

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## VANCOUVER OPERA ACHIEVES 9<sup>TH</sup> SURPLUS IN 10 YEARS

**Vancouver, BC** ~ In a continuing demonstration of fiscal stability and success, Vancouver Opera has posted its ninth operating surplus in ten years. Audited financial statements presented yesterday at the company's Annual General Meeting reported an operating surplus of \$54 for the year ended on June 30, 2009, on a budget of \$9.1 million.

Earned and contributed revenue streams increased, and new box-office records were set with the success of the season's production of *Carmen*.

Board chair **Alex Besharat** said, "Vancouver Opera has maintained financial stability through significant growth over the past ten years, and more recently, during a period of emerging economic challenge. The solidity of the company is a testament to the artistic and administrative leadership of General Director James Wright; to the investment by all levels of government; and to the support of the community."

Continued Besharat, "Last season, more than 42,000 people attended our mainstage productions, and more than 50,000 young people from around the province were involved in the innovative school touring program. These enthusiastic audiences demonstrate the vitality and impact of opera, and indeed of all the arts."

VO's General Director **James W. Wright** said, "Vancouver Opera continues to be a dynamic organization that stands more and more prominently on the national and international stage. The coming seasons will bring outstanding new productions and co-productions, a Canadian premiere, and the world premiere of a commissioned opera. VO is a company to watch!" Added Wright, "This season has been one of financial success, unprecedented creative activity, and continued artistic growth and expansion. I am grateful to our loyal subscribers for their commitment, to our audiences

for their interest, and to the community for its support in these challenging economic times. I am also grateful to the Board of Directors for their leadership and continued support. Vancouver Opera continues to be one of the leading arts organizations in Canada, due in large part to the Board's extraordinary efforts."

Vancouver Opera celebrates its Golden Anniversary Season in 2009-2010. The season will include the Canadian premiere of John Adams's *Nixon in China*, expanded community programming, and the continuing fully-booked school tour of *Jack Pine*, a new commissioned opera for young people by Canadian singer-songwriter Veda Hille. The season is supported by a multi-season sponsorship from Goldcorp, Inc. – the first in VO's fifty year history.

### **New Board Members**

Five esteemed community leaders were elected to the VO Board at the Annual General Meeting on September 21, 2009:

**Doris Bradstreet Daughney** is returning to the Board this year, having previously served as a Director from 1999 to 2008 and as Chair from 2001 to 2004. She has served on the Executive and Special Events Committees, among others. Ms. Daughney also serves on the Boards of RONA Inc. and Echelon Home Products Inc. and has served as Board Chair and CEO of BC PavCo, director of Savon Financial Inc. and National Life Assurance Co. Ltd, and Board Chair of the VSE and Arts Umbrella.

**Stephanie Chung** is a concert pianist performing for a variety of fundraising events and concerts and is currently the conductor for the Zion Women's Choir in Vancouver. She and her family are involved with the Korean arts community and the Vancouver consular community. Ms. Chung was the Asian Director for the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival in Italy, Director of the Pacific Rim Conservatory of Music and Arts in White Rock, and a Director of the Vancouver International Song Institute at UBC.

**Martin MacLachlan** is Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs and Corporate Secretary of Canaccord Capital Inc. Before joining Canaccord in 2004, he was a partner with Swinton & Company and Miller Thomson LLP. Mr. MacLachlan sits on several legal committees. His volunteer and community service includes the BC Liberal Party, the Liberal Party of Canada, and as a director and honorary director of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society.

**David Scott** is returning to the Board this year, having previously served as a director from 2003 to 2005 and Trustee and Treasurer of the Vancouver Opera Foundation from 2003 to 2007. Mr. Scott was the President and CEO of General Dynamics Canada until his retirement in 2002, following which he served in an advisory capacity. He is currently CEO of Pacific Safety Products, in Ontario, and a Director of the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industry.

**Susan Van der Flier** has been an enthusiastic supporter of both Vancouver Opera and its fundraising events for many years. She is a partner in her law firm specializing in family law and is the Canadian Bar Association Appointee to assist with the Steering Committee of the Centenary Committee for the Court of Appeal. Ms. Van der Flier serves on the BC Cancer Agency Vancouver Education and Foundation Committees and the Applause / Encore Musical Theatre Committee.

### **Vancouver Opera Board of Directors, 2009-2010**

Alex R. Besharat – Chair  
Bev Park – Vice Chair  
Yuri Fulmer – Treasurer  
Lis Welch – Secretary  
Bruce M. Wright – Immediate Past Chair

Directors  
Eve Aymong  
Doris Bradstreet Daughney  
Stephanie Chung  
Heather Clarke  
Parviz Cordwell  
Steven G. Dean  
Henning Freybe  
J. Michael Gallagher  
Arlene Gladstone  
Douglas M. Hume  
Yoshiko Karasawa  
Linda Kaser

Julia Levy  
Martin L. MacLachlan  
John McLernon  
Sarah McNeill  
Rona Radler  
David Scott  
Manjy Sidoo  
Susan Van der Flier  
Inna Vlashev O'Brian  
Elisabeth Dawson – President,  
Vancouver Opera Guild  
Yulanda Faris – Chair, Vancouver Opera  
Foundation

Distinguished Honourary Members:  
Martha Lou Henley  
Kenneth W. Mahon  
Dr. D. B. Rix, CM, OBC