

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

LEILA GETZ, C.M., O.B.C., D.F.A.

As founder and Artistic Director of the Vancouver Recital Society, Leila Getz has presented the Canadian and/or Vancouver debut performances of some of the world's most brilliant and respected young musicians, and against all odds, has steadily built a diverse and loyal audience for the recital concert form that doomsayers had proclaimed out-of-vogue. In 1980, the first season of the Vancouver Recital Society presented 5 events with a modest budget of \$10,000, and has now grown into annual revenues of 1.4 million dollars for its series of 21 concerts and outreach activities. Leila Getz has worked tirelessly and imaginatively to change the face of classical music in Vancouver, and since that first season, more than 400 different artists have been presented to Vancouver audiences, many of them in their Canadian or Vancouver debuts.

The organization remains deficit-free, testament to Leila Getz' uncanny savvy, risk-taking, and ability to attract a supportive audience. As one of only a handful of concert series in North America dedicated to presenting only recitalists, Leila Getz has provided the platform for the brightest lights in the musical world long before they have become house-hold names. Built on trust, the musically adventurous Vancouver audience that Leila Getz has helped to cultivate has come to expect that a Vancouver Recital Society concert will provide the experience of discovery, of hearing the "future" of classical music, and of uncovering the "superstar" candidates for the 21st century.

Leila Getz has often been heard to say that "Success in the arts shouldn't be measured in dollars and cents. Success is what music does to the human spirit. If audiences come out of a concert feeling better than when they went in, that's success." The measure of that success clearly means quality of performance, and in creating an atmosphere which is cherished as much by the performers as by the audience members. For her commitment to this goal, the founder and Artistic & Executive Director of the Vancouver Recital Society has won an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Performing Arts from Campus and Community Impresarios of Canada, a Woman of Distinction Award from the State of Israel Bonds as well as that from the Y.W.C.A, and the Harold Shaw Award in New York given for the outstanding presentation of recitals.

Leila Getz has served on the juries of the national finals of the Canadian Music Competitions, the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Nominating Committee for the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, and is also a member of the International Council for the Esther Honens International Piano Competition. In 1995, Leila Getz was made a Member of the Order of Canada for her community service in cultivating Canada's musical landscape. In 2004, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the province's highest award for outstanding achievement, and in 2005, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University. Leila Getz was one of only three international consultants invited to sit on the Artistic Advisory Committee of the new Melbourne Recital Centre in Melbourne, Australia which opened in February 2009.