

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

The Vancouver Recital Society presents Chinese piano phenomenon Yuja Wang

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(Vancouver, BC) – Yuja Wang, an exciting young Chinese pianist who is creating a real buzz on the international classical music scene, will perform in a recital presented by the Vancouver Recital Society and the Kay Meek Centre on **Sunday, November 2, 2008 at 3.00pm at the Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver**. Her programme will include *Mendelssohn, Brahms, Scriabin and Stravinsky*.

At the tender age of 21, Yuja is already known for her powerful technique, stamina and agility. Her command of the piano has been described as “dazzling” and “superhuman,” and she has been praised for her authority over the most complex technical demands of the repertoire, as well as her vivacious personality and graceful, charismatic presence. Critics have been unanimous in their praise for Yuja - *The San Francisco Chronicle* described her as “extravagantly gifted” whilst *The Washington Post* declared “she seems already destined to become one of this century’s major talents.”

Yuja first came to international recognition in 2005 when, on one day’s notice, she replaced Radu Lupu with Ottawa’s National Arts Centre Orchestra (where Pinchas Zukerman was conducting) and performed Beethoven’s Concerto No. 4. The success was immediate and dramatic and led *Le Droit* critic Jean-Jacques van Vlasselaer to proclaim “a star is born”. Since then she has also substituted for Martha Argerich and Murray Perahia.

Born in Beijing in 1987, Yuja began studying piano at the age of six. She enrolled at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and her earliest public performances took place in China, Australia and Germany. As a young student she attended the Morningside Music summer program at Calgary’s Mount Royal College, an artistic and cultural exchange program between Canada and China. She moved to Canada and began studying with Hung Kuan Chen and Tema Blackstone at the Mount Royal College Conservatory. In 2002, when Yuja was 15, she won Aspen Music Festival’s concerto competition and moved to the U.S. to study with Gary Graffman at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she graduated in 2008. In 2006 Yuja received the prestigious Gilmore Young Artist Award.

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

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