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## VANCOUVER OPERA EXTENDS APPOINTMENT OF MUSIC DIRECTOR JONATHAN DARLINGTON TO 2015

Three years added to esteemed conductor's contract

**Vancouver, BC** ~ Vancouver Opera is very pleased to announce that Music Director **Jonathan Darlington**'s appointment has been extended to 2015. Mr. Darlington has been VO's Music Director since May 2005, having been appointed VO's Principal Conductor in 2002. His current contract was to have expired in 2012.

Mr. Darlington's sensitivity for depth and balance, dynamism and infectious enthusiasm are praised by critics and audiences alike. "Music Director Jonathan Darlington elicits extraordinary playing from the highly responsive Vancouver Opera Orchestra," wrote Robert Jordan in his *Opera Canada* review of last season's *Madama Butterfly*, going on to praise the "waves of passion surging" from the orchestra pit.

Mr. Darlington's strong musical leadership and reputation for high professional standards have raised the VO Orchestra to great heights, with *Vancouver Sun* reviewer David Gordon Duke applauding "the sensitive work of the VO Orchestra, led with dash and real verve by Jonathan Darlington" in his review of 2010's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. "Conductor Jonathan Darlington makes the orchestra (which is often at intricate cross purposes with the singers) a living presence throughout the opera. His pacing is brisk but supple, his balance meticulous," agrees Elissa Poole in her *Globe and Mail* review of 2009's *Salome*.

"My partnership with Jonathan has been a highlight of my opera career," said **James W. Wright**, General Director of Vancouver Opera. "His musicality, professionalism and depth of feeling for the music is inspiring to me, to the orchestra, chorus and principal singers, and to the whole company. I am so happy that he will continue to lead Vancouver Opera's musical forces."

Mr. Darlington said, "I have spent some of the happiest years of my life as Music Director of Vancouver Opera and to have the chance to further develop this wonderful partnership with such a vibrant company is something I'm looking forward to with enormous pleasure."

**Jonathan Darlington** is highly regarded and much in demand around the world for his vast operatic and symphonic repertoires. Born in England but now a resident of France, Maestro Darlington is Music Director of the Duisburg (Germany) Philharmonic Orchestra, which was founded in 1877. With that orchestra, recent appearances have taken him to Amsterdam, the Montreux Festival and China. Recent European engagements include the world première of *La Grande Magia*, a new opera by Manfred Trojahn, with Dresden Staatskapelle. In past seasons, he conducted at English National Opera, Bordeaux Opera and Deutsche Oper am Rhein and made his début with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Jonathan Darlington's recent engagements include Stravinsky's *The Nightingale & Other Short Fables*, directed by Robert Lepage with Canadian Opera Company, and VO's *Lucia di Lammermoor* (December 2010).

Jonathan Darlington is currently conducting VO's company premiere of *La Clemenza di Tito*, onstage at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre until February 12, 2011.

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VO's 2010-2011 Season is generously sponsored by Goldcorp