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“Overture: AIDA” unites old-world opulence with new-world elegance

**VO’s cornerstone sold-out fundraising gala to feature acclaimed performer
Jennifer Hudson**

VANCOUVER, BC ~Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce that Grammy and Academy Award-winning performer **Jennifer Hudson** will be the headline artist for this season’s sold-out, invitation-only gala fundraiser – **Overture: AIDA**, on **April 20th, 2012**. Ms. Hudson will offer an intimate solo concert performance as part of an unforgettable evening of entertainment, sumptuous dining and once-in-a-lifetime auction items.

The event will attract more than 400 discerning guests – primarily corporate, cultural and community leaders drawn from throughout the Lower Mainland. With an ambience evocative of Egypt in the time of the pharaohs, using the stage scenery for Vancouver Opera’s mainstage production of *Aida*, the event will commence with an elegant cocktail reception and segue into a show-stopping performance from Jennifer Hudson in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

“Vancouver Opera is very proud to bring an event of this calibre to fruition. It shows our ability to produce exceptional events that engage the community with a high degree of artistry and it generates funding that builds our capacity to achieve new levels of excellence onstage and in the community.” says **James W. Wright**, General Director of Vancouver Opera.

Additional highlights of the evening include performances from spoken word artist **Shane Koyczan**, a decadent dinner on the set of *Aida*, prepared by the Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver, an enticing raffle of a Harry Winston watch from Montecristo Jewelers and a myriad of live and silent auction items. Live auction highlights include an exclusive Wexford Opera Festival (Ireland) package; travel for ten to the 2012 Super Bowl in New Orleans; and artwork from West Coast notables such as Gordon Smith, Danny Singer and Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun. In addition, wines from **Mission Hill Family Estate** will be featured at the event.

Scotiabank Group serves as *Overture’s* Limelight Sponsor. Funding derived from this event will support both VO’s youth and community engagement programs and mainstage productions. Monies raised through special events of this nature play a crucial role in the company’s ongoing engagement of more than 50,000 youth – many from chronically under-served communities – in innovative community programming.

“Scotiabank is proud to support Vancouver Opera in their efforts to bring this wonderful art to youth throughout the province of British Columbia,” said **David Poole**, Senior Vice President, Scotiabank. “We are thrilled to be a part of what is sure to be an outstanding event.”

Overture: Aida is being organized by a committee of VO staff and community volunteers, chaired by prominent Vancouver arts supporters and philanthropists David and Manjy Sidoo.



James W. Wright, General Director

2011 – 2012
SEASON

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This event is now sold out. For additional information, or to secure a spot on the event's waiting list, please contact Mercedes Dunphy, Development Coordinator, Special Events, at 604.682.2871, ext. 4831.

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VO's 2011-2012 Season is generously sponsored by Goldcorp