

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

Vancouver Recital Society presents 'trailblazing' countertenor David Daniels and The English Concert

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(Vancouver, BC) – 'Trailblazing' American countertenor **David Daniels** will perform an afternoon of sacred arias and cantatas by Bach and Handel with **Harry Bicket** and **The English Concert** on **Sunday, March 22, 2009 at 3.00pm** at the **Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC**. This recital is presented by the Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) and is co-presented with Early Music Vancouver and the Chan Centre.

The VRS presented Daniels in his Vancouver debut at the Chan Centre in 2001. The sold-out concert was a huge success and no wonder. Daniels is known for his superlative artistry and magnetic stage presence. He possesses a voice of singular warmth and beauty with a dynamic and expressive range. *The New York Times* critic Anthony Tommasini opined: "few singers sound as poignantly natural as Mr. Daniels: he's a wonder, with a warm, virile voice of enormous expressivity".

He made history as the first countertenor to give a solo recital in the main auditorium of Carnegie Hall. *Gramophone* magazine recently acknowledged his contribution to recorded excellence as well as his expansion of the repertoire for his voice type by naming him one of the "Top Ten Trailblazers" in classical music today. *The Vancouver Sun's* David Gordon Duke noted that Daniels "has done much to fuel the contemporary countertenor boom".

Daniels has given recitals at London's Wigmore Hall, New York's Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center; at Munich's Prinzregententheater and Vienna's Konzerthaus; in Barcelona's Teatre del Liceu; at the Edinburgh, Tanglewood and Ravinia Festivals; as well as in Ann Arbor, Chicago, Lisbon, Toronto and Washington. He has been the recipient of two of classical music's most significant awards: *Musical America's* Vocalist of the Year for 1999 and the 1997 Richard Tucker Award.

Born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Daniels is the son of two singing teachers. He began to sing as a boy soprano, moving to tenor as his voice matured, and earned an undergraduate degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Dissatisfied with his achievements as a tenor, David Daniels made the daring switch to the countertenor range during graduate studies at the University of Michigan with George Shirley.

The English Concert is one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world with an outstanding reputation for inspiring performances of Baroque and Classical music. In 2007, Harry Bicket became the third artistic director in the orchestra's 34-year history. Bicket is renowned worldwide for his performances of Baroque opera with many of the greatest singers of the age. In addition to extensive touring, The English Concert presents a prestigious series of concerts in London each season, at both Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca

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This concert is a co-presentation with the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC

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