

This Week



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Pianist displays intense awareness



Janina Fialkowska
pianist

by Margaret Little

After two encores the audience applauded for more during Janina Fialkowska's piano recital held at the Cohn Thursday, Nov. 21. The 28 yr. old Canadian pianist displayed intense musical awareness of the romantic and impressionist periods. Fialkowska's poetic sensitivity shone in her Chopin and Liszt selections.

Chopin's *Spianato* and *Grand Polonaise Brillante* displayed Fialkowska's romantic temperament. Despite the rippling intricacies of the piece, the pianist never lost sight of the quiet melody.

Although a Beethoven sonata was performed in a

clear, crisp style it is obvious Fialkowska's talent lies in the more romantic compositions. Fialkowska's interpretation of *Six Little Pieces* by Schoenberg only emphasized her romantic tendencies. The sparse musicality of this selection did not require Fialkowska's nostalgic interpretation.

Fialkowska is well known throughout Canada and the U.S. She will perform with Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam and the Warsaw Philharmonic later this season.

Fialkowska's performance of *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales* by the impressionist, Ravel, emphasized her roman-

tic sensitivity. She played the returning melody with strong nostalgic sentiments. The piece ebbed and flowed freely with Fialkowska's personal style.

The three Liszt selections also displayed a great musical awareness. She performed Liszt's *Petrarch Sonnet* with precise pauses and subtle rubattos. Liszt's *Feux Follets* demonstrated a more playful mood with light tremulous musical patterns throughout.

The last Liszt selection, *Mephisto Waltz*, culminated the pianist's sensitivity with power. The two moods emphasized Fialkowska's range of musical impressions.

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