

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT Selina Rajani, 604-331-4824  
[srajani@vancouveropera.ca](mailto:srajani@vancouveropera.ca)

**VANCOUVER OPERA WELCOMES GOLDCORP INC.  
AS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR**

Includes support of VO's innovative *Community Connections* program, a commitment of 10,000 volunteer service hours

**Vancouver, BC** ~ Vancouver-based resource leader Goldcorp Inc. (Goldcorp) has made a major gift to Vancouver Opera through a three-year season-sponsorship commitment, beginning with the 2009-2010 Golden Anniversary season. This is VO's first-ever multi-season sponsorship.

One of the world's largest gold mining companies, Goldcorp is headquartered in Vancouver and maintains a strong commitment to community involvement. As well as supporting VO's mainstage productions and renowned education, touring and community programs, Goldcorp's sponsorship will, during the 2009-2010 Golden Anniversary season, include a unique component: support of VO's ground-breaking *Community Connections* program, a commitment by VO to provide 10,000 hours of volunteer service to communities across the province.

"Goldcorp's generous gift, secured through the hard work of VO's Board of Directors, will help VO to continue to maintain the highest artistic standards in all that we present, introduce students to the world of opera, engage diverse audiences, and – importantly – give back to the community that has supported us for 50 years," says **James W. Wright**, General Director of Vancouver Opera. "We're thrilled that idea of the *Community Connections* program resonated with Goldcorp. It's an extraordinary sponsorship, and fitting for our milestone Golden Anniversary."

VO's Golden Anniversary season includes a long-awaited production of Bellini's *Norma* (November 28 – December 5, 2009), John Adams's stunning 1987 opera *Nixon in China*

(March 13 – 20, 2010); Mozart's beloved *The Marriage of Figaro* (April 24 – May 4, 2010); and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* (May 29 – June 10, 2010). A **Golden Anniversary Gala Concert** will be held on November 6, 2009.

Throughout the Golden Anniversary season, Vancouver Opera In Schools (VOIS) will continue to present *Jack Pine*, VO's new commissioned opera for young audiences by Vancouver composer Veda Hille, to schools and community venues across the province. The Golden Anniversary celebrations will culminate in the November 2010 world première of *Lillian Alling*, by acclaimed Calgary composer John Estacio with libretto by award-winning Canadian playwright John Murrell.

### The Community Connections Program

Launching on July 1, 2009, the **Community Connections** program will call upon the artists, staff, board, volunteers and supporters of VO to contribute a total of 10,000 hours of volunteer service to charitable organizations across BC during VO's milestone 2009-2010 season.

The program will touch communities throughout BC where VO and Goldcorp are active, recognizing and reinforcing the strong connection between VO and the communities it and Goldcorp serve.

"The *Community Connections* program allows us to celebrate our Golden Anniversary in a unique way. VO is proud to be part of this community. *Community Connections* is our way of thanking BC for 50 years of support, deepening the connections that already exist within many diverse communities, and complementing our mainstage, education and community programs," says James W. Wright.

Vancouver Opera began as a small group of determined people seeking to build an opera company for their community. Fifty years later, VO has become an internationally respected producer of opera and a vital artistic and educational force in B.C. with an extraordinary record of community engagement that connects VO to the audiences it serves.

For more information on the *Community Connections* program, please visit [www.vancouveropera.ca](http://www.vancouveropera.ca).

### About Vancouver Opera and Goldcorp

Vancouver Opera is the second largest opera company in Canada. It is regarded worldwide for its fine mainstage productions; for its country-leading education programs, which have reached more than 1.6 million children and their families in 35 years; for its innovative and award-winning community programs; and for forging groundbreaking cross-cultural creative partnerships that have brought opera to new generations of Canadians. Visit [www.vancouveropera.ca](http://www.vancouveropera.ca) for more information.

Goldcorp is North America's lowest-cost and fastest growing senior gold producer. Its gold production operations are located in safe jurisdictions in the Americas and Goldcorp does not hedge or sell forward its gold production. Visit [www.goldcorp.com](http://www.goldcorp.com) for more information.