



Bringing Canada's finest musicians to your community

CELEBRATED PIANO SIX LAUNCHES NEWLY-EXPANDED *ENCORE SIX* PROGRAM

Maritime Tour September 29 to October 7 2004 to inaugurate the 2005-06 Concert Season

Monday, September 27, 2004, Toronto – Following the critically acclaimed tour de force of *Piano Six*, Ms. Janina Fialkowska, celebrated concert pianist and Founder, announced today the newly expanded *Encore Six* touring program and her inaugural concert tour in the Maritimes, September 29 to October 27, 2004. "Response to the initial phase of Piano Six was so enthusiastic that the Foundation is now launching an expanded tour initiative that will carry on the work of this award-winning program," she continued.¹

The visionary touring program, which Ms. Fialkowska created in 1993 and named *Piano Six*, took on the challenge of helping to revive classical music in rural schools and communities by giving them access to live performances and teaching by world-renowned classical musicians. To make this happen, she convinced five of Canada's top concert pianists – **Marc-André Hamelin, Angela Hewitt, Jon Kimura Parker, Angela Cheng, and André Laplante** – to join her in taking time off from their busy international careers to tour for *Piano Six*. Each artist toured for ten days each year, performing and teaching in schools, churches, and concert halls throughout Canada.

In order to enhance the new program's appeal, the *Encore Six* artist roster will be expanded to include distinguished Canadian musicians from the worlds of strings and voice as well as piano.

Its mandate and vision will continue to

- assist presenters to attract and hold audiences for their classical music programming by enabling them to host world-class recitalists for nominal fees;
- give students in schools with financially-strapped music programs the opportunity to meet with Canada's finest classical musicians and hear them perform some of the world's greatest music;
- provide encouragement and support to aspiring young musicians and their teachers by presenting master classes and workshops and offering study grants to exceptionally gifted students; and
- promote the creation of performance opportunities for up-and-coming classical musicians by reinforcing the market for their services in the region.

Encore Six gratefully acknowledges the continued support of The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council. *Encore Six* is also very happy to welcome Yamaha Music Canada as its partner, ensuring as we bring the finest classical musicians in the world to rural communities in Canada, that they have the finest quality pianos to play. As Paul Martineau, Manager Keyboard Division for Canada said, "Yamaha is interested in supporting music and musicians in communities regardless of their size, where they are or who they are."

¹ *The Chalmers Foundation bestowed upon Piano Six the prestigious National Music Award for the year 2000.* .../2

TOUR ITINERARY

Considered by many the world over as one of the great Chopin interpreters, Ms. Fialkowska will perform recitals in **Liverpool, Wolfville, Charlottetown and Sackville, NB**. In addition, she will give master classes at Acadia, Mount Allison and UPEI.

Her Maritime Tour program includes *Seven Lyric Pieces* by **Grieg**, *Four Impromptus, Op. 142* by **Schubert**, *Two Etudes* by **Lutoslawski**, and the great *Sonata in B Minor, Op. 58* by **Chopin**.

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| Wednesday, September 29 | 8:00 pm | Astor Theatre, Liverpool <i>Tickets: 902-354-5250</i> |
| Thursday, September 30 | 3:00 pm | Master Class, Wolfville |
| Friday, October 1 | 8:00 pm | Recital, Denton Hall Acadia University, Wolfville <i>Tickets: 902-585-1512 or at the door</i> |
| Sunday, October 3 | 10:00 am | Master class, UPEI |
| | 3:00 pm | Recital, Steel Recital Hall UPEI, Charlottetown <i>Tickets available at the door</i> |
| Wednesday, October 6 | 8:00 pm | Recital, Brunton Auditorium Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB <i>506-364-2374 Tickets are free</i> |
| Thursday, October 7 | 10:00 am | Master class, Mount Allison University |

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