

For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

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Superstar Soprano Angela Gheorghiu Makes her Vancouver Debut with the VSO

Vancouver, BC - The extraordinary soprano **Angela Gheorghiu** makes her long-anticipated Vancouver debut on **Sunday, April 3rd, 7:30pm** at the **Orpheum theatre**. She will perform famous opera and concert arias *live* with **Maestro Bramwell Tovey** and the **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**

Hailed as one of opera history's greatest singing actresses and the most gifted singer of our time, **Angela Gheorghiu's** dazzling, unparalleled stage presence and breathtaking interpretations have thrilled audiences in all the world's major opera halls.

Born in the small Romanian town Adjud, Angela Gheorghiu made her international debut in 1992 at Covent Garden with *La Bohème*, subsequently debuting at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and in the Staatsoper Vienna later in the same year. Since then, Ms. Gheorghiu has been in constant demand in opera houses and concert halls around the world.

Ms. Gheorghiu's recordings have also received widespread critical acclaim and have been awarded many prizes such as Gramophone Awards, Diapason d'Or Awards, Choc du Monde de la Musique in France, and she won the title of *Female Artist of the Year* at the Classical Brit Awards in 2001.

The evening's repertoire includes **Handel's** *Rinaldo: Lascia ch'io pianga*, **Puccini's** *Gianni Schicchi: O mio babbino caro*, **Dvorák's** *Rusalka: Song to the Moon*, **Catalani's** *La Wally: Ebben? Ne andrò lontana*, and more.

CONCERT INFO

Specials: BMO Harris Private Banking presents Angela Gheorghiu with the VSO

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 7:30 PM, ORPHEUM THEATRE

Bramwell Tovey *conductor*

Angela Gheorghiu *soprano*

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets: \$45 - \$165 (senior, student and subscriber discounts available)

Tickets available online at www.vancouversymphony.ca or by calling VSO customer service at 604.876.3434

Concert Sponsor: BMO Harris Private Banking

BIOGRAPHIES

Bramwell Tovey *conductor*

A musician of striking versatility, Bramwell Tovey is acknowledged around the world for his artistic depth and warm, charismatic personality on the podium. Tovey's career as a conductor is uniquely enhanced by his work as a composer and pianist, lending him a remarkable musical perspective. He has been Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra since September 2000.

Tovey garnered a 2008 Grammy Award and a 2008 Juno Award for his recording with violinist James Ehnes and the Vancouver Symphony. Recently named Principal Guest Conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, he works frequently with the Toronto Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Royal Philharmonic and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestras, among many others. He has presided as host and conductor of the New York Philharmonic's Summertime Classics series at Avery Fisher Hall since its founding in 2004.

As a composer, he was honoured with the Best Canadian Classical Composition Juno Award in 2003 for his *Requiem for a Charred Skull*. New works include a co-commission for the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics' 2008 summer seasons as well as a full-length opera for the Calgary Opera, *The Inventor*, recently premiered in January of 2011.

Tovey has been awarded honorary degrees, including a Fellowship from the Royal Academy of Music in London, honorary Doctorates of Law from the universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, and Kwantlen University College, as well as a Royal Conservatory of Music Fellowship in Toronto. In 1999, he received the M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction, a Canadian prize awarded to artists for outstanding contributions in the performing arts.

Angela Gheorghiu *soprano*

Superstar Angela Gheorghiu, the most glamorous and gifted opera singer of our time, was born in the small Romanian town Adjud. From early childhood it was obvious that she would become a singer; her destiny was music. She attended the Music School in Bucharest and graduated from the Bucharest Music Academy, where she studied with the remarkable music teacher Mia Barbu.

Ms. Gheorghiu's magnificent voice and dazzling stage presence have established her as a unique international opera superstar.

Angela Gheorghiu made her international debut in 1992 at Covent Garden with *La Bohème*. In the same year she made her debut in the Metropolitan Opera New York and in the Staatsoper Vienna. Since then Ms Gheorghiu has been in constant demand in opera houses and concert halls around the world: New York, London, Paris, Salzburg, Berlin, Tokyo, Rome, Seoul, Venice, Athens, Monte-Carlo, Chicago, Philadelphia, Sao Paolo, Los Angeles, and many others.

Future engagements include various concerts, as well as performances of *Romeo et Juliette* at the Metropolitan Opera. In the future, she will also appear in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Tosca*, *Lucrezia Borgia*, *Alceste*, *Don Carlos* and *Don Giovanni*.

Ms. Gheorghiu is an exclusive EMI Classics artist.

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