



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 at the Arts Club Theatre on Granville Island. The series has grown over the years to include 18 concerts at venues such as the Vancouver Playhouse, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts and the Orpheum Theatre. Leila has worked tirelessly and imaginatively to change the face of classical music in Vancouver and, since that first season, over 500 different artists have been presented to Vancouver audiences, many of them in their Canadian or Vancouver debuts.

As one of only a handful of concert series in North America dedicated to presenting only recitalists, Leila has provided the platform for the brightest lights in the musical world long before they have become household names. Built on trust, the musically adventurous Vancouver audience that Leila 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 has often been heard to say, "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 that is cherished as much by the performers as by the audience members. For her commitment to this goal, Leila 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.

In 1995, Leila 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 and was appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the province's highest award for outstanding achievement. In 2005, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University.

Leila 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 2017, Leila was a screening jurist for the Concours Musical International de Montréal (CMIM) and was invited to serve on the International Advisory Council of the 15th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Leila was one of only three international consultants invited to sit on the Artistic Advisory Committee of the Melbourne Recital Centre in Melbourne, Australia, which opened in February 2009. She was selected by Musical America's editors as a 2015 Influencer and was profiled in 'The Influencers - The 30 Professionals of the Year', a Musical America special report. The report states, "In continuing to juxtapose gifted unknowns with the stars, Getz's Vancouver Recital Series remains an important platform for emerging and established artists on the continent." In September 2017, Leila was presented with the Western Arts Alliance Leadership Award.