

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY PRESENTS THREE RISING YOUNG STARS AT THE VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE IN APRIL

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(Vancouver, BC) – The Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) will present three of classical music's emerging young stars in two upcoming concerts on the acclaimed 'Next Generation Series' at the **Vancouver Playhouse** during the month of April. **Juho Pohjonen**, one of the brightest young instrumental talents to emerge from Finland, will perform a solo recital on **Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 7.30pm**. His programme will include works by Ravel, Prokofiev, Beethoven and Schumann.



Pohjonen made his Canadian debut for the VRS in 2008. Back then he enchanted the Vancouver Playhouse audience with his spine-tingling programme of Mendelssohn, Grieg and Prokofiev. He has been widely praised for his interpretations of music from Bach to Esa-Pekka Salonen and for his bright, sparkling tone. Anthony Tommasini, senior music critic of the New York Times, selected Pohjonen's New York debut recital at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in 2004 as one of the most memorable concert events heard in New York that year and declared that him to be "proof that exciting new talent is in the pipeline".



22-year-old Spanish oboist **Ramón Ortega Quero** will perform with 17-year-old pianist **Kit Armstrong** on **Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 7.30pm**. Their programme will include works by Mozart, Schumann, Bach, Paganini and de Falla. Despite his youth, Ortega Quero has already mastered many works within the most important repertoire for his instrument. He recently won a prestigious Fellowship with the Borletti-Buitoni Trust, an organization that helps young concert artists to develop and sustain burgeoning international careers. Armstrong first performed for the VRS on the 2004-2005 Season, when he and violinist Jonathan Chan (then aged 12 and 14 respectively) came to the rescue to perform at the Orpheum in place of an ailing Daniel Barenboim.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca

Biographies

Juho Pohjonen's studies began in 1989, when he entered the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, where he studied with Meri Louhos and Hui-Ying Liu and completed his Master's Degree in 2008. He has participated in several master classes of world-class pianists such as András Schiff, Leon Fleisher, Jacob Lateiner and Barry Douglas. He has won numerous prizes in both Finnish and international competitions, including: First Prize at the 2004 Nordic Piano Competition in Nyborg, Denmark, First Prize at the International Young Artists 2000 Concerto Competition in Stockholm and the Prokofiev Prize at the AXA Dublin International Piano Competition 2003.

Ramón Ortega Quero received training from Miguel Quirós early on at the conservatory of his native city of Granada and became a member of the Andalusian Youth Orchestra as a twelve-year-old. In 2003, the oboist cleared an important hurdle when conductor Daniel Barenboim accepted him as a member of the East-West Divan Orchestra. He won First Prize at the ARD Music Competition held in Munich in September 2007 and since January 2008 he has also been Principal Oboist for the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. In 2010 he received a Fellowship with the Borletti-Buitoni Trust.

Kit Armstrong began his piano studies at the age of five. At seven, he became the youngest scholarship student in the history of Chapman University in California, attending the university part-time while completing high school. Two years later, he became a full-time undergraduate student, studying music and science. He has given recitals and appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras, starting at the age of eight in a performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. He has played, and will play again, with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra conducted by Riccardo Chailly. He has studied music at the Royal Academy of Music while also studying science at the Imperial College in London. He currently studies with pianist Alfred Brendel in London whilst simultaneously pursuing his scientific studies in the field of pure mathematics at Paris University. As a composer, Kit has written in various styles. His compositions include numerous pieces for solo piano, a viola sonata, three string quartets, three piano quintets, two wind quintets, a piano concerto, and a symphony.

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