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Vancouver Opera extends appointment of esteemed Music Director Jonathan Darlington to 2012

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce that Music Director **Jonathan Darlington's** appointment has been extended by two years to the 2011-2012 season. Mr. Darlington has been VO's music director since May, 2005. He was first appointed to the VO music staff as Principal Conductor in 2002.

Mr. Darlington's work on the podium and his musical leadership of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra have been widely and consistently praised: Lloyd Dykk, reviewing VO's November 2007 production of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci* in the *Vancouver Sun*, wrote, "...Darlington's work once again suggested that he may be one of the best things that's [sic] happened to Vancouver Opera; John Stape, writing about the same production for *Review Vancouver.com*, said, "The Vancouver Opera Orchestra always plays well these days, but when Jonathan Darlington conducts, sheer magic happens in the pit...."

In making the announcement, VO's General Director, **James W. Wright**, said, "I am so happy that we have agreed that Jonathan will continue as our music director until 2012. The continuity that this provides our company is invaluable; it guarantees ever-increasing artistic excellence in the years ahead." On a personal note, Wright added, "My partnership with Jonathan Darlington for the past six years has been one of the most satisfying and rewarding of my thirty years in opera, and is a highlight of my professional career."

After the announcement, Mr. Darlington said, "I am thrilled to continue my artistic collaboration with Jim Wright and with everyone at Vancouver Opera – a company that is very close to my heart. It has been so far a fantastic experience and that's why I wanted to carry on."

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 upcoming conducting engagements include a Stravinsky triple bill, directed by Robert Lepage, with Canadian Opera Company and *Fidelio* at Sydney Opera House. Mr. Darlington recently received the prestigious award of Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music.

This season at VO, Jonathan Darlington conducts Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* (November 22-29, 2008) and Richard Strauss's *Salome* (May 2-9, 2009).