

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Vancouver Concert Opera Society presents

## *Rigoletto* (In Concert)

By **Giuseppe Verdi**

Libretto by **Francesco Maria Piave**

Based on the play *Le roi s'amuse* by **Victor Hugo**

Conducted by **Gordon Gerrard**

In Italian with English Narration by **Bernard Cuffling**

**February 15 & 17, 2012** IN VANCOUVER

**February 18, 2012** IN WHITE ROCK

**IN BRIEF:** Vancouver Concert Opera Society presents *Verdi's Rigoletto* at Canadian Memorial United Church in **Vancouver** (15<sup>th</sup> and Burrard) on Feb 15 & 17, 2012 at 7:00pm and at First United Church in **White Rock** (15385 Semiahmoo Ave) on Feb 18, 2012 @ 7:00pm. Opera "in-concert" sung in Italian with English narration. Advance tickets are \$18 and \$22 and can be purchased online at [vancoco.ca](http://vancoco.ca). CASH ONLY (\$21 and \$25) at the door.

VANCOUVER, B.C. **Ovation Award Nominee** Vancouver Concert Opera Society's performances have been described as "*riveting, passionate, poignant and totally satisfying*" (Opera Canada 2011). Tickets are ON SALE NOW for Verdi's gripping tragedy of revenge featuring such familiar tunes as "*La donna è mobile (Woman is fickle)*" and great ensemble pieces including "*Bella figlia dell'amore (Fair daughter of love)*." Routinely on the "TOP 10" list for opera-goers for its music and dramatic characters, this is a performance not to be missed! There will be three performances in total; two in Vancouver and one in White Rock where we are excited to make a debut!

Vancouver Concert Opera Society ("VanCOCO") is "*all about the music*". Back with a new production, after their sold-out Carmen and Fringe hit Trouble in Tahiti, they offer unique in-concert operatic experiences to their audiences, focusing solely on the beauty of the music. **Celebrating one-year on the Vancouver scene**, VanCOCO delivers high-quality performances bringing together teams of creative minds, seasoned industry professionals, and top-notch vocalists to produce events that bring the highest standard of musical excellence to the concert stage.

**Jessie Award Winning Actor, Bernard Cuffling**, joins the cast of Rigoletto as Narrator for this scintillating tragedy! The story, which explores matters of love, betrayal, jealousy and revenge, will be conducted by the talented Canadian Maestro **Gordon Gerrard** and features Toronto based **Baritone Keith O'Brien** in the title role, with local favourites, dynamic **Tenor Frédéric Robert** (Duke of Mantua) and **Coloratura Soprano Szu-Wen Wang** (Gilda). **Jordan Collalto** (Bass-Baritone), **Natalie Burdeny** (Contralto), **Ed Moran** (Baritone), **Megan Morrison** (Mezzo-Soprano), **Martin Sadd** (Tenor), **Aaron Durand** (Baritone), **Brandon Thornhill** (Baritone), **Max Van Wyck** (Baritone) and **Jacqollyne Keath** (Mezzo Soprano) round out the stellar cast. Piano accompaniment is by **Wenwen Du**.