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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WORLD RENOWNED PIANIST OVERCOMES LIFETIME OF BATTLING ARTHRITIS IN HIS HANDS** *Byron Janis to Perform at Arthritis Foundation Event*

ATLANTA, Nov. 11, 2010 – World-renowned pianist, [Byron Janis](#), has overcome a lifetime of living with a serious and debilitating form of arthritis that nearly ended his career. In conjunction with the release of his autobiography and documentary, Janis will perform and share his story at the Arthritis Foundation’s national meeting on Friday, Nov. 19 in Miami Beach.

For more than 38 years, Janis has struggled with psoriatic arthritis in his hands, wrists and fingers. Psoriatic arthritis, an inflammatory form of arthritis, attacks the joints causing inflammation and limiting range of motion. Though often in pain, he continued performing with only sporadic absences from the stage.

“Arthritis pain is many times so severe it restricts people from doing the very things they love,” states Arthritis Foundation Chief External Relations Officer, Deborah Neuman. “Byron Janis’ life is an inspiration, not only in the music world, but as an amazing story of overcoming incredible odds.”

Janis, regarded as a child prodigy at the age of four, has played all over the world. Though arthritis pain affected Janis for many years, he suffered in silence for fear that it would destroy his career.

In 1985, Janis announced at a White House concert that he had become an ambassador for the Arthritis Foundation. Since then, Janis has appeared in many settings as a face for the disease and inspiring others with his story.

In his newly released autobiography, [Chopin and Beyond: My Extraordinary Life in Music and the Paranormal](#), amongst the many amazing stories he shares, Janis tells of his journey with psoriatic arthritis, and how he overcame his many struggles. In addition, a Peter Rosen documentary, *The Byron Janis Story*, is airing this month on PBS stations throughout the country, including WPBT in Miami Beach on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

“Arthritis taught me to look inside myself for new sources of strength and creativity,” says Janis. “Arthritis has given my life a new intensity.”

Janis will sign copies of his autobiography, *[Chopin and Beyond: My Extraordinary Life in Music and the Paranormal](#)*, at the [Miami Book Fair](#) on Saturday, Nov. 20, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Arthritis Foundation. For more information about arthritis and its treatment, visit [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).

The **Arthritis Foundation** ([www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)) is the leading health organization addressing the needs of the 50 million Americans, including 300,000 children, living with arthritis, the nation's most common cause of disability. The Foundation helps individuals take control of arthritis by providing public health education; pursuing public policy and legislation; supporting research and conducting evidence-based programs to improve the quality of life for those living with arthritis.

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