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**MEDIA RELEASE**

January 05, 2011

## **The VSO presents *Opera in Love* with Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik**

**Vancouver, BC** – The VSO's Principle Pops Conductor, **Jeff Tyzik** will lead the VSO in a celebration of Opera's greatest moments with **Opera in Love** on **Friday and Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011** at **8pm** at the **Orpheum theatre** as part of the **London Drugs VSO Pops series**.

**Opera in Love** is an outstanding vocal ensemble made up of four highly regarded artists; soprano **Mela Dailey**, mezzo-soprano **Jami Tyzik**, tenor **Brandon Wood**, and baritone **Marcus DeLoach**. The repertoire includes songs such as *Habanera* from *Carmen*, *Quando m'en vo* from *La Bohème*, *Brindisi* from *La Traviata*, *Non piu andrai* from *The Marriage of Figaro*, and more.

Award winning soprano **Mela Dailey**, is making her VSO debut with this performance. Ms. Dailey has received recognition in a wide variety of musical genres including opera, oratorio, art song, musical theater, vocal jazz, gospel, country, and popular music.

Mezzo-soprano **Jami Tyzik** has been captivating audiences with exciting repertoire from the Baroque to Broadway. She has performed throughout Europe and North America since making her solo debut with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of seventeen.

Tenor **Brandon Wood** participated in the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program and made his Carnegie Hall debut as the tenor soloist in Mozart's C minor Mass with the New York Choral Society. He has performed with the Piedmont Opera, Skylight Opera, New York City Opera, and more.

One of the leading performers of contemporary music today, baritone **Marcus DeLoach** has established himself in the areas of opera, concert, and cross-over. He has performed with Bard Summerscape Festival, Central City Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Nashville Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Tulsa Opera, The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and others.

Recognized as one of America's most innovative pops conductors, **Jeff Tyzik** is known for his brilliant arrangements, original programming, and engaging rapport with audiences of all ages. Tyzik also currently serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Oregon Symphony and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

## CONCERT INFO

### London Drugs VSO Pops: Opera in Love

**Friday & Saturday, JANUARY 14 & 15, 8 PM, ORPHEUM THEATRE**

**Jeff Tyzik** *conductor*

**Mela Dailey** *soprano*

**Jami Tyzik** *mezzo-soprano*

**Brandon Wood** *tenor*

**Marcus DeLoach** *baritone*

Some of the greatest moments of the stage have come from the world of Opera. **Jeff Tyzik** brings you the best of those moments, with music from *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Don Giovanni*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and more

Visit **Jeff Tyzik** at [www.jefftyzik.com](http://www.jefftyzik.com)

## TICKET INFORMATION

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

**Tickets available online at [www.vancouversymphony.ca](http://www.vancouversymphony.ca) or by calling VSO customer service at 604.876.3434**

**Series Sponsor:** London Drugs

**Radio Sponsor:** QM/FM

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Jeff Tyzik** *conductor*

Grammy Award winner Jeff Tyzik is recognized as one of America's most innovative pops conductors. Described by the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* as "among the best pops conductors in America," Tyzik is known for his brilliant arrangements, original programming, and engaging rapport with audiences of all ages. Now in his 17<sup>th</sup> season as Principal Pops Conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Tyzik also currently serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Oregon Symphony and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

In his seventeen years with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO), Tyzik has developed an incredible relationship with devoted Rochester audiences who appreciate his creative pops programming. Over the course of his tenure, he has written over 160 works for the orchestra. A consummate musician, Tyzik is so appreciated in Rochester that the RPO has taken the unusual step of inviting their principal pops conductor to appear as a guest conductor in the orchestra's classical subscription series calendar on a regular basis. On his classical series concerts, Tyzik has performed works by some of the greatest American composers to critical acclaim. He has also been commissioned to compose original works for orchestra, including a Trombone Concerto, which was funded by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and subsequently performed at Carnegie Hall, and a Timpani Concerto, commissioned by the RPO, was premiered in January 2010. Tyzik lead the world premiere of his original work *New York Cityscapes* with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in June 2010. In May

2007, the Harmonia Mundi label released his recording of works by Gershwin with pianist Jon Nakamatsu and the RPO which stayed in the Top 10 on the Billboard classical chart for over 3 months. Alex Ross, music critic for *The New Yorker*, called it “one of the snappiest Gershwin discs in years”.

