

For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

April 19, 2011

The VSO debut of violinist Augustin Hadelich, performing Sibelius with Conductor Laureate Kazuyoshi Akiyama

Vancouver, BC - The inspiring young violinist **Augustin Hadelich**, will make his **VSO debut** performing the lyrical, brooding and beautiful **Sibelius Violin Concerto** on **Saturday and Monday, April 30th and May 2nd, 8pm**, and **Sunday, May 1st, 2pm**, at the **Orpheum Theatre**. VSO Conductor Laureate **Kazuyoshi Akiyama** conducts.

Augustin Hadelich has established himself as a rising star among the new generation of violinists, performing with Orchestras around the world. Winner of the 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant and gold medalist of the 2006 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, it is hard to believe that at the age of 15, some doctors said he would never play again after surviving a fire at his family's farm that severely burned his upper body, face and bow arm.

Kazuyoshi Akiyama was recently named Conductor Laureate of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra after serving as Music Director for nearly 40 years. He is also music Director of the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, and Principal Conductor and Music Advisor of the Kyushu Symphony Orchestra, and Conductor Laureate of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Augustin Hadelich will perform **Sibelius' Violin Concerto**. His only large-scale work for violin and orchestra, the *Violin Concerto* is very Scandinavian in feeling. The work is characterised by brooding melodies interrupted by flashes of brightness; feelings of yearning and longing, entwined with deeply felt Romantic moments; and a stark though complex and beautiful orchestral landscape.

This concert also features the magnificent *First Symphony* of **Johannes Brahms**. A bold, original, and brilliant work, it has drawn many comparisons to **Beethoven's Ninth** in terms of pushing the symphonic form forward. In fact, Brahms was intimidated by the imposing ghost of Beethoven and his ninth symphony, to the extent that the first one he wrote came twenty years into his compositional career. Apparently Brahms had nothing to worry about, though, as he created a gem that straddles the Romantic and Classical styles, and was called at the time "Beethoven's Tenth."

CONCERT INFO

**Masterworks Diamond
Symphony Sundays**

**SATURDAY & MONDAY, APRIL 30 & MAY 2, 8 PM, ORPHEUM THEATRE
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2 PM, ORPHEUM THEATRE**

Kazuyoshi Akiyama *conductor*
Augustin Hadelich *violin*

LOUIE	The Eternal Earth
SIBELIUS	Violin Concerto
BRAHMS	Symphony No. 1

TICKET INFORMATION

April 30th & May 2nd Tickets: \$26.75 - \$84 (senior, student and subscriber discounts available)

May 1st Tickets: \$21.50 - \$59 (senior, student and subscriber discounts available)

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

BIOGRAPHIES

Kazuyoshi Akiyama *conductor*

Kazuyoshi Akiyama was recently named Conductor Laureate of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra after serving as Music Director for nearly 40 years. He is also music Director of the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, and Principal Conductor and Music Advisor of the Kyushu Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Akiyama began studying piano at age three under the tutelage of his mother, a highly regarded instructor in Tokyo. He entered the piano department of Toho Gakuen School of Music, and was so strongly influenced by the conducting activities of fellow student Seiji Ozawa that he transferred to the conducting department and studied with Hideo Saito. In 1974, a year after graduating, Mr. Akiyama made his debut with The Tokyo Symphony. He was named Music Director and Permanent Conductor of that orchestra two months later.

Outside of Japan, Mr. Akiyama's conducting successes began with U.S. and European tours of the Toho Gakuen School of Music Orchestra. He went on to guest conduct the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and gained recognition in guest engagements with the San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra. In Europe, he has conducted major orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Cologne Radio Orchestra, and Bayerischer Rundfunk Orchestra.

Mr. Akiyama has served as Assistant Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (1968-1969), Music Director of the American Symphony Orchestra, following Leopold Stokowski, in New York, (1973-1978), and Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (1972-1985). He was granted the title of Conductor Laureate of the Vancouver symphony upon leaving his post there in 1985. During 2004-2005 he served as Principal Guest Conductor of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. From 1985 to 1993, Mr. Akiyama served as Music Director of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra.

