

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

Vancouver Recital Society presents “The Fräulein Wunder” - German violinist
Arabella Steinbacher

For Immediate Release – March 3, 2009



(Vancouver, BC) – Twenty-six-year-old German violinist **Arabella Steinbacher** - “The Fräulein Wunder” (*Regensburger Zeitung*) – will perform in a recital presented by the Vancouver Recital Society on **Sunday, March 15, 2009 at 3.00pm at the Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver**. Her programme will include *Schnittke, Beethoven, Bach and Ravel*. She will be accompanied by the highly regarded collaborative pianist **Robert Kulek**.

Known for her impeccable technique, dizzying energy and wonderfully rich tone, Steinbacher has become a fast-rising star on the international concert stage. She had an extraordinary and unexpected debut in Paris in March 2004, when she stepped in on short notice for an ailing colleague and performed the Beethoven Violin Concerto with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France under Sir Neville Marriner. Her New York recital debut in June 2006 was called “a particular highlight of the month” by *The Strad* magazine. *The New York Times* wrote: “Balanced lyricism and fire ... among her assets are a finely polished technique and a beautifully varied palette of timbres.”

Steinbacher has a diverse repertoire which includes more than twenty concertos for violin. In addition to all of the major concertos of the Classical and Romantic period, she also performs those of Barber, Berg, Glazunov, Khatchaturian, Milhaud, Prokofiev, Schnittke, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Szymanowski, and Hartmann. She has performed with many of the world’s leading orchestras including the Chicago Symphony, St Petersburg Philharmonic, NHK Symphony, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica de la RTVE in Madrid, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Orchestre National de Belgique, Philharmonia Orchestra and she has toured North America with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Born in Munich in 1981 to a German father and a Japanese mother, Steinbacher began studying the violin at the age of three. Her mother is a professionally trained singer who came to Germany from Japan to study music, and her father was the first Solorepetitor in the Bayerische Staatsoper, from 1960 to 1972. At nine, she became the youngest violin student of Ana Chumachenko at the Munich Academy of Music. She received further musical inspiration and guidance from Ivry Gitlis, whom she still meets regularly in Paris. In 2001, she won the sponsorship prize of the Free State of Bavaria and in the same year she was awarded a scholarship by the Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation.

In 2007, Steinbacher received an ECHO-Klassik Award for Young Artist of the Year for her album, *Violino Latino*, a collection of a Spanish and South-American works performed with pianist Peter von Wienhardt. In addition, her recording of Shostakovich’s Violin Concertos No. 1 and No. 2 was named among the October 2007 “Les Chocs du Mois” in *Le Monde de la Musique*. She received the German Record Critics Award in 2005 for her recording of Milhaud’s rarely-heard Violin Concertos No. 1 and No. 2, and *Concertino de Printemps*; and again in 2006 for her Shostakovich disc. Steinbacher currently plays the Guarneri Del Gesu known as the ‘Jarnovich’ (c.1741) which is on extended loan from Jonathan P Moulds.

Robert Kulek performs with some of the foremost musicians of today, including Kyung-Wha Chung, Gil Shaham, Nikolaj Znaider, Julia Fischer, Arabella Steinbacher, Daniel Müller-Schott and Matt Haimovitz. He was born in Riga, Latvia and emigrated with his family to the United States at the age of 9. He began his musical education in Mannes College of Music with Elena Leonova, continuing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Joan Havill and Yale University with Boris Berman and Claude Frank. He currently resides in the Netherlands.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca or at the Kay Meek Centre www.kaymeekcentre.com

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