“His concert is the kind of thing that’s likely to give classical music a good name, perhaps even make it seem, dare I say, relevant,” writes John Pitcher of the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* (February 3, 2006). “What’s great about Tyzik is his way of making any concert (classical or pops) seem contemporary and approachable without sugarcoating anything, without dumbing down the musical experience.”

Highly sought after as a guest conductor, Tyzik has recently appeared with orchestras such as the Boston Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, the New York Pops, the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and the Dallas Symphony at the Vail Valley Music Festival. In addition to his commitments in Rochester, Oregon and Vancouver, during the 2010/11 season he performs with orchestras across North America including the Detroit, Milwaukee and Toronto symphony orchestras, as well as The Florida Orchestra and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, among others. Tyzik made his UK debut in June 2010 in Edinburgh and Glasgow with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in a three-week series of four popular programs.

A native of Hyde Park, New York, Tyzik began his life in music at nine years of age, when he first picked up a cornet. He studied both classical and jazz throughout high school, and went on to earn both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied composition/arranging with Radio City Music Hall’s Ray Wright and jazz studies with the great band leader Chuck Mangione, both of whom profoundly impacted him as a musician.

Tyzik spent the next few years working with Mangione, soaking in every part of the music business. He became a skilled record producer, while continuing to be active as a performer and arranger (which included composing and arranging music for the Maynard Ferguson and Woody Herman Orchestras). These experiences led Tyzik to one of the great early opportunities of his career—the chance to co-compose a trumpet concerto with friend and virtuoso trumpeter Allen Vizzutti to be recorded by pops legend Doc Severinsen.

After that first recording project, Tyzik worked closely with Severinsen on many projects including orchestrating many of the great band leader’s symphony orchestra programs, and producing a GRAMMY Award-winning album, *The Tonight Show Band with Doc Severinsen, Vol. 1*.

As an accomplished composer and arranger, Tyzik has had his compositions recorded by ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Summit Brass, and his arrangements have been recorded by groups including Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, the RPO, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and Doc Severinsen with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. He has also produced and composed theme music for many of the major television networks, including ABC, NBC, HBO, and Cinemax, and released six of his own albums on Capitol, Polygram and Amherst Records.

Committed to performing music of all genres, Tyzik has collaborated with such diverse artists as Tony Bennett, Art Garfunkel, Dawn Upshaw, Marilyn Horne, Arturo Sandoval, Wynonna Judd, The Chieftains, Mark O’Connor, Doc Severinsen, John Pizzarelli, Billy Taylor and Lou Rawls, and has created original programs that include the greatest music from jazz and classical to Motown and swing.

Actively sharing his passion for music with others, Tyzik has been recognized for his community service and educational work by Rotary International, the Monroe County Music Educators, and the Rochester

Philharmonic League. He is also the recipient of the Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester's 2002 Performing Artist award.

Tyzik currently serves on the Board of Managers of the Eastman School of Music, and as a board member of the Hochstein School of Music and Dance. He lives in Rochester, New York, with his wife Jill. For more information about Tyzik, please visit [www.jefftyzik.com](http://www.jefftyzik.com).

### **Mela Dailey** *soprano*

As a National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Winner in Woman's Voice, a Metropolitan Opera District Winner and Mid-South Regional Finalist, an International Opera Singer Competition Finalist, a Gerda Lissner Foundation Competition Career Encouragement Grant Winner, a Career Bridges Grant Awards Finalist with the Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges, Inc., and a Rosenblatt Award winner of the Connecticut Opera Guild Young Artist Competition, Mela (mee-la) Dailey has command of both her instrument and the stage. Ms. Dailey has received recognition in a wide variety of musical genres including opera, oratorio, art song, musical theater, vocal jazz, gospel, country, and popular music. Ms. Dailey made her professional debut at Carnegie Hall with the five time Grammy nominated Conspirare Company of Voices directed by Craig Hella Johnson, a group with whom she has recorded CDs on the Clarion label.

