

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 9, 2007  
Media Contact: Doug Tuck, 604.331.4823  
[dtuck@vancouveropera.ca](mailto:dtuck@vancouveropera.ca)

## Tickets on sale for Vancouver Opera's 2007-2008 season

**Vancouver, BC** ~ Non-subscription seats are now available for Vancouver Opera's powerful 2007-2008 season. Opera lovers and the opera-curious now have access to excellent seats in all price ranges for all performances, beginning at \$29. **Tickets are available by calling the Vancouver Opera Ticket Centre at 604-683-0222 Monday through Friday (holidays excepted), 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seats will be available online at [www.vancouveropera.ca](http://www.vancouveropera.ca) beginning in early September.**

**Subscriptions for the entire season** of four operas continue to be available, online or by telephone.

Vancouver Opera's visually exciting, musically thrilling 2007-2008 season is filled with big ideas, powerful emotions, gripping drama and irresistible comedy: a double bill of Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* & Leoncavallo's *I pagliacci* (November 10-17, 2007); Rossini's *The Italian Girl in Algiers* (January 26 – February 2, 2008); Beethoven's *Fidelio* (March 22-29, 2008) and Puccini's *La bohème* (April 26-May 8, 2008). *Fidelio* will be presented for the first time in 23 years. *Cavalleria rusticana* and *I pagliacci* were last produced in 1979. *The Italian Girl in Algiers* has not been seen in Vancouver since 1965.

In *Cavalleria rusticana* & *I pagliacci*, scandal and murder rock quiet Italian villages, in two highly emotional dramas performed together on the same bill. VO's music director, **Jonathan Darlington**, conducts the VO Orchestra and a cast that features tenors **John Mac Master** and **Steven Harrison**, baritones **John Fanning**, **Gregory Dahl** and **Etienne Dupuis**, and sopranos **Sally Dibblee** and **Lori Phillips**. These two pieces set the standard for riveting realism in opera; they greatly influenced the work of Giacomo Puccini.

*The Italian Girl in Algiers* is a marvelous madcap comedy from the composer who wrote *The Barber of Seville*. It's set in a riotous harem, where the music and mayhem are as bracing as a bobsled ride. (Think Amelia Earhart meets the Marx Brothers in *A Night in Casablanca*.) An all-Canadian cast is led by sensational tenor **John Tessier** and charismatic soprano **Allyson McHardy**.

Pure love saves a condemned political prisoner in Beethoven's exalted music drama *Fidelio*. Set in a clandestine prison in eastern Europe during the Cold War, our production will be directed by its creator, **Dejan Miladinovic**, the Artistic Director of the National Theatre in Novi Sad in Serbia. With its modern relevance, *Fidelio's* gripping story and moving music will hit audiences straight in the heart. Star Canadian tenor **Richard Margison** sings Florestan, the prisoner, and soprano **Carol Wilson** stars in the title role.

Love and youthful exuberance lead to heartbreak in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris in Puccini's unparalleled masterpiece, *La bohème*. Frail seamstress Mimi and the Bohemian writer Rodolfo are two of opera's most famous lovers. Their bittersweet story, set in 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris to Puccini's gorgeous score, never fails to move audiences to tears and applause. Esteemed Canadian conductor **Jacques Lacombe** conducts a stellar cast that includes rising Canadian soprano **Frédérique Vézina** as Mimi and internationally acclaimed tenor **Yu Quang Dai** as Rodolfo.

-30-