

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** (15th 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. 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**.