

Janina Fialkowska returns to Wigmore Hall on 13 July for a recital of Grieg, Liszt, Ravel and Schumann following release of new Grieg disc with ATMA Classique on 29 June



Monday 29 June | Grieg CD Release | CD No. ACD2 2696
Monday 13 July, 7:30pm | Wigmore Hall, London | Recital

Edvard Grieg *10 Lyric Pieces*

Franz Liszt *Faust Symphony, movement 2 'Gretchen'* (original transcription for solo piano)

Maurice Ravel *Jeux d'eau*

Robert Schumann *Faschingschwank aus Wien Op.26*

"Fialkowska is by any standards a truly outstanding pianist ... none has taken my breath away quite like Fialkowska.

If you have the chance to hear her, cancel all other appointments."

Barry Millington, Evening Standard

Polish-Canadian pianist **Janina Fialkowska** returns to Wigmore Hall to perform a recital of Grieg, Liszt, Ravel and Schumann on 13 July, shortly after her latest disc of Grieg Lyric Pieces is released on the ATMA Classique label on 29 June. Fialkowska's new disc incorporates excerpts from Grieg's ten volumes of Lyric Pieces, including some of his most well known works such as *Wedding Day at Troldhaugen*, *Butterfly* and *March of the Trolls*.

"I'm very much fascinated by the simplicity of the structures of Grieg and how he immediately sets moods that are so different and yet they always link to Norway" Janina Fialkowska

Arthur Rubinstein – Fialkowska's one time mentor who called her a "born Chopin interpreter" – introduced Janina to these pieces, which Fialkowska has often used to start or end (as encores) her piano recitals. This is the first time Fialkowska has recorded the music of Edvard Grieg for a solo disc, having focussed primarily on

Chopin and Liszt in her past solo recordings. Fialkowska's last disc was of Chopin's complete Mazurkas, which was released on ATMA Classique in October 2014.

Janina Fialkowska's Wigmore Hall recital in July is part of the London Pianoforte Series, which also includes recitals from Richard Goode, Paul Lewis, Till Fellner, Gabriela Montero, Igor Levit and more. Fialkowska has chosen an unusual programme for this recital, starting off with Grieg's lyric pieces which will be heard on her new disc, followed by the second movement of Liszt's rarely heard *Faust Symphony*, Ravel's *Jeux d'eau* and finishing with Schumann's *Faschingsschwank aus Wien*. Fialkowska recorded movement two of the *Faust Symphony* in her 2011 Liszt Recital disc which Frankfurter Allgemeine called "***the most beautiful Liszt CD of this decade***".

Janina Fialkowska explains that: "***My programme has been built around 'Gretchen' by Liszt; one of his greatest and most moving masterpieces. It is an unusual programme insofar as the composers being all well-known, but many of the works are rarely heard in concert. Ravel's 'Jeux D'eau' acts as a sort of refreshing sorbet between the 'Gretchen' and the magnificent but not often performed Schumann 'Faschingsschwank aus Wien' - a piece that has been in my repertoire for forty years.***"

Full Track Listings for Grieg Lyric Pieces disc:

Book 1, Op. 12

1. No. 1 | *Arietta*
2. No. 5 | *Popular Melody*

Book 2, Op. 38

3. No. 1 | *Berceuse*
4. No. 7 | *Waltz*
5. No. 8 | *Canon*

Book 3, Op. 43

6. No. 1 | *Butterfly*
7. No. 4 | *Little Bird*

Book 4, Op. 47

8. No. 2 | *Album Leaf*
9. No. 3 | *Melody*
10. No. 4 | *Norwegian Dance*

Book 5, Op. 54

11. No. 3 | *March of the Trolls*
12. No. 4 | *Notturmo*

Book 6, Op. 57

13. No. 2 | *Gade*

Book 7, Op. 62

14. No. 1 | *Sylph*
15. No. 4 | *Brooklet*
16. No. 6 | *Homeward*

Book 8, Op. 65

17. No. 4 | *Salon*
18. No. 6 | *Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen*

Book 9, Op. 68

19. No. 3 | *At Your Feet*
20. No. 4 | *Evening in the Mountains*
21. No. 5 | *At the Cradle*

Book 10, Op. 71

22. No. 1 | *Once Upon a Time*
23. No. 2 | *Summer's Eve*
24. No. 3 | *Puck*
25. No. 7 | *Remembrances*

Janina Fialkowska



Janina Fialkowska is a pianist of rare refinement with a distinguished career spanning over 40 years. Her career was launched in 1974 by the legendary Polish pianist **Arthur Rubinstein** after her prize-winning performance at his inaugural Master Piano Competition in Israel in 1974. Rubinstein proclaimed her to be **“a born Chopin interpreter”**.

