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## **Tafelmusik breaks new ground with Janina Fialkowska: *Chopin on Period Piano***

Tafelmusik Orchestra  
*Janina Fialkowska, Pleyel piano*

*"Lesser mortals may well weep with envy at such unfaltering authority and I hesitate even to imagine the hours of work behind such magnificence ... I was filled with admiration for such clarity, strength of purpose and musical integrity."* —Bryce Morrison, *Gramophone*, August 2010

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- Dates + Times:** Trinity-St. Paul's Centre  
Thursday Oct 7 - Saturday Oct 9 at 8PM  
Sunday Oct 10 at 3:30PM
- Ticket Prices:** Trinity-St. Paul's Centre: \$33 - \$79  
Face the Musik for ages 30 and under: \$16, \$22  
PWYC Fridays: Friday Oct 8
- Venue:** Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor Street West
- Box Office:** Trinity-St. Paul's Centre: 416.964.6337 / [www.tafelmusik.org](http://www.tafelmusik.org)
- Website:** [www.tafelmusik.org](http://www.tafelmusik.org) / [www.facebook.com/tafelmusik.org](http://www.facebook.com/tafelmusik.org)
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[Tafelmusik](http://www.tafelmusik.org) breaks new ground with *Chopin on Period Piano* – its first-ever performances of music by the 19th-century composer who wrote almost exclusively for the piano. Guest soloist **Janina Fialkowska**, once described as “a born Chopin interpreter” by legendary pianist Arthur Schnitke, makes her Canadian period instrument ensemble debut on this programme. Playing a rare 1848 Pleyel piano, Fialkowska joins Tafelmusik for Chopin's Piano Concerto no 1. in E minor in a new arrangement for chamber ensemble by Dutch composer **Sylvia Maessen**. Spohr's popular Nonet in F completes this 19th-century programme.

*“Chopin is extraordinarily special to me. I honestly believe he was the greatest composer for the modern piano. Not only was Chopin's music revolutionary, creating the entire modern piano technique that everyone copied and is inspired by to this day, but it also has the most beautiful melodies, the most wonderful rhythms, and it contains the most powerful emotions. Chopin is a composer who speaks from the heart,”* says Fialkowska.

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The magnificent piano for these Tafelmusik performances dates back to Chopin's lifetime and was restored by Quebec City-based **Marcel Lapointe** and **Isabelle Gagnon**, known as the "guardian angels of the piano".

Taking her cue from one of Chopin's letters mentioning his unfulfilled intention to write a chamber version of both the E minor and F minor concertos for strings and wind instruments, Fialkowska commissioned Dutch composer **Sylvia Maessen** to arrange them for chamber ensemble. Fialkowska premiered the new arrangements of both concertos at the Ottawa and Parry Sound music festivals in July, and her upcoming performances with Tafelmusik fulfills a long-standing wish to perform with the ensemble.

[Watch a short video interview with Janina Fialkowska discussing Chopin, the Pleyel piano and her personal connection to Tafelmusik.](#)

The Tafelmusik concerts are part of Fialkowska's year-long celebration of Chopin's bicentenary. Since January, 2010 she has performed the composer's music in more than 20 cities across Canada. Fialkowska has also garnered unanimous rave reviews for her international Chopin performances this year, which took her to Augsburg and Wotersen (for her debut at the Schleswig Holstein Festival) in Germany, several American cities, and London for an all-Chopin recital at Cadogan Hall and performances of Chopin's E-minor Concerto with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**: "... none has taken my breath away quite like Fialkowska. If you have the chance to hear her, cancel all other appointments." (*Evening Standard*, London, May, 2010)

In mid-September, Fialkowska inaugurates her International Piano Academy in Bavaria, and on September 29, she performs the world premiere of *Prelude Variations*, a Chopin-inspired piano concerto that she commissioned from **John Burge** with the Quebec Symphony under the direction of **Jean-Marie Zeitouni**. Fialkowska reprises the Burge work with Glen Fast and the Kingston Symphony on October 3, and with the Calgary Philharmonic under the baton of Tafelmusik Chamber Choir director **Ivars Taurins** on November 27. A live recording of both Chopin piano concertos with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra led by **Bramwell Tovey** will be released on the ATMA label in late October.

Janina Fialkowska has enchanted audiences for over thirty years with her lyrical sound, her sterling musicianship and her profound sense of musical integrity. The Montreal-born pianist's career was launched in 1974 by Arthur Rubinstein after her prize-winning performances at the first piano competition held in his name.

Chopin's music was Fialkowska's choice of repertoire for her return to the concert stage in 2004, following a two-year hiatus during which a cancerous tumour in her arm threatened to end her career. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada, and has been awarded an honorary doctorate of Acadia University.

Programme includes:

Chopin            *Piano Concerto no. 1 in E Minor*, arr. Sylvia Maessen  
Spohr            *Nonet in F, op. 31*

*Watch for the exhibition Fryderyk Chopin & the Romantic Piano at the Royal Ontario Museum, on display from October 9, 2010. Visit [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca) for more info.*

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*Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, led by Music Director Jeanne Lamon and founded in 1979, is one of the world's leading period performance ensembles. All members of the Orchestra are specialists in historical performance practice, and their collaboration results in a delightful transparency, vitality and richness of sound. Tafelmusik performs over 50 concerts a year at home in Toronto, tours extensively around the world, has released over 75 CDs and has received nine JUNO Awards. In 2005, Tafelmusik received a Grammy Award nomination. Tafelmusik is the Baroque Orchestra-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and operates its annual Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute which attracts pre-professional and professional musicians from around the world. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, specializing in baroque performance practice and vocal technique, was formed in 1981 to complement the Orchestra. Tafelmusik made its sold-out Carnegie Hall debut in February, 2009. This season, Tafelmusik embarks on major tours to Europe, Asia, Ontario and Western Canada and will be featured in a television broadcast of Sing-Along Messiah on BRAVO! Canada on December 6 at 9 PM.*

For media information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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