

**for immediate release**

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**vita e voce presents:**

**VIVA BELCANTO Gala Concert**

**Star Coloratura Soprano EDITA GRUBEROVA and Verdi**

**Specialist PAOLO GAVANELLI Sing Rarely Performed**

**Bel Canto Gems in a Gala Concert at the Herkulesaal**

**in Munich with Members of the Bavarian State Opera**

**Orchestra on Monday, April 14, 2008 at 7:30pm**



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On April 14, internationally acclaimed coloratura soprano **Edita Gruberova** and renowned Verdi baritone **Paolo Gavanelli** will appear together for the first time in a concert of *bel canto* arias and duets conducted by **Andriy Yurkevych** at the Herkulesaal in Munich. Accompanied by members of the Bavarian State Opera Orchestra, the artists will present works by Vincenzo Bellini, Gaetano Donizetti, and Giuseppe Verdi seldom sung by the singers on the concert platform.

Both vocal masters and recipients of the honorary title of *Kammersänger*, **Edita Gruberova** is a celebrated *bel canto* specialist who has been adored by the Munich public for over 20 years. **Paolo Gavanelli** has over the last decade established himself as the foremost Verdi baritone of his generation.

**VIVA BELCANTO** offers concertgoers a sampling of **Edita Gruberova's** future projects - arias from Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia*, Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda*, and the famous mad scene from Bellini's *Il Pirata* are a few of the evening's highlights. **Paolo Gavanelli**, who has received the greatest international acclaim for his dramatic interpretations of Verdi roles, will sing arias from Giuseppe Verdi's *Ernani* and Donizetti's *La Favorita*. The singers will also perform the famous second act duet from Verdi's *La Traviata*. For *bel canto* lovers, this exciting evening of two extraordinary singers offers a feast for the ears. **Edita Gruberova** and **Paolo Gavanelli's** effortless delivery of this technically most challenging of repertoires evidences their mastery of the *bel canto* style, which transcends technical perfection.

## Edita Gruberova

**Edita Gruberova** has been hailed by the press as “Prima Donna Assoluta”, “Coloratura Phenomenon”, and “Belcanto Queen”, as evidenced by her performances, which are consistently greeted with standing ovations. Born in Bratislava, Ms. Gruberova studied at the conservatory of her native city and with Ruthilde Boesch in Vienna. Her international career began at the Vienna State Opera where she appeared as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, conducted by Karl Böhm. Shortly thereafter, the artist achieved worldwide fame and became one of the most sought-after interpreters of the roles of Zerbinetta, Konstanze, Donna Anna, Rosina, Gilda, Violetta, and Lucia, performed at the most prestigious opera houses such as La Scala in Milan, Covent Garden London, Metropolitan Opera New York, Grand Opéra Paris and at opera houses in Berlin, Munich, Geneva, Zurich, Florence, Madrid, and Barcelona.

Ms. Gruberova is a frequent guest of the Salzburg and Munich Opera Festivals. She has appeared in the following important opera films: *Hänsel and Gretel*, *Rigoletto*, *Arabella*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and *Così fan tutte*. She has worked with many world-renowned conductors and stage directors. Her extensive discography includes opera recitals and mad scenes of French and Italian Opera. Of singular quality are her opera and Lieder recordings for Nightingale Classics and Teldec. Ms. Gruberova has been awarded the distinctive titles of Austrian and Bavarian *Kammersängerin*, and is an honorary member of the Vienna State Opera. She is a recipient of the Sir Lawrence Olivier Award, the distinguished Italian Franco-Abbiati Prize for the best interpretation of an Italian opera role (Lucia), the Bellini d'oro for outstanding performances and the Order of Merit of the Austrian Republic.

## Paolo Gavanelli

Born in Padua, baritone **Paolo Gavanelli** first studied law before turning to singing. After completing his law studies and vocal training, the Italian baritone made his debut as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*. Soon thereafter he received invitations to perform at the most distinguished opera houses of the world. He regularly appears in Milan, Rome, Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Tokyo and London. Paolo Gavanelli can be heard in all major baritone roles of the Italian repertoire at the Metropolitan in New York, the San Francisco Opera, Covent Garden in London and the Bavarian State Opera in Munich. Since 1989 he has had a particularly close collaboration with the Bavarian State Opera where he has sung 14 different roles and taken part in numerous new productions of bel canto and Verdi operas. Although his repertoire includes approximately 60 roles, in recent years he has made a special name for himself as one of the leading interpreters of Verdi baritone roles of such operas as *Nabucco*, *Rigoletto*, *Macbeth*, *Simon Boccanegra*, and *Falstaff*. His interpretations of Jago, Renato, Germont, Conte di Luna, Posa, Amonasro, etc... have made him one of the most sought after baritones of his generation. Paolo Gavanelli has performed with leading conductors and directors (Solti, Whun Chung, Muti, Mehta, Haitink, Barenboim, Ozawa, Zeffirelli, Savary, Kupfer, Pizzi, to name a few). In July 2005 Paolo Gavanelli was awarded the Bavarian title of *Kammersänger*. He can be heard and seen in various opera recordings on CD and DVD, including *Nabucco*, *La Bohème*, *Beatrice di Tenda*, *Poliuto* and *Rigoletto*. His most recent release, a recording of *La Traviata* as Germont with soprano Anja Harteros and tenor Piotr Beczala under the baton of Zubin Mehta with the Bavarian State Opera Orchestra, was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording in 2008.

## International Press Contact:

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