



PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT Peter Russell: 202-669-1463 or peterrussell@vocalartsdc.org or
Gregory Stuart: 917-621-6005 or gregorystuart@vocalartsdc.org

Vocal Arts DC

presents

Piotr Beczala, tenor and Martin Katz, pianist
Wednesday, May 3 in the **Theatre of the Arts at UDC**

Washington, DC – Vocal Arts DC is thrilled to present superstar Polish tenor **Piotr Beczala** in his Washington, DC debut. Beloved for his clarion voice and sunny personality, no artist is in greater demand than Polish tenor Piotr Beczala at the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, or Paris Opera to perform leading roles in operas by Verdi, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, and other composers. In recent seasons, he has concertized to wide praise at Vienna's Musikverein, Salzburg Festival, the Schubertiade in Hohenems, and at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall.

Program to include selections by Schumann, Karłowicz, Dvořák and Rachmaninoff.

WHO: Vocal Arts DC

WHAT: Concert of Piotr Beczala, tenor & Martin Katz, pianist

WHERE: Theatre of the Arts on the Van Ness campus of the University of the District of Columbia, 4200 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington DC 20008

WHEN: Wed MAY 3 at 7:30pm

TICKETS: \$50 each, through the Washington Performing Arts Box Office
Charge by phone at 202-785-9727 or online at www.VocalArtsDC.org.
All recitals are held at the Theatre of the Arts, UDC.

INFORMATION: For press ticket requests or information please contact Peter Russell or Gregory Stuart at the coordinates listed above. Visit Vocal Arts DC online at www.vocalartsdc.org

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Piotr Beczala (tenor) is one of the most sought-after tenors of our time and is a constant guest in the world's leading opera houses. The Polish-born artist is acclaimed by audiences and critics alike not only for the beauty of his voice, but also for his ardent commitment to each character he portrays. In addition to his abundant operatic appearances, he has sung many of the great choral and orchestral vocal works with the world's most distinguished orchestras and maestri. The tenor is represented on dozens of recordings, amongst them several solo CDs, including the award winning album entitled *Slavic Opera Arias*, and can boast an impressive list of DVDs in which he sings principal roles.

Martin Katz (pianist), dubbed "the dean of collaborative pianists" by the *Los Angeles Times*, has been in constant demand by the world's most celebrated vocal soloists for four decades. The world's musical capitals yearly figure prominently in his schedule. He is a regular guest at Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Conservatory, Songfest, San Francisco Opera, the Sibelius Academy, the Guildhall School in London, Chicago College of Performing Arts, and the New National Theatre of Tokyo. He has partnered with several of his soloists on the conductor's podium for the orchestras of the BBC, Houston, Washington, DC, Tokyo, New Haven and Miami and conducted staged productions for Michigan Opera Theatre, the Music Academy of the West, and San Francisco Opera's Merola program. Mr. Katz is the author of a comprehensive guide to accompanying, "The Complete Collaborator," published by Oxford University Press. His editions of Handel and Rossini operas have been performed by the Metropolitan, Houston Grand Opera and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

ABOUT VOCAL ARTS DC

The mission of VADC is to nurture and promote the classical voice recital genre and to introduce new audiences to the richness and beauty of the classical art song literature. VADC is the only organization anywhere in North America, and one of the few in the world, which presents a full concert season solely devoted to classical voice recitals. As such, it has made Washington DC a magnet for the world's greatest stars of the opera and concert stage. VADC presents a season of six to eight recitals, usually in the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater, occasionally in other venues. These generally feature world-renowned singers, although VADC also attempts to introduce to its audience emerging artists whom it considers to be on the threshold of international stardom.

In addition to its main stage performances, VADC operates an in-school educational program for secondary school students in local schools. To foster the careers of young aspiring professional classical singers in the area, VADC holds an annual juried competition and, in addition to substantial prize money, provides significant performance opportunities to the winners. In recent years winners of the competition have performed at the Phillips Collection and as part of the Millennium Stage program of free concerts at the Kennedy Center. More at www.vocalartsdc.org

Vocal Arts DC is the grateful recipient of major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and The Reva and David Logan Foundation, and appreciates generous support from the Howard and Sarah D. Solomon Foundation, The Dallas Morse Coors Foundation and The Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation.

Vocal Arts DC

PO BOX 42423, Washington DC 20007

202-669-1463

www.vocalartsdc.org