



# THE MUSES WHO INSPIRED THE MASTER

Wednesday, March 3, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.

**A Lecture-recital by Dr. Janet Lopinski, with Paulina Swierczek, Soprano**

This informative and entertaining lecture-recital will present portraits of the women who were sources of inspiration for Chopin at different times of his life: Konstancja Gładkowska, the Polish soprano who the young Chopin worshiped from afar; Maria Wodzinska, whose letters he tied in a bundle and labeled “my woe” after their relationship was terminated; Delfina Potocka, the beautiful and elusive countess to whom Chopin dedicated several compositions; and George Sand who Chopin described as “repulsive” after their first meeting, and who ultimately became his mistress and muse for a decade of his short life.



## JANET LOPINSKI

Janet Lopinski is a graduate of the Royal Conservatory (ARCT gold medalist in 1978), University of Toronto (Bachelor of Music) and University of Cincinnati (Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts). Her doctoral thesis examined the Preludes of Fryderyk Chopin.

She is currently on the faculty of the Royal Conservatory where she teaches piano, piano pedagogy, music history and theory. She served as Chief Examiner for RCM Examinations from 1996-2002 and is co-author of the three-volume music history handbook “Explorations” published by the Frederick Harris Music Company.

Dr. Lopinski has performed as soloist and collaborative pianist, and has presented lectures, workshops and master classes in Canada from coast to coast, and in the United States, Europe and Korea. She has adjudicated festivals and competitions throughout North America and was a member of the jury of the First Canadian Chopin Competition in 1999. She is the Artistic Director of the Canadian Chopin Festival 2010.



## PAULINA SWIERCZEK

Seventeen-year-old Paulina Swierczek is a scholarship student in the Young Artists Performance Academy at the Royal Conservatory. She was the winner of the 2010 Senior Concerto Competition and will perform with the Academy Orchestra in April. She has studied voice with Tina Torlone of Pro Voce Studios since 2005 and sang the role of Countess Almaviva in a youth production of Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* in 2009. She was recently awarded the RCM Examinations Silver Medal for Grade 9 Voice and plans to pursue musical studies in university next year.