Fialkowska went on to perform with some of the world’s leading orchestras such as the **Cleveland Orchestra, the LA Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, The Minnesota Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw, Israel Philharmonic, Osaka Philharmonic, Hallé, LPO, RPO, Philharmonia and the BBC Orchestras**. She has collaborated with distinguished conductors such as **Charles Dutoit, Lorin Maazel, Bernard Haitink, Zubin Mehta, Sir Roger Norrington, Sir Andrew Davis and Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Hans Graf**. She has also championed new works such as the piano concerto by Sir Andrzej Panufnik and premiered the 3rd **piano concerto** of Liszt with the Chicago Symphony when **a missing part of** the manuscript was rediscovered following the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Originally trained by **Yvonne Lefebure and Sasha Gorodnitzki, Fialkowska** descends from a distinguished musical lineage of great pianists, which go back to Alfred Cortot and Anton Rubinstein. The lyricism of her playing is never forfeited in favour of showy, brash virtuosity and her measured approach, sensitivity and ability to create intimacy provide rare insights into the performance of Chopin and Liszt, which has won her world-wide recognition with her numerous recordings. In recognition of her services to the musical scene in Canada, Fialkowska was awarded the Officer of the Order of Canada in 2002 and was awarded Canada’s most prestigious Governor General’s Performing Arts Award in 2012 for lifetime achievement in classical music.

In 2002, she was diagnosed with **a cancerous tumour in her left shoulder muscle**, which left her unable to move her left limb and brought her performances to a sudden hiatus. Fialkowska was determined not to give up. Undaunted, she first set about learning **the concertos and works originally written for the left hand only and transcribed them for her right hand**.

Following experimental treatment, surgeons completed a rare muscle transfer procedure, which eventually allowed the pianist to regain control of the movement in her left arm. In 2010 she completed her first full season with 60 engagements in North America and Europe. Her comeback concerts at Cadogan Hall in May that year were a revelation. More than a return to form, her playing and subtle artistry has taken on a greater depth.

As the **Guardian** commented, **“It was not until I heard her play live...that I realised quite how extraordinary she is”** and **BBC Music Magazine**, **“There is a new and unmistakable joie de vivre, an almost improvisatory abandon and, frequently, a sense of sheer unbuttoned fun.”** Since then, Janina Fialkowska has continued to astound audiences and critics across the globe who have welcomed her return to the stage.

"If you buy one Chopin selection this year, make it Fialkowska'."

Chopin Recital CD – Review by Hugh Canning, The Sunday Times

Recent press quotes:

"Rubinstein, her longtime mentor, would have been the first to admire her unfailing musical honesty, her refreshing alternative to self-conscious sophistication."

- **Bryce Morrison, Gramophone, 2015**

"Her tone is light and speaking, full of charm and warmth, with sparkle and thoughtfulness aplenty."

- **Jessica Duchon, Sinfoni, 2014**

"How does she do it? By some mysterious alchemical process, Fialkowska only has to perform a note of Chopin and instantly it's inimitable, indelible. The magic lies in her subtle, supple rhythm; an infinitesimal *rubato* that makes perfect sense of any dance without losing its lilt."

- **BBC Music Magazine, 2013**

"Her playing now has a spirit-of-the-moment freshness and spontaneity that many musicians strive for but few attain."

- **Andrew Clark, Financial Times, 2013**

"On stage you'll see no unnecessary flourish or theatricals, just those rippling fingers immersing the listener in her musical intensity."

- **Emma Pomfret, The Times, 2013**

"Fialkowska shows her total recovery in one of the finest Chopin recital given in 2010 ... Chopin-playing of supreme quality."

- **Michael Kennedy, The Daily Telegraph, 2012**

"The playing of these lesser-heard works is magical..."

- **Richard Morrison, The Times, 2011**

"In this recording you are made aware of Janina Fialkowska's cardinal quality, a moving directness and candour that exclude all archness and affectation."

- **Bryce Morrison, Gramophone Magazine, 2011**

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