mandate to introduce or bring classical music to as many Canadian communities as possible, especially those that are under-served or remote. Canada's top classical musicians are the program's performing ambassadors. From 1993 to 2003, under the founding Artistic Directorship of Montreal pianist Janina Fialkowska, six of our country's most renowned musicians devoted 10 days per year to this highly successful mission. Piano Plus adds strings and voices to the roster of artists, broadening the program's reach to diverse audiences.