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WINTER NIGHTS SPARKLE AT  
**BE JEWELLED**

Intimate cocktail event benefits Vancouver Opera's Voices of the Pacific Rim Initiative

**Vancouver, BC** ~ Warm up your winter with sparkling gems, passionate music and coveted prizes, all in an elegant and intimate setting at Vancouver Opera's **Be Jewelled** cocktail fundraiser, **Thursday, February 9th, 2012** at the historic BIRKS Vancouver flagship store.

This exclusive event will feature special performances from one of the world's most celebrated sopranos, **Mihoko Kinoshita**. Ms. Kinoshita was last seen on the Vancouver Opera stage in 2010's *Madama Butterfly*. "Japanese soprano Mihoko Kinoshita is earning a reputation as one of the best Butterflies in the world, and her VO debut made it clear why," raved the *Georgia Straight*. "She mixes flawless singing with the kind of emotion that isn't just felt, but lived."

A luxurious, once-in-a-lifetime raffle prize of an signature Alhambra watch will be offered, provided by **Van Cleef & Arpels**.

Other prizes will include an exclusive insider's experience at a performance of VO's *Aida* in April/May 2012, as well as a private shopping experience for four at **Ports 1961** complete with champagne.

**DJ Leanne** will be on hand to provide a sizzling music mix, and Vancouver Opera's Principal Répétiteur and Assistant Chorus Director **Kinza Tyrrell** will accompany Ms. Kinoshita on piano.

**Be Jewelled** takes place on **Thursday, February 9th, 2012** from **6:00pm - 8:00pm** at the historic BIRKS Vancouver flagship store, located at 698 West Hastings Street, Vancouver.

Only **300 tickets** will be available for this intimate event. Tickets are \$80 and are available in advance only. They may be purchased from Mercedes Dunphy at 604-682-2871, ext.4831 or [mdunphy@vancouveropera.ca](mailto:mdunphy@vancouveropera.ca).

Proceeds from **Be Jewelled** will benefit Vancouver Opera and its Voices of the Pacific Rim Initiative.

## About Vancouver Opera's Pacific Rim Initiative

Vancouver Opera has been recognized for its leadership in bringing cultures together in creative partnerships.

In 2003 Vancouver Opera commissioned a new opera for young audiences, *Naomi's Road*, based on Joy Kogawa's book about a Japanese Canadian family's harrowing experiences during the internment of the 1940s. In the 2004-2005 season, leading up to the production of *Madama Butterfly*, VO worked extensively with Japanese-Canadian communities in a series of more than 20 events that explored the rich history of, and complex relationships between Japanese and Canadian cultures. During the 2006-2007 season, VO presented its new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, which was developed during a three-year collaboration with First Nations artists and designers.

Since 2008, Vancouver Opera has also produced the ***Voices of the Pacific Rim*** concert, a recital of popular opera selections combined with traditional Asian songs, performed by rising young Asian Canadian opera singers. As well as being a showcase for the fine young Asian singers who thrive in the opera community, the ***Voices of the Pacific Rim*** concert introduces many people in Asian communities to the world of opera.

In 2010, Vancouver Opera programmed a host of events around the Canadian premiere of John Adams's ***Nixon in China***, exploring the significance of the 1972 meeting between Richard Nixon and Mao Tse-tung and the opera it inspired. Justin Trudeau and Margaret MacMillan were among the guest speakers at the panel discussions, lectures, and other special events that were programmed around this momentous premiere.

Vancouver Opera's 2012-2013 Pacific Rim programming includes three productions: a remount of the acclaimed ***Naomi's Road***, an updated production of 2006-2007's First Nations ***The Magic Flute***, and the Canadian premiere of Academy Award®-winning composer Tan Dun's ***Tea: A Mirror of Soul***.

By embracing the communicative impact of music in any language, the ***Voices of the Pacific Rim*** initiative celebrates opera and honours both the generations that have immigrated to Canada and have integrated their families in Canadian culture, and the generations who have welcomed new Canadians to their traditional lands.

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VO's 2011-2012 Season is generously sponsored by Goldcorp