

**MEDIA RELEASE
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**LONDON SYMPHONIA PROUDLY PRESENTS
CANADIAN SUPERSTAR PIANIST
JANINA FIALKOWSKA**



Photo: Ulrich Wagner

**JANINA FIALKOWSKA PLAYS CHOPIN
Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

LONDON, January 16, 2024 – London Symphonia is kicking off 2024 with one of the most exciting concerts of the season. Janina Fialkowska, renowned as one of the world’s greatest interpreters of Chopin, will perform his exuberant Piano Concerto No. 1 with London Symphonia on Saturday, January 27 at Metropolitan United.

Ms. Fialkowska’s performance of his Piano Concerto No. 1 is sure to be a special treat for London Symphonia audiences. Chopin’s piano music is beautifully crafted with great expressive possibilities for a master artist such as Ms. Fialkowska, who has performed this work around the world, starting with her early days as a piano competition prize winner and young soloist.

The concert, **Janina Fialkowska Plays Chopin**, is the finale of a series of special events with Ms. Fialkowska being held earlier in that week, including a masterclass and talk at Western University’s Don Wright Faculty of Music.

“It is an honour for London Symphonia to work with a guest artist who has earned the significant international acclaim that Janina Fialkowska has over the years,” said Andrew Chung, Artistic Producer.

“We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Fialkowska back and also to welcome Rei Hotoda, one of the most sought-after conductors of her generation, who is making her London Symphonia debut. Highly acclaimed for her dynamic performances, thought-provoking programming and her advocacy of works by Black, Indigenous and women artists, we are greatly looking forward to collaborating together on this exciting program.”

The performance of Louise Farrenc’s Symphony No. 2, an inventive orchestral masterwork filled with drama and wit, adds a dynamic twist to the concert program. Written in 1845, the work has been overlooked for too long. Farrenc was a female virtuoso, composer, performer and trailblazing equity campaigner who demanded and eventually received equal pay. While she carved out an enviable career in 19th-century France, sadly she never received the renown of her male counterparts. The recognition that she is finally receiving now, over 150 years later, is well earned.

Concertgoers can choose to attend **Janina Fialkowska Plays Chopin** in person or view the Livestream and then enjoy unlimited 4K HDR On Demand Access until February 22, 2024.

The 7:30 p.m. concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. In-person tickets are \$52 Regular seating, \$70 Premium Seating, and \$50 for Livestream / On Demand access plus fees and HST. Tickets are available online at londonsymphonia.ca.

Masterclass and Talk with Janina Fialkowska

Masterclass with current Western University Music Students

Audiences will have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Ms. Fialkowska’s artistry at a Masterclass she will be giving with students at the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 24 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Location: Western University, Music Building, Room: Studio 242

Admission: Free

Guest Artist Talk with Janina Fialkowska

A Note in Time, published during the pandemic, gives a glimpse into Janina Fialkowska’s personal life, her struggles as a woman in a male-dominated world, her battles with life threatening physical and mental illnesses, the extraordinary people with whom she came in contact all over the world and their influence over her life.

Join Janina Fialkowska as she speaks with Don Wright Faculty of Music Dean Michael Kim about her tumultuous and surprising life. A book signing follows. Copies of ***A Note in Time*** will be available for purchase.

Date/Time: Thursday, January 25 from 7:30 pm to 9 pm.

Location: Western University, Music Building, Room: Studio 242

Admission: Free



LISTING INFORMATION

LONDON SYMPHONIA CONCERT

Janina Fialkowska Plays Chopin

London Symphonia

Rei Hotoda, guest conductor

Saturday, January 27 at 7:30 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Metropolitan United, 468 Wellington St, London, ON N6A 3P8

The concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. In-person tickets are \$52 Regular seating, \$70 Premium seating, and \$50 for Livestream / On Demand Access plus fees and HST. Free tickets are available for Post Secondary, High School and Children aged 6 to 12. Compose Your Own subscriptions, Family-Flex Packs and tickets to individual concerts can be purchased online at londonsymphonia.ca.

MASTERCLASS WITH WESTERN MUSIC STUDENTS

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 24 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Location: Western University, Music Building, Room: Studio 242

Admission: Free

GUEST ARTIST TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

Date/Time: Thursday, January 25 from 7:30 pm to 9 pm.

Location: Western University, Music Building, Room: Studio 242

Admission: Free

London Symphonia is deeply grateful to our presenting partner Serenata Music and for the continued support of the London Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council.

ABOUT JANINA FIALKOWSKA

For 50 years, concert pianist Janina Fialkowska has enchanted audiences and critics around the world. She has been praised for her musical integrity, her refreshing natural approach and her unique piano sound thus becoming “one of the Grandes Dames of piano playing” (Frankfurter Allgemeine).

Born in Canada, she began her piano studies with her mother at age four. Her career was launched in 1974, when the legendary Arthur Rubinstein became her mentor after her prize-winning performance at his inaugural Master Piano Competition, calling her a “born Chopin interpreter” and laying the foundation for her lifelong identification with this composer.

Since then she has performed with the foremost orchestras worldwide under the baton of such conductors as Zubin Mehta, Bernard Haitink, Lorin Maazel, Sir Georg Solti, Sir Roger Norrington, Klaus Mäkelä and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Her autobiography *A Note in Time* (Novum Publishing, London) – released in November 2021 – has received rave reviews globally. “Subtlety, which is a hallmark of her playing on the piano keys, distinguishes also her writing.” (Augsburger Allgemeine). A “mesmerizing memoir” (Classical Voice North America). “A totally absorbing read” (La scena musicale).

Ms Fialkowska's long awaited fourth and final recording of her immensely successful "Chopin Recital" was released on the ATMA Classique label in February 2023.

ABOUT REI HOTODA

Conductor Rei Hotoda has been hailed as an inexhaustible dynamo with a deep commitment to reimagining the 21st century concert experience. Currently Music Director of the Fresno Philharmonic, her vision can be seen through her thought-provoking programming, passionate allyship to marginalized artists, advocacy for arts education, and an unwavering commitment to presenting many of today's leading composers alongside masterworks of the classical repertoire.

As a champion of today's living composers and an artist dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices, Rei's innovative programming and interdisciplinary collaborations continue to position her as a leader in the industry. Across nearly every concert in 2023/24, Rei has made it her mission to program works by Black, Indigenous, or women composers, including her upcoming debuts with London Symphonia, the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, and the Kansas City Symphony.

One of the most sought-after conductors of her generation, she has guest conducted prestigious ensembles, including the symphony orchestras of Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Detroit, Toronto, Louisville, Winnipeg, and Utah, among others.

ABOUT LONDON SYMPHONIA

London Symphonia is a professional symphony orchestra committed to performing vibrant and bold musical experiences for London and the region. With a core of 30 players, our versatile group meets the community's needs for quality programming by presenting well-known symphonies, Canadian premieres, and collaborations with some of Canada's finest singer-songwriters. We deliver a rich, artistic experience by seeking out the most accomplished performers and conductors representing a blend of locally, nationally and internationally recognized talent. A registered charitable organization, we perform a number of outreach and music education engagements each season for students and seniors in our community.

Website: londonsymphonia.ca

Social media: Join the conversation on Facebook | Instagram | Twitter | YouTube

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