In 1991, Kazuyoshi Akiyama led The Tokyo Symphony in a world tour to celebrate the orchestra's 45th anniversary, which included performances in New York at the United Nations, as well as in London under the auspices of the United Kingdom's Japan Festival. He commemorated the Tokyo Symphony's 400th subscription performance with the Japanese premiere of Schoenberg's *Moses und Aaron*.

Mr. Akiyama was awarded an honorary doctorate in Music from Colgate University in 1992. He is the recipient of numerous citations, including the Suntory Music Award, the Kyoto Music Award, the Mainichi Arts Award, and the Arts Encouragement Prize of the Minister of Education. In 2001, he was awarded the Emperor's Purple Ribbon Medal from the Japanese Government for his outstanding contribution to the country's musical culture.

Augustin Hadelich *violin*

With his poetic style and dazzling technique, **Augustin Hadelich** has established himself as a rising star among the new generation of violinists. Winner of the 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant and gold medallist of the 2006 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, his versatility across the entire spectrum of the violin repertory is astounding. About his recent recital at the Frick Collection, the New York Times wrote, "Mr. Hadelich stands out amid gifted young violinists for his prodigious technique, gorgeous tone and the ability to deliver well-known works with a distinctive interpretive flair."

In August 2009, Augustin made a sensational debut with the Cleveland Orchestra playing Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole*. Cleveland has re-invited him to play the Mendelssohn Concerto in March 2011. Other upcoming highlights include his Paris recital debut at the Louvre, a BBC young artist's debut recital at The Sage Gateshead in Newcastle, his debut with the Helsinki Philharmonic, a return engagement with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and debuts next season with the symphonies of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Phoenix, Seattle, Utah and Vancouver.

Augustin made three Carnegie Hall appearances in 2008: his orchestral debut in January, performing the Brahms Double Concerto under Miguel Harth-Bedoya with cellist Alban Gerhardt and the Fort Worth Symphony; his highly successful recital debut in March; and a performance of Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 with the New York String Orchestra under Jaime Laredo on Christmas Eve. Other orchestral engagements include the symphonies of Alabama, Colorado, Columbus, Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Houston, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Louisville, New Orleans, Santa Barbara and Syracuse, as well as the Pacific Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic and the IRIS Chamber Orchestra in Memphis.

Outside the United States, Augustin has performed with the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken-Kaiserslautern, Dresden Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Museumsorchester Frankfurt, Nürnberg Philharmonic, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México, Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, Staatsorchester Stuttgart, Tokyo Symphony, and chamber orchestras in Budapest, Cologne, Hamburg, Lucerne and Toulouse. He has collaborated with such renowned conductors as Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Justin Brown, Giancarlo Guerrero, Günther Herbig, Yakov Kreizberg, Hannu Lintu, Christof Perick, Christoph Poppen, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Larry Rachleff, Stefan Sanderling, Michael Stern and Mario Venzago.

Augustin has recorded two highly acclaimed CDs for Naxos: Haydn's complete violin concerti with the Cologne Chamber Orchestra, and Telemann's complete Fantasies for Solo Violin. A new CD of

masterworks for solo violin (including the Bartók solo sonata) was released by AVIE in October 2009. In the words of the London Times, "Now in his mid-twenties, Augustin Hadelich is fast emerging as a significant talent. This recital of music for unaccompanied solo violin, however, is a step beyond...he is both a virtuoso violinist and a deeply thoughtful one." A second disc for AVIE will be released in 2011.

Also an enthusiastic recitalist, Augustin has appeared at the Frick Collection (New York), the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, the Chamber Music Society of Detroit, Clark Memorial Library (Los Angeles), La Jolla Music Society, the University of Texas at Austin and Kioi Hall in Tokyo, to name a few. As chamber musician, he has been a participant at the Marlboro, Ravinia, and Seattle festivals, in addition to a collaboration with Midori at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater.

Born in Italy in 1984, the son of German parents, Augustin holds a graduate diploma and Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School, where he was a student of Joel Smirnoff. As first-prize winner of the Indianapolis Competition, Augustin plays on the 1683 ex-Gingold Stradivari violin.

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