Recent engagements include performances of Rigoletto, La Boheme, L'Elisir d'Amore, Die Fledermaus, Carmen, and Semele with the Rochester Philharmonic, Carinthian Symphony Orchestra of Klagenfurt, Austria, Austin Lyric Opera, and Amarillo Opera. Ms. Dailey will be performing several concerts around the US with cellist Scott Kluksdahl beginning with the Helps Festival of Music in Tampa. The program will be recorded for commercial release in the winter of 2010. Adding to her operatic repertoire, Mela will be singing the role of Tina in Jonathan Dove's opera Flight with Austin Lyric Opera in the spring of 2011. In addition, Ms. Dailey will perform a series of jazz concerts in Austria and make her debut with the Dallas Wind Symphony, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

### **Jami Tyzik** *mezzo-soprano*

Mezzo-soprano Jami Tyzik has been captivating audiences with exciting repertoire from the Baroque to Broadway. Whether she's singing an oratorio, an aria, a chamber work, an art song or a Broadway gem, Ms. Tyzik brings her performances to life with energy, elegance and an engaging rapport with the audience. Ms. Tyzik made her solo debut with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of seventeen after winning the Jan DeGaetani Competition and soon appeared as a guest soloist with Doc Severinsen and the Minnesota Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony and the Buffalo Philharmonic.

"Her magnificent performance of He Was Despised came close to the illusion of stopping time" hailed the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Jami's intoxicating and versatile stage presence has led her to performances in Germany, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Australia and throughout the United States. Ms. Tyzik has been heard as a soloist in the Mozart Requiem, Beethoven Nine, Messiah, Bach Magnificat, Le Roi David, as well as many chamber works including a performance of Respighi's Il Tramonto with the Grammy Award winning Ying Quartet. Jami has been a recent soloist with the Charleston Symphony, Bangor Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, Rochester Oratorio Society, Clayton Chamber Orchestra, Eastern Connecticut Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony, Syracuse Symphony as

well as the Rochester Philharmonic. Jami has performed with conductors Julius Rudel, Christopher Seaman, Scott Terrell, Peter Bay, Robert Bernhardt, Roger Wilhelm, Gerard Floriano, John Greer, William Lumpkin, Paul Odette, Xia-Lu Lee, David Zinman, Jeff Tyzik, Daniel Hege and Doc Severinsen. Upcoming performances include appearances with the Vancouver Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony and chamber recitals in Pennsylvania, Oregon and Arizona.

As a passionate performer who truly brings her characters to life, Jami continues to expand her operatic repertoire, adding new and exciting roles every year. In her recent debut in the title role of Carmen with Aspen Opera Theatre, Jami was praised by the Rocky Mountain News for "taking over the performance with her smiling sexiness." She sang Mercedes in Carmen this season with New York Lyric Opera at Symphony Space and with Regina Opera at Brooklyn's Regina Hall. Jami was a young artist with Ashlawn Opera Theatre in 2008. She made her Italian debut as Cherubino with the Amalfi Coast Opera. She was a soloist with the Boston Early Music Festival in Cavalli's Ercole Amante and later reprised her role at the Utrecht Early Music Festival. Other roles have included Medee in Lully's Thesee Aristeo in Rossi's Orfeo. Florence Pike in Albert Herring, Queen in The Moon Singer, Monitor in Suor Angelica, Sally in A Hand of Bridge. Anna in A Month in the Country, Bianca in the Rape of Lucretia, La Ciesca in Gianni Schicchi, and Jessie in Mahagonny. She earned her BM from the Eastman School of Music and her MM from Boston University.

#### **Brandon Wood** *tenor*

Brandon Wood, tenor, is originally from Hampton, Virginia. After attending Virginia Commonwealth University, Brandon joined the Virginia Opera Spectrum Young Artist program. Since, he has participated in the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program receiving the Katherine Mayer Vocal Award, made his Carnegie Hall debut as the tenor soloist in Mozart's C minor Mass with the New York Choral Society, was Rodolfo in La Boheme with Piedmont Opera and Skylight Opera, was the tenor soloist for Universal studios Christmas concerts in Osaka, Japan and joined New York City Opera to cover two roles in the world premiere of Charles Wuorinen's, Haroun and The Sea of Stories.

