

Piano Plus brings pianist Janina Fialkowska back to BC's coastal communities

"She can come back and play 'her' piano anytime. Carol Grolman, Squamish.

For immediate release: February 10, 2006

In the early 1990s, Janina Fialkowska was one of three Piano Six pianists who played fundraising concerts to help purchase a new piano for Howe Sound Performing Arts Association in Squamish, BC. From February 23 through February 27, 2006, she will visit four coastal communities in BC, including the Eagle Eye Theatre in Squamish, where "her" piano resides.

Tour schedule:

- Ms. Fialkowska's tour begins on Thursday, February 23 in the new concert hall on Salt Spring Island known as *Artspring*, where manager Paul Gravette has arranged not only the recital but a masterclass with both adults and more advanced student pianists.
- On February 24 she travels to Squamish, one of the first communities ever included on Piano Six tours in the early 1990s. Her recital there is already sold out to patrons who can't wait to hear and see her again, after an absence of several years.
- Frances Wainwright chose Janina Fialkowska as the superstar pianist for her gala fundraiser for the Coastal Recital Society, to be hosted by CBC personality Shelagh Rogers on Saturday, February 25. Janina will also engage in an on-stage conversation with Shelagh in advance of the performance.
- The last stop on the tour is also a long-standing supporter of The Piano Six Foundation, Maple Ridge, where Ms. Fialkowska will perform an intimate house concert as well as a school concert.

Program: For her BC tour, Janina has chosen four Songs without Words by Mendelssohn, the beautiful Sonata in G major, Op. 78, by Schubert, and a second half completely devoted to Frederic Chopin – the Bacarolle, four waltzes, and the famous B minor Scherzo.

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.