

# VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Vancouver Recital Society presents China's Olympic superstar Lang Lang

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**(Vancouver, BC)** – Vancouver can expect pianistic fireworks when international piano phenomenon and Olympic favourite **Lang Lang** performs works by Schubert, Bartok, Debussy and Chopin in a recital presented by the Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) at the **Orpheum Theatre, on Thursday October 30, 2008 at 8.00pm**. Lang Lang's name is hot right now – as China's prize cultural export and national idol he will have a prominent role at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing this Friday.

Lang Lang may be coming to Vancouver as a bona fide classical superstar with all the trappings of success, but it was a different story when he made his Canadian debut as a sixteen year old in recital for the VRS on its 'Next Generation Series' at the Playhouse. Leila Getz, Artistic & Executive Director of the VRS, remembers him as an enthusiastic, chubby-cheeked teen with a particular liking for ice-cream from Casa Gelato. Back then he was just on the cusp of major international stardom. Now, he is dubbed the *"hottest artist on the classical music planet"* by the New York Times.

His international breakthrough came in 1999 when, at the last minute, he was called upon to replace André Watts at the Ravinia festival 'Gala of the Century', where he played Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No.1* together with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and left audiences and critics alike in awe. Since then, his ascent to the top has been nothing short of meteoric. With his distinctive spiky hair and dazzling dexterity he is one of the world's most exciting and controversial classical musicians. He is known for his charismatic and passionate performances and his technical skills have won plaudits from the great names of classical music, including his mentor Daniel Barenboim.

Lang Lang enjoys a level of media attention rarely accorded a classical artist and as a result has garnered endorsement deals with Steinway, Sony, Audi, Montblanc, Rolex and even has his own black and gold Adidas sneakers with his name inscribed in Chinese on the side. Lang Lang means 'brilliant man' in English and he seems determined to live up to his name. He performs up to 150 times per year, has written an autobiography and has a documentary about his life in the works. Fans flock to his concerts in droves, world-class orchestras stand in line to have him appear as a guest soloist and his CDs top the classical sales charts. He is profiled in the current edition of The New Yorker magazine.

Born in 1982 in Shenyang, China, Lang Lang began his piano studies at age three. He won first prize in a local competition and made his 'professional' debut at five, entered the prestigious Beijing Central Music Conservatory at nine, and won first prizes in young pianist competitions in Germany and Japan when he was fifteen. He graduated from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, where he studied under Gary Graffman. Since his career breakthrough at the Ravinia Festival, he has played sold out recitals and concerts in every major city in the world and is the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and all the top American orchestras. He is an exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist.

**Tickets available from Ticketmaster 604-280-3311 or [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)**

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