He has performed in recital with Maestro John Moriarty and in May of 2007, Brandon created the role of Captain John Smith in Linda Tutas Haugen's Pocahontas for the Virginia Arts Festival. Brandon has placed 4th in the Shreveport Opera Singer of the Year competition and was a three time Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

In 2011 Brandon will be returning to Skylight Opera to sing the role of Ferrando in a new adaptation of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. He will be singing the role alongside his wife, Danielle Hermon Wood as they bring the newest addition to their family, Sydney Wood, born March 31, 2010, along for her first gig!

#### **Marcus DeLoach** *baritone*

American baritone Marcus DeLoach has been hailed by Anthony Tommasini of The New York Times as "*a fine baritone who puts words across with clarity and naturalness.*" One of the leading performers of contemporary music today, he has established himself in the areas of opera, concert, and cross-over. In the 2009/2010 seasons he returned to the New York Philharmonic Orchestra for performances of Sciarrone *Tosca* with Lorin Maazel, and made his debuts at Kentucky Opera as Ebn-Hakia *Iolanta* and

with Musikfest Bremen as Maximilian *Candide* with conductor Kristjan Järvi. Additionally he has received recent acclaim for his debut at Teatro Comunale di Bolzano (Italy) as Jean in Philippe Boesmans' *Julie*, The French Ambassador *Of Thee I Sing* for Bard Summerscape Festival, Nilakantha *Lakmé* for Tulsa Opera and for his "powerfully convincing" portrayal of Joseph de Rocher *Dead Man Walking* for Opera Ireland (Dublin). His upcoming performances in the 2010/2011 seasons include reprises of *Candide* with Kristjan Järvi conducting the Münchner Philharmoniker and the London Symphony Orchestra as well as the world premiere of his children's opera *Mooch The Messy* (based on the book by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat) at The Greenwood Music Festival, SC.

Mr. DeLoach made his debut at Seattle Opera as Schaunard *La Bohème* in 2007 and returned there in 2010 as understudy to Greer Grimsley as Kurwenal *Tristan Und Isolde*. Mr. DeLoach was a principal artist of New York City Opera from 2000-2006 where he sang the roles of Count Almaviva *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, Satyr and Cithéron *Platée*, Slim *Of Mice And*, Don Alvaro *Il Viaggio A Reims*, Schaunard *La Bohème*, and many others. He has performed with Bard Summerscape Festival, Central City Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Nashville Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Tulsa Opera, The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and others.

With a deep commitment to the creation and promotion of contemporary vocal music Mr. DeLoach has created principal roles in the world premiers of Wiesman's/Hoiby's *Darkling*, Beeferman's *The Rat Land*, Drattell's *Lilith* and *Marina: A Captive Spirit* and Paul Schoenfield's *The Merchant And The Pauper*. In 2006, he authored his first libretto for Jeff Grace's opera *The Train Ride* presented by American Opera Projects and as a composer he has written *Mooch The Messy* (an opera for children based on the book by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat). He has recorded several CDs of modern operatic works for Naxos including Scott Wheeler's *The Construction Of Boston* and *Scenes From Jewish Operas 2* with Gerard Schwartz and the Seattle Symphony.

In concert he has appeared with The New York Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestros Riccardo Muti and Lorin Maazel as well as numerous appearances with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the The Marilyn Horne Foundation. In 1997 Mr. DeLoach was unanimously voted the first place winner of London's inaugural Wigmore Hall International Song Competition and went on to give a critically acclaimed recital debut there in 1999. Of his singing, Hilary Finch of The London Times has written, "A well-groomed voice, a flair for programme shaping, a fervent desire to communicate, and, above all, that elusive fusion of instinct and understanding which sparks a quality of imagination transcending mere accomplishment."

Adding to the credits of his cross-over career, in 2004 he joined the acclaimed rock group Trans-Siberian Orchestra for their rock opera *Christmas Eve And Other Stories* in a tour which included Madison Square Garden and the Fleet Center performing for an estimated audience of one quarter million.

Mr. DeLoach holds both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School and is currently engaged in doctoral studies at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music as recipient of the *Cecilia Bartoli Endowed Scholarship*. He has also attended The Britten-Pears School, New England Conservatory, and The Music Academy of the West. The Opera Index, Albanese-Puccini, Rosa Ponselle, Liederkrantz and George London foundations, the Young Concert Artists International, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, Metropolitan Opera National Council and The Gaddes Fund have all honored him for his outstanding achievements and artistry.

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