

For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

March 17, 2011

Violinist Sarah Chang with the VSO

Vancouver, BC – The VSO is pleased to present superstar violinist **Sarah Chang** with the **VSO** on **Saturday and Monday, April 2nd and 4th, 8pm** at the **Orpheum Theatre**. **Maestro Bramwell Tovey** conducts.

Violinist **Sarah Chang** is recognized as one of classical music's most captivating and gifted performers. One of the most remarkable prodigies of any generation, she has matured into a young artist whose musical insight, technical virtuosity, and emotional range continue to astonish. Ms. Chang has performed in the music capitals of Asia, Europe and the Americas, and has collaborated with most major orchestras. Born in Philadelphia to Korean parents, Ms. Chang began her violin studies at age 4 and promptly enrolled in the Juilliard School of Music. Within a year she had already performed with several orchestras in the Philadelphia area. Her early auditions, at age 8, for Zubin Mehta and Riccardo Muti led to immediate engagements with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Ms. Chang will perform the monumental **Brahms violin concerto**, one of the greatest concertos of any kind. Brahms conducted the concerto's premiere in Leipzig on New Year's Day, 1879, with famed musician Joseph Joachim. The opening movement begins with a warm, expansive introduction. An especially dramatic passage sets up the violinist's solo cadenza, which as expected is substantial rather than showy. The heartfelt slow movement begins sweetly and quietly with a spotlight on the wind section. The solo oboe emerges with the lovely, expressive main theme, which the soloist takes up and elaborates. The finale is also reserved, at least in comparison with contemporary concertos such as Tchaikovsky's. The recurring refrain is a jovial, heavy-footed peasant dance in the Hungarian/gypsy that Brahms loved so dearly.

Also on the program is the spectacular tone poem *Death and Transfiguration* by **Richard Strauss**, one of the most complex and rewarding works in the orchestral repertoire. Describing the last hours of a man's life who has striven for the highest ideals, *Death and Transfiguration* is a purely imaginary work, Strauss not having undergone any life-threatening experiences by this point in his life. It displays remarkable maturity for one so young, in terms of philosophical ambition, leading listeners on a Beethoven-like journey from darkness to light; in the vivid evocation of atmosphere (dramatic and uplifting alike); and the masterful deployment of a large, post-Wagnerian orchestra.

CONCERT INFO

Goldcorp Masterworks Gold

SATURDAY & MONDAY, APRIL 2 & 4, 8 PM, ORPHEUM THEATRE

Bramwell Tovey *conductor*

Sarah Chang *violin*

WAGNER	Die Meistersinger: Prelude
BRAHMS	Violin Concerto
STRAUSS	Death and Transfiguration

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets: \$26.75 - \$84 (senior, student and subscriber discounts available)

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

Saturday, April 2 Concert Sponsor: Canadian Western Bank

Monday, April 4 Concert Sponsor: HSBC

Series Sponsor: Goldcorp Inc.

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.

Sarah Chang *violin*

Violinist Sarah Chang is recognized the world over as one of classical music's most captivating and gifted performers. One of the most remarkable prodigies of any generation, she has matured into a young artist whose musical insight, technical virtuosity, and emotional range continue to astonish. An exclusive EMI recording artist she has appeared in the music capitals of Asia, Europe and the Americas, she has collaborated with most major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the Boston Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the principal London orchestras, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam.

Among the esteemed conductors with whom she has worked are Daniel Barenboim, Sir Colin Davis, Gustavo Dudamel, Charles Dutoit, Bernard Haitink, James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, André Previn, Sir Simon Rattle, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Leonard Slatkin, Michael Tilson-Thomas, and David Zinman. Notable recital engagements have included her Carnegie Hall debut and performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Symphony Hall in Boston, the Barbican Centre in London, the Philharmonie in Berlin, as well as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. She has reached an even wider audience through her many television appearances, concert broadcasts, and best-selling recordings for EMI Classics. The remarkable accomplishments of her career were recognized in 1999 when she received the Avery Fisher Prize, one of the most prestigious awards given to instrumentalists.

