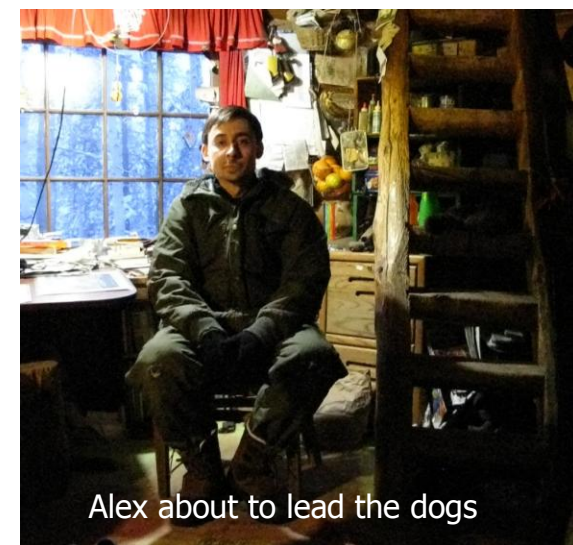




Alex Kobrin in Alaska



Alex with the orchestra



Alex about to lead the dogs

To celebrate their 50th anniversary, the Fairbanks Alaska Symphony Orchestra realized they needed a top level concert grand piano in order to attract international soloists to promote the orchestra as well as advance the musical culture of their city. They approached Yamaha with their request and through outstanding cooperation by Yamaha Artist Services in New York and Yamaha Logistics in California, a CFIIS was dispatched by barge to Anchorage, and then driven several hundred miles north by truck to Fairbanks (only 150 miles south of the Arctic Circle). Technician Yoshi Suzuki flew up from New York to prepare the piano.

Yamaha artist, and winner of several top competitions including the Van Cliburn Competition, Alexander Kobrin, was chosen to be soloist on this important occasion. And Alex gave his first ever performance of Brahms Concerto No. 1.

In short - both soloist and CFIIS were brilliant and after the performance, numerous people thanked Yamaha for their part of this amazing gift of music to Fairbanks.

Though in a remote location, the local population seemed overwhelmed with the attention Yamaha gave to their community by providing this piano. James Steeber of Yamaha Artist Services also received an ovation after Alex's performance in thanks for his efforts to arrange for the CFIIS.

One of the second violinists had a cabin in the Alaskan woods, complete with about 22 dogs and both Alex and James had the unusual experience of driving a real dog sled!