

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

Russian Passion at the Playhouse

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(Vancouver, BC) – Russian pianist **Nikolai Lugansky** makes a welcome return to Vancouver this month to perform in a recital presented by the Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) at the **Vancouver Playhouse on Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 7.30pm**. His programme will include Janáček, Prokofiev and Chopin.

Lugansky was last heard in Vancouver back in 2006 when the VRS presented him in a stirring recital with renowned violinist Vadim Repin. On the strength of that performance the VRS re-booked him for a solo recital, and with good reason. Lugansky is an instinctive musician who possesses a formidable technique and clarity, which is balanced with expressiveness and exquisite tone. Leading critics see Lugansky as the successor to the Great

Russian pianistic tradition. He was hailed as "the next one" by his mentor, the renowned pedagogue, Tatiana Nikolaeva, who was once a muse of Shostakovich.

Since winning the 10th Tchaikovsky competition in 1994, Lugansky's glittering career has taken him all over the world. He regularly performs with prominent conductors and major orchestras. His concerts, recitals and chamber music performances have earned him the applause of critics as well as audiences, and his playing has been compared to that of Rachmaninov, Moiseiwitsch, Horowitz and Richter. The *Guardian* (UK) described Lugansky's playing as "high-voltage, thrilling and unsentimental" whilst *The Telegraph* (UK) dubbed him "a pianist of absorbing sensibility who puts the music, rather than himself, first".

Lugansky was born in Moscow in 1972 into a family of scientists. He began studying the piano at the age of five, and shortly afterwards was enrolled at the Moscow Central Music School where his principal teachers included the renowned pianist and teacher Tatiana Nikolaeva, and the current director of the Tchaikovsky School of Music in Moscow, Sergueï Dorensky. He won a silver medal at the 8th Leipzig International Bach Competition in 1988 and just two years later carried off the Second Prize in the Moscow Rachmaninov Competition. In 1994 he won the prestigious 10th International Tchaikovsky Competition.

With a repertoire that includes over thirty major concertos ranging from Bach to Rachmaninov, Lugansky has an impressive discography. His numerous recordings have earned him critical praise and a slew of accolades. In 2000, he won the 'Diapason d'Or de l'Année' for his recording of the complete Chopin *Etudes*. His subsequent recordings of Rachmaninov's *Preludes* and *Moments Musicaux* and Chopin's *Preludes* each won him a 'Diapason d'Or', making Lugansky a winner three years in a row. His disc of the Rachmaninov *Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 3* was awarded 'Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik' in 2003 and his recording of Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* won Gramophone Magazine's 'Editor's Choice' in 2004.

Lugansky has performed in Europe, USA, Brazil and Japan, playing with such orchestras as the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, and the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. He has worked with Valery Gergiev, Sir Charles Mackerras, Leonard Slatkin, Kurt Masur, and many other leading conductors. Lugansky also teaches at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. An avid chess player, he resides in Moscow with his wife and two children.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca

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Media contact:

Niamh Small, Marketing and PR Coordinator

Vancouver Recital Society

Telephone: 604 602 0363

email: niamhsmall@vanrecital.com

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