

For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

May 03, 2011

The VSO presents an All-Russian Evening with Bramwell Tovey and pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk

Vancouver, BC - Maestro Bramwell Tovey conducts pianist **Alexander Gavrylyuk** performing **Rachmaninoff's** extraordinary *Piano Concerto No. 1* with the VSO on **Saturday, May 14th, 8pm** at the **Orpheum Theatre** and **Monday, May 16th, 8pm** at the **Centennial Theatre**.

Ukrainian born Australian pianist **Alexander Gavrylyuk** is an international sensation. He began performing at the young age of nine, and now in his twenties, he has garnered an extensive list of prestigious competition wins including the *Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition*, the *Horowitz International Piano Competition*, and the *Hamamatsu International Piano Competition*. Mr. Gavrylyuk is in high demand on the concert circuit, regularly appearing with many major orchestras worldwide to consistently high levels of critical acclaim.

The evening features all-Russian repertoire beginning first with **Glière's** *Russian Sailors' Dance*, the best-known number from his ballet *The Red Poppy*, an increasingly exciting set of variations on a Russian folk song called Little Apple. Also from a ballet, *Act III: Final Scene* from **Prokofiev's** *Romeo and Juliet* captures every emotion of the poignant scene of both Romeo and Juliet's deaths.

Alexander Gavrylyuk then performs **Rachmaninoff's** *Piano Concerto No. 1*. Completed in 1891, it was the eighteen-year-old composer's longest and most ambitious piece to date. Revised in 1917, it may be heard many of the characteristics familiar from his mature compositions: the passion, the soaring romantic themes, the lush orchestration, the brilliance and power of the solo part.

Next is **Tchaikovsky's** *Francesca da Rimini*. The piece was inspired by Dante Alighieri's thirteenth-century poem, *The Divine Comedy*. The evening then closes with another popular ballet, **Glazounov's** *Raymonda: Act III: Dances*.

CONCERT INFO

Musically Speaking
North Shore Classics

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 8 PM, ORPHEUM THEATRE

MONDAY, May 16, 8 PM, CENTENNIAL THEATRE – Please note that this performance is SOLD OUT

Bramwell Tovey *conductor*
Alexander Gavrylyuk *piano*

GLIERE	The Red Poppy: Russian Sailors' Dance
PROKOFIEV	Romeo and Juliet: Act III: Final Scene
RACHMANINOFF	Piano Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY	Francesca da Rimini
GLAZUNOV	Raymonda: Act III: Dances

TICKET INFORMATION

May 14th Tickets: \$21.50 - \$59 (senior, student and subscriber discounts available)

May 16th Tickets: \$39 (senior, student and subscriber discounts available)

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

May 14th Concert Sponsor: Deans Knight Capital Management

Video Screen Sponsor: TELUS

Special Video Screen Presentations Created and Produced by: Columbia Academy

Radio Sponsor: CHQM-FM

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.

Alexander Gavrylyuk *piano*

Alexander Gavrylyuk began his piano studies at the age of seven and gave his first concerto performance when he was nine years old. The next big step for Alexander was going to compete at the 3rd *Horowitz International Piano Competition* and winning the coveted First prize and Gold medal in 1999.

Alexander Gavrylyuk was proclaimed as "the best sixteen year old pianist of the late twentieth century" by critics in Japan in November 2000, after winning the First Prize of the prestigious *Hamamatsu International Piano Competition* in Japan. He was 16 years old in a field of competitors ranging in age from 16 to 32. Alexander returns regularly to Japan, touring and performing to a full house in Suntory Hall and Tokyo Opera City Hall. His first two CD's were recorded in Japan.

In April 2005, Alexander Gavrylyuk won the First Prize, the Gold Medal as well as the award for Best Performance of a Classical Concerto at the internationally renowned *Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition*. That same year, VAI International recorded his live performance at the *Miami Piano Discoveries Festival*, USA, for an international DVD release which went on to receive four and five star ratings in the international press. In May 2007 he recorded his second DVD with VAI. In 2010 he recorded both Chopin Concerti in Poland at the Royal Wawel Castle.

In 2003 he joined the honour roll and became a Steinway artist. Alexander performs regularly at the Concertgebouw, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, Tchaikovsky Hall, Lincoln Center, Sydney Opera House and Suntary Hall. He has also performed a solo recital at the Kremlin. In 2009 Alexander recorded the complete Prokofiev Concerti with Vladirmir Ashkenazy and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Amongst others, Alexander Gavrylyuk has performed with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, Russian National Orchestra, the Russian National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israeli Chamber Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Netherlands Philharmonic, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana and OFUNAM. He has worked with conductors like Ashkenazy, Blomstedt, Caetani, Ettinger, Fedoseyev, Gruppman, Lazarev, Lang-Lessing, Pletnev, Raikin, Sanderling, Segerstam, Simonov, Soudant, Spivakov, Talmi and Tovey.

Alexander Gavrylyuk's upcoming engagements include concerts with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Holywood Bowl, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, with Svetlanov Orchestra, the Lucerne Orchestra, Moscow Virtuosi Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, Russian National Philharmonic Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Netherlands Philharmonic, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, the Hague Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestre de Paris. Alexander has also been invited for European tour with the Svetlanov Orchestra.