

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

When Artistic and Executive Director Leila Getz founded the Vancouver Recital Society in 1980, naysayers told her that classical recitals were dead. Proving them all wrong, Leila dedicated the company to presenting the world's most promising up-and-coming classical musicians. Since then, the Vancouver Recital Society has steadily built a diverse and loyal audience, regularly selling out many of its concerts.

Unique in that no other series in Canada — and only a handful in North America — presents only recitalists, the Vancouver Recital Society provides the platform for the brightest lights in the musical world. Built on trust, the musically adventurous Vancouver audience 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. Indeed, Cecilia Bartoli, Joshua Bell, Yefim Bronfman, Stephen Isserlis, Andras Schiff, Lang Lang, Leif Ove Andnes, and Maxim Vengerov have all made their debuts through the Vancouver Recital Society.

In 1984, the Vancouver Recital Society began presenting concerts at the 2,800 seat Orpheum Theatre in order to accommodate such internationally acclaimed musicians as Jessye Norman, Yo Yo Ma, Murray Perahia, and Itzhak Perlman. Expanding again in 1986 to include summer presentations, Leila Getz founded the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival, an annual summer celebration of music-making at Crofton House School. Such extraordinary young musicians as the Jerusalem String Quartet, Paul Lewis, Antje Weithaas, Scott St. John, Denise Djokic, and Angela Cheng appeared at this casual and intimate annual festival. Although the festival was discontinued in 2007, the Vancouver Recital Society continues to bring new and exciting chamber music in different formats to its Recital Series.

In 1992, the Globe and Mail proclaimed that the Vancouver Recital Society "has become a vital part of Vancouver's cultural life." Discovering and introducing audiences to established and emerging musicians from around the globe continues to be very much at the core of what the Vancouver Recital Society does. Its most recent expansion was in 2007, when it extended the celebrated *Next Generation Series* at the Vancouver Playhouse to West Vancouver's Kay Meek Centre. This new three-concert series is dedicated to presenting classical music's stars of the future. Additionally, the Vancouver Recital Society presents many of Vancouver's finest classical music concerts to both critical and popular acclaim at the Vancouver Playhouse, Orpheum Theatre and Chan Centre for the Performing Arts.

Leila Getz has won an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Performing Arts from Campus and Community Impressarios 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. She 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.