

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED CANADIAN BARITONE GERALD FINLEY RETURNS TO THE VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY SERIES

For Immediate Release – April 27, 2010



(Vancouver, BC) – The Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) will present Canadian baritone **Gerald Finley** in recital **at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts on Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 8.00pm**. He will be accompanied by his frequent collaborator, pianist **Julius Drake**. Their programme features works by *Schumann, Ravel, Barber and Ives*. Finley made his Vancouver debut on the VRS' 2006-2007 Series. That initial engagement was five years in the making, and bringing Finley back to Vancouver proved equally challenging – this is a singer who is very much in demand.



Finley has become one of the leading singers and dramatic interpreters of his generation, with award-winning performances and recordings with major labels and appearances at the world's major opera and concert venues in a wide variety of repertoire. He is known for the breadth of his baritone, and the clarity and shading of his diction ensures that lyrics are never overwhelmed by melody. He is a darling of the critics – in a recent article in *The New Yorker*, Alex Ross likened Finley to "the greatest singers, from Callas to Sinatra", whilst *The Times (London)* declared "Finley is in his vocal prime and his burnished baritone is richer and more beautiful than ever".

As a recitalist, Finley works regularly with pianist Julius Drake, performing at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall in addition to venues in Europe including Vienna, Frankfurt, Helsinki and Amsterdam. In opera, Finley has sung all the major baritone roles of Mozart. He has performed at the Royal Opera Covent Garden, Salzburg Festival, The Metropolitan Opera, and in Paris and Amsterdam. His expanding repertoire includes critical successes as Eugene Onegin and Yeletsy at the Royal Opera Covent Garden, and as Onegin at English National Opera.

Finley's portrayal of Golaud in *Pelléas et Mélisande* at Covent Garden, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, won him a nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Opera at the 2008 Laurence Olivier Awards. In contemporary opera, he has excelled in creating leading roles, most notably J. Robert Oppenheimer in John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*. He was a winner of Glyndebourne's John Christie Award and he was awarded Best Solo Vocal Recording 2008 for his disk of Songs by Samuel Barber at the Classic FM Gramophone Awards. He has been twice nominated as Gramophone's Artist of the Year in 2006 and 2009. He began singing as a chorister in Ottawa and completed his musical studies in the UK at the Royal College of Music, King's College, Cambridge, and the National Opera. He resides in London and is a Visiting Professor and Fellow of the Royal College of Music.

Julius Drake specializes in the field of chamber music, working with many of the world's leading artists, both in recital and recordings. In recent seasons, concerts have taken him to the Aldeburgh, Edinburgh, Munich, Schubertiade, and Salzburg music festivals; to New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center; Amsterdam's Concertgebouw; Cologne's Philharmonie; Paris's Châtelet and Musée de Louvre; Milan's La Scala; Vienna's Musikverein and Konzerthaus; and London's Wigmore Hall and the BBC Proms. Director of the Perth International Chamber Music Festival in Australia from 2000–2003, Drake was also musical director in Deborah Warner's staging of Janáček's *Diary of One Who Vanished*, touring

to Munich, London, Dublin, Amsterdam, and New York. He has been appointed artistic director of Leeds Lieder 2009 and the Machynlleth Festival in Wales from 2009–2011.

Drake has performed with many outstanding vocal artists including Ian Bostridge, Angelika Kirchschrager, Christianne Stotijn and Felicity Lott. He has made an award-winning series of recordings with Ian Bostridge for EMI and his recent series of recordings with Gerald Finley for Hyperion of Ives, Barber, Schumann, Ravel and Britten, has been widely acclaimed. “Barber Songs” and “Schumann Heine Lieder” won both the 2008 and 2009 Gramophone Awards.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca

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**The Vancouver Recital Society’s 2009-2010 Season is generously sponsored by
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