

**Urkanian-born pianist and spoken word artist Inna Faliks debuts
'Polonaise-fantasia: The Story of a Pianist' at the Newport Music Festival
Chateau-sur-Mer | July 8, 2017**

NEWPORT, R.I. — Ukrainian-born pianist and spoken word artist **Inna Faliks** has established herself as one of the most exciting artists of her time. Known around the globe for her mesmerizing and genre-bending performances, Faliks will present the debut performance of “**Polonaise-fantasia: The Story of a Pianist**,” a hybrid monologue and piano recital performance, at the **Newport Music Festival on July 8 at 2 p.m. at Chateau-sur-Mer**. The recording of the same name will be released on July 7 on Delos Records.

The recording and performance chronicle her story: her family’s immigration to America, her seminal early influences, and her evolution as an artist. There is also a love story, as she depicts her reunion with a childhood friend who would become her husband. Faliks delivers the monologue interspersed with performing the repertoire by Bach, Chopin, Mozart, Liszt, Gershwin and Carter. Tickets are available at www.NewportMusic.org.

About Inna Faliks

Called “adventurous and passionate” by *The New Yorker*, Ukrainian-born pianist and spoken word artist Faliks has established herself as one of the most exciting, committed, communicative and poetic artists of her generation. Renowned for her versatility, Faliks is equally at home in the great concerti, standard solo repertoire, chamber music, interdisciplinary projects and work with contemporary composers. Since her acclaimed debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, she has performed on many of the world’s great stages, with numerous orchestras, in solo appearances, and with conductors such as Leonard Slatkin and Keith Lockhart. Critics praise her “signature blend of lithe grace and raw power” (*Lucid Culture*), “courage to take risks, expressive intensity and technical perfection” (*General Anzeiger, Bonn*), “poetry and panoramic vision” (*The Washington Post*), and “riveting passion, playfulness” (*The Baltimore Sun*). Her lauded discography includes a recent all-Beethoven release, “*Sound of Verse - Music of Boris Pasternak, Ravel, and Rachmaninoff*” (both on MSR Classics), and a Disklavier recital recording for Yamaha.

An artist committed to bending genres and new music as well as traditional repertoire, Faliks recently presented “*Reimagine: Ravel and Beethoven*,” commissioning today’s leading composers, such as Timo Andres, Richard Danielpour, Billy Childs and Paola Prestini, to create responses to pieces by Ravel and Beethoven. She premiered “*13 Ways of Looking at the Goldberg*,” which featured variations by contemporary composers on Bach’s *Aria*. She has performed and recorded the unknown piano works of Russian poet Boris Pasternak; appeared in theatrical productions, such as “*Admission: One Shilling*” with “*Downton Abbey*” star Lesley Nicol; collaborated with the modern dance troupe *Bodytraffic*, and premiered new works by many contemporary composers, including Ljova, Clarice Assad, Jan Freidlin, Sean Hickey and Tania Leon. Faliks is the founder and curator of **Music/Words**, a series that pairs together live performances with readings by established contemporary poets. The series has been heard and seen nationwide for eight seasons at www.musicwordsnyc.com. Faliks is also the chair of the piano department at UCLA.

About the Newport Music Festival

The Newport Music Festival has played a significant cultural role in Rhode Island since its launch in 1969. The festival has produced over 2,000 concerts within the Preservation Society of Newport County’s renowned Newport Mansions and in various venues throughout Newport. The festival stages have hosted over 1,000 artists, including 130 American debuts of artists who have gone on to make history.

Renowned for its daily diet of Romantic-era chamber performances, the last decade has brought a broadening of the festival’s musical landscape. From Bach to Bernstein to world premieres by established and emerging composers, as well as rare discoveries of forgotten minor masterpieces, the festival offers something for everyone, even those just looking for a magical experience at the edge of the world. The complete festival schedule is now online, and tickets went on sale May 15 via www.NewportMusic.org.

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Newport Music Festival
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