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**VANCOUVER OPERA ANNOUNCES THE CANADIAN PREMIÈRE OF
JOHN ADAMS' NIXON IN CHINA**

PRESENTED WITH VANCOUVER 2010 CULTURAL OLYMPIAD

Vancouver. BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce the Canadian première of a contemporary masterpiece in March 2010. **John Adams**'s gripping *Nixon in China* will be presented with **Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad** as part of Vancouver Opera's 50th anniversary season.

As part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad, *Nixon in China* joins hundreds of cultural events taking place in Metro Vancouver and the Sea to Sky corridor in anticipation of the 2010 Winter Games. With its themes of internationalism, of strengthening relationships between different cultures, and of risk-taking in the name of peace, *Nixon in China* reflects the ideals and goals of the Olympics and the Paralympics.

"*Nixon in China* holds profound cultural and political significance for Canadian audiences, especially here in Vancouver, where the effects – and symbolic significance – of Nixon's historic visit continue to resonate," comments **James W. Wright**, Vancouver Opera's General Director. "We're pleased to be working with Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad to bring this opera to the stage while Vancouver is in the world's spotlight."

Nixon in China was written during the period 1985 to 1987 and is considered by many to be a modern masterpiece. Composed by **John Adams** to a libretto by poet and scholar **Alice Goodman**, the opera tells the story of U.S. President Richard Nixon's momentous trip to China in 1972, when he met Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong and opened the political door to the Far East.

Esteemed Toronto-based stage director **Michael Cavanagh** will direct this new VO production designed by the gifted American scenic designer **Erhard Rom**. The production will be choreographed by the prominent Vancouver choreographer **Wen Wei Wang**, who, as a child, witnessed Richard Nixon's visit to Beijing. The conductor will be **John DeMain**, who conducted the world première production of *Nixon in China* at Houston Grand Opera, in 1987.

The 50th anniversary season of Vancouver Opera will be celebrated with beloved classic productions as well as ambitious contemporary undertakings such as *Nixon in China*.

Norma, not seen on the Vancouver Opera stage for almost two decades will be presented with veteran conductor **Richard Bonyng**; ***The Marriage of Figaro*** will be performed by a stellar Canadian cast, and ***Madama Butterfly*** will receive a stunning visual treatment at the hands of Japanese-born visual artist **Jun Kaneko**. The details of the milestone 2009-2010 season will be announced shortly.

As the eyes of the world focus on Vancouver next year, Vancouver Opera is proud to present the contemporary, innovative and seminal *Nixon in China* to Vancouver audiences as well as international visitors. VO is pleased to work with Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad in including this production as part of its forward-looking programming designed to resonate with past, current and future audiences.

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