

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

Vancouver Recital Society presents Renée Fleming, the soprano with the voice of 'liquid gold'

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(Vancouver, BC) – Two-time Grammy award-winning soprano **Renée Fleming** will grace the stage at the Orpheum Theatre to perform a one night only recital presented by Vancouver Recital Society (VRS) on **Tuesday, December 1, 2009** at **8.00pm**. This will be the third time Fleming has performed under the VRS' auspices. Her programme includes works by Massenet, Messiaen, Dutilleux, Leoncavallo, Giordano, Zandonai and Strauss. She will be accompanied by Gerald Martin Moore on piano.

Known as “the people’s diva”, Fleming is widely considered to possess one of the world’s most opulently beautiful lyric-sopranos voices (once described by the late conductor Sir Georg Solti as “double cream”). She is also renowned for her consummate artistry, stylistic versatility and captivating stage presence. She is a champion of both new music and traditional repertoire. Included in her programme is Henri Dutilleux’s set of songs, *Le temps l’horloge* (“*Time and the Clock*”) which was composed specifically for her.

The seemingly indefatigable Fleming has had quite the year, beginning with a performance at President Obama’s inauguration celebration at the Lincoln Memorial. She finished an acclaimed run as Violetta in Verdi’s ‘*La traviata*’ at the Royal Opera House during the summer and she recently released a new CD entitled ‘*Verismo*’ which features a collection of rarely heard Italian arias. In 2008, a precedent was broken when Fleming became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to headline an opening night gala. Over the past few seasons, she has begun hosting a wide variety of television and radio broadcasts, including the Metropolitan Opera’s ‘*Live in HD*’ series for movie theaters and television, and ‘*Live from Lincoln Centre*’ on PBS.

Fleming has performed on the world’s most famous stages, including Paris’ Palais Garnie, St. Petersburg’s Mariinsky Theatre, the Sydney Opera House, Milan’s La Scala, the Vienna State Opera, London’s Royal Opera House, the Kennedy Centre, Carnegie Hall, and her home stage at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Additional distinguished performances include the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, for the United States Supreme Court and for the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace. She has earned 11 Grammy nominations and produced a varied discography, from Strauss’ complete *Daphne*, to the jazz album *Haunted Heart*, to the movie soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. Her recordings have earned numerous awards, including the recent 2009 Echo Award for Strauss’ *Four Last Songs*.

Gerald Martin Moore is a highly sought-after vocal teacher and coach, as well as a vocal consultant to Decca and Opera Rara. He has worked closely with Fleming for many years since first collaborating on the production of Alcina with William Christie at the Palais Garnier in Paris. He then went on to work with Fleming on many subsequent roles, Decca recordings and in several recitals. As an authority on vocal technique, he is also a regular broadcaster for the BBC.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca

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