

VANCOUVER RECITAL SOCIETY

MEDIA RELEASE

'Classical Rock Star' Joshua Roman makes his Vancouver debut at the Playhouse

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(Vancouver, BC) – Cellist **Joshua Roman**, dubbed a 'classical rock star' by the press, will make his Vancouver debut in a concert presented by the **Vancouver Recital Society (VRS)** at the **Vancouver Playhouse on Sunday, November 30, 2008 at 7.30pm**. He will perform with pianist **Andrew Armstrong** and their programme will include Beethoven, Britten, Aaron J. Kernis and Brahms. This recital will replace the previously scheduled Christian Póltera and Dénes Várjon concert.

There is quite a buzz surrounding this brilliant young musician at the moment. He is known for his eclectic taste in music, his technical prowess and youthful energy. His career has been firmly on the ascent since 2006 when, at the tender age of 22, he joined the Seattle Symphony Orchestra as principal cellist (the youngest principal ever to be appointed to a major orchestra). He immediately took Seattle by storm and became a favourite of local music lovers, with sold out solo and chamber performances throughout the city.

Roman recently left the Seattle Symphony to embark on a career as a solo recitalist. And what a career that promises to be. *The Seattle Times* enthused "No technical demand was beyond this extraordinary young cellist; how lucky that a great set of fingers is also accompanied by a level of musical artistry achieved by few." It is entirely appropriate that Joshua makes his Vancouver debut on the VRS' acclaimed 'Next Generation Series', as he is definitely one to watch.

Joshua Roman was born in Oklahoma and began his cello studies at the age of three on a 1/4 size cello. He played his first public recital at the age of ten. He studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and received his Bachelor Degree in Cello Performance in 2004 studying with Richard Aaron. In 2005 he also received his Masters Degree from the CIM, studying with Desmond Hoebig, Principal Cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra. As a concerto soloist, he has performed with the Seattle Symphony (including a duo performance with his idol Yo-Yo Ma at Benaroya Hall), Spokane Symphony, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, the Wyoming Symphony and the Edmonton Symphony.

Andrew Armstrong was named Gilmore Young Artist in 1996. At the 1993 Van Cliburn Competition, where he was the youngest pianist entered, he received the Jury Discretionary Award. He lives in New York and is devoted to outreach programs and playing for children.

Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca

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