

For Immediate Release
MEDIA RELEASE

June 1, 2011

**Maestro Bramwell Tovey and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra presents
Last Night of the Proms, featuring Vancouver music legend Dal Richards
and the Vancouver Bach Choir**

Vancouver, BC - Maestro Bramwell Tovey and the VSO present **Last Night of the Proms**, a beloved concert tradition originating with the BBC Symphony's Promenades series – one night only, on **Wednesday, June 8th, 8pm** at the **Orpheum Theatre**.

The VSO is joined by the **Vancouver Bach Choir** and Vancouver music legend **Dal Richards** and his band for this fun-filled spectacle brimming with popular light classics and patriotic tunes such as *Jerusalem* and *Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No. 1*, along with a big helping of Big Band classics from the 40s and 50s.

As he approaches his 80th year in the music business, **Dal Richards** is still one of the busiest musicians in Vancouver. Celebrating 72 consecutive years entertaining audiences at the PNE, Richards is a sought-after entertainer for weddings, birthdays, festivals, fund-raising concerts and corporate events. Honoured many times for both his music and his commitment to a number of charitable organizations, he was most recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters from the UBC at their Spring Convocation.

Maestro Bramwell Tovey conducts and hosts with his trademark wit and flair. It is well-known that Maestro Tovey is thoroughly steeped in all things English in the world of music, and that certainly applies to the Proms as well. Having conducted Promenades-style concerts numerous times in his native UK and around the world, Maestro Tovey is a Proms veteran. As well as his extraordinary conducting ability, his style and sense of humour makes him the best possible host for the VSO's first presentation of the *Last Night of the Proms* in two decades.

CONCERT INFO

Specials

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 8 PM, ORPHEUM THEATRE

Last Night of the Proms

Bramwell Tovey *conductor*

Dal Richards *conductor/vocalist/saxophone*

Vancouver Bach Choir

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

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.

Dal Richards *conductor/vocalist/saxophone*

As he approaches his 80th year in the music business, Dal is not one to sit back and bask in the memory of magical days gone by....instead he's looking ahead to the next gig. In fact, he is still one of the busiest musicians in Vancouver. Whether it's a quartet at a senior's centre, a six-piece band at a wedding, a nine or eleven piece swing band for a convention or his fourteen piece big band at the PNE, Dal's music is always enthusiastically received.

One of Dal's most memorable honours came in early in 2010 when, shortly after celebrating his 92nd birthday on January 5th, Dal was chosen to represent the citizens of downtown Vancouver to carry – and run with - the torch in the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay as it arrived in Vancouver. Dal and his band have entertained audiences for 72 consecutive years at the PNE, quite a feat. What's next for Dal? 'I'm still having fun leading the band and entertaining British Columbians; and I plan to keep going as long as I can', Dal states.

Vancouver Bach Choir

Leslie Dala *Music Director*

Since its inception in 1930, the Vancouver Bach Choir has become one of the world's most celebrated symphonic choirs. To date it has won top prizes in international competitions and performed with such musical luminaries as Bruno Walter, Zubin Mehta and Sir Andrew Davis.

Through its own series of concerts presented at the Orpheum each season, the choir has become known for presenting the Canadian or British Columbian premieres of many important choral works such as Mahler's 8th Symphony, Berlioz' Messe Solennelle, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem and Paul McCartney's Liverpool Oratorio as well as a broad spectrum of music from the symphonic choral repertoire.

In addition, the choir has made several successful films for television including Whalesong, the Gemini Award-winning film of its Expo 86 concert. The choir has also undertaken numerous national and international tours and has sung from London to Tokyo and from Warsaw and Paris to Toronto and Calgary.

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