

For Immediate Release

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UBC Opera Ensemble presents **The David Spencer Memorial Concerts**

Vancouver, BC ~ To kick off the 2008/2009 season, UBC Opera presents the **David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund Concert**. The fund, established by the late Vancouver philanthropist, goes directly to supporting young musicians' educational and career goals. This year's concerts will be held at the Chan Centre **October 30, 2008** at 12pm and **November 1, 2008** at 8 pm.

This annual concert showcases the singers of the UBC Opera Ensemble with all proceeds benefiting young artists. Concert highlights will include excerpts from many favourite operas, operettas and musical theatre. **Nancy Hermiston**, Director of the Opera Ensemble and Head of the Voice and Opera Division at the UBC School of Music, believes the concert is the perfect introduction to opera.

For the rest of 2008/2009 season, UBC Opera presents two fully staged operas at the Chan Centre, the lively and informative Opera Tea Series and the David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund Concert. The ensemble draws its performers from advanced students and young professionals, and regularly tours throughout Canada and Europe. Students participate in all aspects of the productions alongside professional singers, conductors, musicians, designers and technicians.

Get to know the stars of tomorrow! **Simone Osborne** is a UBC student and winner of the 2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. **Rhoslyn Jones**, an alumna, was a national semi-finalist of the 2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and is singing the role of Tatyana in Vancouver Opera's upcoming Eugene Onegin. These outstanding sopranos embody two of the many remarkable success stories of the UBC Opera program Alumni. This season presents audiences with the chance to see the next generation of opera greats before the rest of the world.

Subscription packages including both Chan Centre operas (*Hansel and Gretel* and *Falstaff*) and the David Spencer concert are still available for **\$60 (adults)**, **\$45 (seniors)**, or **\$35 (students)**. Any of the three **Opera Teas** can be added on for **\$8** each. For more information, please email concerts@interchange.ubc.ca.

David Spencer Memorial Concerts

October 30, 2008, 12pm

November 1, 2008, 8pm

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC

Tickets:

Adults: \$18 / Seniors: / \$15 / Students: \$12

Tickets are available in-person at The Chan Centre, or through Ticketmaster. 604.280.3311 or www.ticketmaster.ca