

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE March 13, 2009
CONTACT Selina Rajani, 604-331-4824
srajani@vancouveropera.ca

**VANCOUVER OPERA RECOGNIZES SUPPORT OF VANCOUVER 2010 CULTURAL OLYMPIAD**

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera is proud to recognize the support of **Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad** as co-presenter for *Rigoletto*, currently onstage at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Emotional and haunting, this imaginative production of Verdi's masterpiece boasts an innovative concept by Canadian stage director **Glynis Leyshon** and Alberta-based scenic designer **Bretta Gerecke**, as well as a roster of renowned international and Canadian talent.

"Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad is delighted to partner with Vancouver Opera in presenting this thrillingly-imagined production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*" said **Burke Taylor**, VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games) Vice-President, Culture and Celebrations. "The boldness and innovation that director Glynis Leyshon has brought to this classic opera exemplifies our commitment to bringing Canada's creative excellence to Canadian and international audiences."

"We are grateful to VANOC for helping us present this bold contemporary production of *Rigoletto* to Vancouver audiences," comments **James Wright**, General Director of Vancouver Opera. "Support like this helps VO further our goals of community involvement and of keeping opera fresh and exciting for both new and seasoned audiences."

The partnership will continue in March 2010, when Vancouver Opera and Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad co-present the Canadian premiere of John Adams' contemporary masterpiece, *Nixon in China*, as part of VO's 50th anniversary season.

The Cultural Olympiad is a series of multi-disciplinary festivals and digital programs showcasing the best in Canadian and international arts and popular culture. Launched in 2008, this multi-year celebration features an expanded program in 2009 (February 1 to March 21, 2009). The program culminates with the 60-day Cultural Olympiad 2010

(January 22 to March 21, 2010), which begins before and continues throughout the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Single tickets for the remaining performances of *Rigoletto* are available from the Vancouver Opera Ticket Centre, online at www.vancouveropera.ca, or by phone at 604-683-0222. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted. Groups: For special pricing for groups of ten or more, call 604-683-0222.