As a chamber musician, Ms. Chang has collaborated with such artists as Pinchas Zukerman, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Yefim Bronfman, Martha Argerich, Leif Ove Andsnes, Stephen Kovacevich, Yo-Yo Ma, Lynn Harrell, Lars Vogt, and the late Isaac Stern.

Ms. Chang's up coming highlights include appearances with the Pittsburgh and Detroit Symphonies and the Los Angeles Philharmonic both at the Hollywood Bowl and Walt Disney Concert Hall as well as the National Symphony Orchestra and Kurt Masur with whom she recently released Brahms and Bruch Violin concerti on EMI to great critical acclaim.

In Canada she appears with the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and the Vancouver Symphony and in the United Kingdom with the London Symphony.

In 2009-10 season, Sarah Chang returned to the orchestras of Gothenburg, Barcelona, Singapore, Helsinki, Hong Kong, New Jersey, Fort Worth and Calgary and made her debut with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields at the Beijing Music Festival. She gave recitals in London, Zurich, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Korea, Vietnam and Macao, as well as a series of recitals in North America, as part of a worldwide recital tour.

Highlights of Ms. Chang's 2008-09 season included a Far East tour with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Esa-Pekka Salonen, and appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic both at the Hollywood Bowl and Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Pittsburgh Symphony (where she presented the world premiere of Christopher Theofanidis' concerto commissioned for her by the orchestra), the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, the Orquestra Sinfonica Estado de Sao Paulo, the London Philharmonia, and Japan's NHK Symphony.

Recently, her calendar has included tours with the English Chamber Orchestra, Asia and US tours with Orpheus culminating in a performance at Carnegie Hall, the Pittsburgh Symphony in Europe and the US,

North America with the London Philharmonic and Kurt Masur, the Bayerischer Rundfunk in Asia with Mariss Jansons, Orquesta Sinfonica Simon Bolivar with Gustavo Dudamel as well as appearances with the symphony orchestras of San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Philadelphia, the National Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony, the Berlin Philharmonic and the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra.

Her widely lauded Vivaldi Four Seasons with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra went platinum in Korea, has reached the Billboard charts in the US and continues to top the best selling charts internationally. Other recordings include Prokofiev Violin Concerto No.1 and Shostakovich Violin Concerto No.1 live with the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle, Fire and Ice, an album of popular shorter works for violin and orchestra with Placido Domingo conducting the Berlin Philharmonic, the Dvorak concerto with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis, as well as several chamber music and sonata discs with artists such as Leif Ove Andsnes, Lars Vogt, and members of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Born in Philadelphia to Korean parents, Sarah Chang began her violin studies at age 4 and promptly enrolled in the Juilliard School of Music, where she studied with the late Dorothy DeLay. Within a year she had already performed with several orchestras in the Philadelphia area. Her early auditions, at age 8, for Zubin Mehta and Riccardo Muti led to immediate engagements with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Ms. Chang has appeared on numerous television and radio programs throughout Europe, the Americas, and the Far East. Along with Pete Sampras, Wynton Marsalis, and Tom Brady, she has been a featured artist in Movado's global advertising campaign "The Art of Time." In March 2008, Ms. Chang was honored as a Young Global Leader for 2008 by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for her professional achievements, commitment to society and potential in shaping the future of the world.

In 2005, Yale University dedicated a chair in Sprague Hall in Ms. Chang's name. For the June 2004 Olympic games, she was given the honor of running with the Olympic Torch in New York, and that same month, became the youngest person ever to receive the Hollywood Bowl's Hall of Fame award. Also in 2004, Ms. Chang was awarded the Internazionale Accademia Musicale Chigiana Prize in Sienna, Italy. She is a past recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Gramophone's "Young Artist of the Year" award, Germany's "Echo" Schallplattenpreis, "Newcomer of the Year" honors at the International Classical Music Awards in London, and Korea's "Nan Pa" award. In 2006, she was named by Newsweek as one of the Twenty Top Women on Leadership.

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