

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VANCOUVER OPERA CELEBRATES DIVERSITY WITH
*VOICES OF THE PACIFIC RIM***

Recital of opera selections and traditional songs brings together a variety of cultures and communities

Vancouver, BC ~ This Valentine's Day, Vancouver Opera brings opera to The City of Surrey with *Voices of the Pacific Rim*, a free 50-minute concert at the Surrey 2010 Celebration Site.

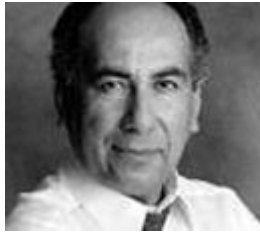
Voices of the Pacific Rim features internationally acclaimed singers performing a diverse assortment of opera selections and traditional songs. Performing will be coloratura soprano **Lambroula Maria Pappas**; lyric soprano **Gina Oh**; tenor **John Arsenault**; and baritone **Andrew Greenwood**. The concert will be hosted by noted actor and director **David Adams**, with piano accompaniment by **Tina Chang**.

Voices of the Pacific Rim takes place on **Sunday, February 14th at 6:00pm at the Surrey 2010 Celebration Site** at Holland Park, at the southwest corner of King George Highway and Old Yale Road in Surrey. Admission is free. For more details, visit <http://www.surrey2010.com>.

Following the success of the inaugural *Voices of the Pacific Rim* concert in 2008, Vancouver Opera has since mounted 3 subsequent productions, each featuring acclaimed and culturally diverse singers performing arias from the international repertoire as well as traditional songs.

For information on Vancouver Opera's Golden Anniversary Season and upcoming Canadian Premiere of John Adams's *Nixon in China*, visit www.vancouveropera.ca.

The Performers



David Adams, Master of Ceremonies
New Westminster, BC

Noted actor and director **David Adams** has performed in theatre, opera, film and television across North America. Most recently, Mr. Adams played Daddy Warbucks in the Theatre Under the Stars' production of *Annie*, and directed Edmonton Opera's production of *Rigoletto* and *My Fair Lady* for Western Canada Theatre. Mr. Adams was also Assistant Director for Vancouver Opera's 2009 production of *Rigoletto*. David Adams will next be appearing in *My Granny the Goldfish* at the Revue Theatre, and in The Electric Company's *Tear the Curtain* at the Stanley Theatre.



Lambroula Maria Pappas, Soprano
New Westminster, BC

Acclaimed for her charisma and exquisite tone, soprano **Lambroula Maria Pappas** has impressed and delighted audiences around the world. As a soloist, Ms. Pappas has sung with across the country with the Vancouver, Montreal and Victoria Symphony Orchestras, the London, Quebec and Saskatoon Symphonies, Pacific Opera Victoria, Montreal Opera, Saskatoon Opera and numerous festivals. Internationally, she has appeared with Switzerland's Stadttheater Bern, Germany's East West Symphony, Belgium's Opera de Wallonie, France's Opera d'Avignon, Spain's Delegada Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid, Northwest Sinfonetta, Spokane Opera and New York's Lincoln Centre at Alice Tully Hall. Ms. Pappas has made several CD recordings and has appeared on many television and radio programs.



Andrew Greenwood, Baritone
Maple Ridge, BC

Local fireman and celebrated baritone **Andrew Greenwood** has established an international operatic career. He was recently seen in the title role in *Rigoletto* at Germany's Stadttheater Hildesheim. Upcoming engagements include Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with the Surrey Chamber Choir and the role of The Doctor in Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* for Pacific Opera Victoria in May 2011.

Mr. Greenwood will next be appearing in Vancouver Opera's Golden Anniversary production of *Madama Butterfly* in May 2010.



Gina Oh, Soprano

White Rock, BC

Vancouver born soprano **Dr. Gina Oh** was honored as one of the most influential Korean Women Of The World of 2008 whilst on her visit at the Presidential House in South Korea. Representing Canada, she stands out as a cultural ambassador through music and song. Ms. Oh now sits on the board for the Pacific Rim Initiative with Vancouver Opera, co-producing a concert series showcasing and diversifying talent from the many cultures in Canada. She has been recognized for her work by the Korean Consulate in Canada, Elite Canadian Politicians, the Canadian National Press and the Vancouver Music Communities. She has also been featured on the Global National news, CBC News, CBC Radio One, Washington DC Voice of America, Rogers, the *Globe and Mail*, TV Korea, All TV, Plus News, Korean Magazine and more.



John Arsenault, Tenor

New Westminster, BC

John Arsenault recently sang the role of Flavio in Vancouver Opera's Golden Anniversary Season production of *Norma*. He has also appeared in VO's *Salome*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and *The Magic Flute*. Mr. Arsenault has also sung with Vancouver Island Opera in *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, and *Madama Butterfly*, and is Music Director of DragonDiva Operatic Theatre.



Tina Chang, Pianist

Pianist **Tina Chang** has recently returned from the province-wide tour of *Jack Pine* with Vancouver Opera in Schools. A graduate of the University of British Columbia and the University of Minnesota, Ms. Chang has been the pianist and Music Director of the San Diego Opera Ensemble, where she coached and performed with young professional singers from all over the United States. She has been on the faculty at Dalhousie University, Summer Vocal Academy for the Victoria Conservatory and the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

About the Surrey 2010 Celebration Site

The City of Surrey, an official partner with the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, will play host to the biggest games-time celebration south of the Fraser. The Surrey 2010 Celebration Site is a 13 day free winter festival featuring live entertainment, live Games broadcasts, arts performances and on site activities.

The Surrey 2010 Celebration Site is situated at Holland Park, a 24 acre urban oasis in the heart of the Surrey's business district. It will offer the opportunity to share the Olympic spirit with the community while watching live Games coverage on four massive video screens. The screens will be located throughout the site, including indoors under a 30,000 square foot mega tent. Visitors will also enjoy an array of international food vendors and global entertainment that will celebrate Surrey's cultural diversity.

The Celebration Site will also host world renowned talent on two stages including Sam Roberts, 54-40, Randy Bachman, Tokyo Police Club, WinterSleep, Hot Hot Heat, Serena Ryder, Jully Black, KS Makhan, Dan Mangan, Doc Walker, Irish Descendants, Alex Cuba, Jim Byrnes & the Sojourners, Hey Rosetta, Five Alarm Funk, and Delhi 2 Dublin.

Canada's RCMP Musical Ride will also be a permanent fixture onsite to dazzle spectators with two daily choreographed equestrian performances.

Guests to the Surrey 2010 Celebration Site can also participate in free on-site activities such as mingling with the 2010 mascots, zipping down one of the runs at the Sliding Zone, gliding around the outdoor Skating Rink and tossing a few rocks at the Curling Zone.

Councillor Linda Hepner would like everyone to experience the Surrey 2010 Celebration Site: *"I encourage you to take time to explore the possibilities, and be a part of it!"*

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Vancouver Opera's Golden Anniversary Season is generously sponsored by Goldcorp, Inc.