

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH “JAW DROPPING” PIANIST YUJA WANG AT THE ORPHEUM THEATRE

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(Vancouver, BC) – The Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) is celebrating its 30th birthday this year, and to mark this special milestone it will present a 30th anniversary concert at the Orpheum Theatre featuring pianist **Yuja Wang** on **Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 7.30pm**. The programme includes works by *Schumann, Schubert, Scriabin and Prokofiev*.

Leila Getz, Artistic & Executive Director of the VRS, believes that Yuja Wang is an ideal choice to headline this celebration concert. “It’s great to still be here after 30 years but we are not resting on our laurels. We are celebrating the future of classical music and looking ahead to the next 30 years. As a young and extraordinary talent with the drive and stamina required for a big international career, Yuja Wang exemplifies the type of artist the VRS delights in introducing to Vancouver audiences,” says Getz.

During its 30 years as a presenter, the VRS has become renowned for seeking out and nurturing young musicians. Long before they became household names, the VRS has presented in their Canadian and/or Vancouver recital debuts such luminaries as Cecilia Bartoli, Maxim Vengerov, Anne Sofie von Otter, András Schiff, Joshua Bell, Steven Isserlis and Bryn Terfel.

23-year-old Wang first performed on the VRS’ series in November 2008. She astounded the audience at the Kay Meek Centre with an awe-inspiring recital and received no less than 4 encores. Over the past few years, Wang has been establishing a reputation as a burgeoning young star on the international classical music scene. She has been praised for her authority over the most complex technical demands of the repertoire, the depth of her musical insight, as well as her fresh interpretations and graceful, charismatic stage presence. *The Washington Post* described her Kennedy Centre debut as “jaw dropping” and *Gramophone* magazine proclaimed, “Wang is young, wonderfully talented and trained, and has the world at her feet”.

Born in Beijing, Wang began studying piano at age 6, with her earliest public performances taking place in China, Australia and Germany, and went on to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing under Ling Yuan and Zhou Guangren. Following three years (from 1999 to 2001) at the Morningside Music summer program at Calgary’s Mount Royal College, an artistic and cultural exchange program between Canada and China, Wang moved to Canada and began studying with Hung Kuan Chen and Tema Blackstone at the Mount Royal College Conservatory. In 2002, when Wang was 15, she won Aspen Music Festival’s concerto competition and moved to the U.S. to study with Gary Graffman at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she graduated in 2008. In 2006 Yuja received the Gilmore Young Artist Award. *Gramophone* named her 2009 Young Artist of the Year.

Formed in 1980, the Vancouver Recital Society is one of the few recital series in North America dedicated to presenting internationally acclaimed artists, both emerging and established and has built a reputation around the world for innovation and excellence in programming, garnering prestigious awards in New York and Toronto. The VRS presents its recital series at four venues: Vancouver Playhouse; Orpheum Theatre; Kay Meek Centre; and the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca

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