

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES YOUNG VIRTUOSITY AT THE BUDDING BRILLIANCE BENEFIT

For Immediate Release – June 9, 2010



Conrad Tao



Nathan Chan



Timmy Chooi

(Vancouver, BC) – The Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) continues its tradition of nurturing and celebrating young talent by bringing together three prodigiously gifted teenagers from Canada and the U.S. to perform at a unique concert called the **Budding Brilliance Benefit**. This event will take place at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts on **Saturday, June 19, 2010 at 7.30pm** and will be hosted by writer and broadcaster Bill Richardson. The three featured musicians are: pianist **Conrad Tao** from New York; cellist **Nathan Chan** from San Francisco; and violinist **Timmy Chooi** from Victoria, B.C. They will perform both individually and together and the evening's programme includes works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky and Debussy.

Artist biographies

15-year-old **Conrad Tao** is a pianist and composer who has been performing since the age of 3. Hailed by renowned music critic Harris Goldsmith as “the most exciting prodigy to ever come my way” (*Musical America*), Conrad showed an interest in music at a very early age. Born in Urbana, Illinois, he gave his first piano recital at the age of 4 and made his concerto debut at the age of 8. In his young career, he has earned numerous awards and accolades and has performed as a soloist with leading orchestras worldwide. Conrad is currently enrolled in Juilliard's Pre-College Division studying piano with Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky and violin with Catherine Cho. He studies composition privately with

Christopher Theofanidis. He currently plays an 1899 Giulio de Gani violin, on loan to him from the Juilliard Rare Instrument Collection. Conrad resides in New York City with his parents and sister.

16-year-old **Nathan Chan** demonstrated a precocious talent for music early in his life. By the age of 2 he was mimicking the conducting styles of great conductors he saw on music videos. His imitations caught the attention of the San Francisco Opera's Assistant Conductor, Sara Jobin. Under her watchful eye, he made his debut as a conductor at the age of 3 with the San Jose Chamber Orchestra conducting a set of variations by Mozart. At the age of 5 he began formal music lessons with cellist Irene Sharp. Nathan has performed as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia (UK), San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, and the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra. Recently, he made his debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London's Barbican Hall. In 2006 he appeared in the Peabody Award-winning documentary '*The Music in Me*'. This HBO telecast led to an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall and caught the attention of legendary singer Roberta Flack, who invited Nathan to collaborate on her next project of Beatles songs. Nathan also participated in a 3 part documentary series '*The World's Greatest Musical Prodigies*' which was aired to great acclaim in the UK in 2009. He currently attends High School in San Francisco, and is a member of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

16-year-old **Timmy Chooi** was inspired by the violin playing of his older brother Nikki and made sure his parents enrolled him for lessons at an early age. By the age of 4 he was already winning local and international violin competitions. He won 1st Prize at the Canadian Music Competition for all ages (2002), Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival (2005 and 2008), the BC National Festival of the Arts

(2008) and the Vancouver Women's Musical Society Orchestral Instrument Competition (2009). In June 2009, he was personally invited by Pinchas Zukerman, after participating in the maestro's masterclass, to attend the Young Artists Program workshop in Ottawa. Despite the recent travel disruptions caused by the volcanic eruptions in Iceland, Timmy was able to perform in the 2010 Menuhin Violin Competition, which is the leading international competition for young violinists. He endured a marathon bus journey from Paris to Oslo in order to compete. Timmy was the youngest entrant and won the 'violin prize' - a two year loan of a violin by Jacob van der Lippe modeled on the 'Lord Wilton' Guarneri del Gesù (1742). He is currently studying violin with Bill van der Sloot in Calgary, and Muge Buyukcelen in Victoria, where he is a grade 11 student at St. Andrew High School. He has a great passion for chamber groups and often performs chamber music at concerts and charitable events. In the fall he will be entering the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Programme:

Conrad Tao, piano

Stravinsky: *Three Movements from Petrushka*, 1921

Nathan Chan, cello

With Rena Ling, piano

Tchaikovsky: *Pezzo Capriccioso in B minor*, Op.62

Debussy: *Sonata in D minor*, L.135

F. Kreisler/E. Colon: *Tambourin Chinois*, Op.3

Timmy Chooi, violin

With Amanda Chan, piano

Beethoven: *Sonata in G major*, Op.30, no.3

Conrad Tao, piano; Nathan Chan, cello; Timmy Chooi, violin

Mendelssohn: *Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor*, Op.49

Tickets for this concert are available at www.vanrecital.com or from the Vancouver Recital Society Box Office at 604-602-0363.

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