

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY PRESENTS THE ONE AND ONLY CECILIA BARTOLI

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(Vancouver, BC) – Internationally beloved mezzo-soprano **Cecilia Bartoli** returns to Vancouver for a one-night-only recital presented by the Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) at the **Orpheum Theatre, on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 8.00pm**. Her programme is entitled *Maria Malibran's Salon Romantique* and features works by Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, Viardot, Garcia and Malibran. She will be accompanied by pianist Sergio Ciomei.

Bartoli has a longstanding history with the VRS (who presented her Vancouver debut in March 1992, before she was a household name). Since then, Bartoli has become one of the classical world's most original and compelling stars. She possesses a truly distinctive voice, an authentic coloratura which she uses to great dramatic effect, and a warm and vivacious on-stage persona. Critics are effusive in their praise. After a recent recital at the Barbican in London, *The Times* exhorted: "Book when she's next in town. Whatever she's singing." *The New York Times* described her as "a singer of boundless energy, deep musical insight and charisma".

Bartoli's projects, which she researches meticulously, have caused a wide-spread re-evaluation and rediscovery of neglected composers and forgotten repertoire. Her programme choices are greeted with both eagerness and curiosity. Her current tour and recent album 'Maria' pay homage to Maria Malibran, an iconic and much celebrated 18th century mezzo-soprano, who counted Paganini and Bellini among her many devoted fans. Malibran's fascinatingly short life and career have been an ongoing source of inspiration for Bartoli.

A top-selling artist, Bartoli has sold over 6 million CDs, spent more than 200 weeks ranking in the international pop charts, won numerous Golden Discs, 4 Grammys, 8 Echos and a Bambi (Germany), two Classical Brit Awards (UK), the Victoire de la Musique (France), and many other prestigious awards. She has been endowed with the Italian Knighthood and is an "Accademico effettivo" of Santa Cecilia, Rome, a French "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" and an "Honorary Member" of the Royal Academy of Music, London. Most recently she was given the prestigious Italian prize "Bellini d'Oro" and a "Medalla de oro al merito en las bellas artes", one of the highest awards of the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

Cecilia Bartoli was born in Rome in 1966. She was trained by her parents, who were both professional singers, and studied at Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome. She regularly sings in the most important concert halls in Europe, the United States and Japan. Her stage appearances include prestigious opera houses and festivals such as the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in London, La Scala in Milan, the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, the Salzburg Festival and the Zürich Opera House, where she has presented many of her operatic roles for the first time. Most recently, her roles have included Rossini's Fiorilla in "Il Turco in Italia" at Covent Garden and two Handelian heroines, Cleopatra (in "Giulio Cesare" with Marc Minkowski) and Semele (with William Christie) in Zurich.

Tickets available from Ticketmaster: 604-280-3311 or www.ticketmaster.ca

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