

Timothy Vernon Presented with Order of Canada.

March 3, 2008

Timothy Vernon, Founding Artistic Director of Pacific Opera Victoria, was inducted into the Order of Canada on February 22, 2008, in an investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean bestowed the honour on Mr. Vernon in recognition of his work in expanding professional opera in Canada and his commitment to young musicians.

The Order of Canada, our country's highest civilian honour, was created in 1967 during Canada's centennial year to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation. Over the last 40 years, more than 5 000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order.



Timothy Vernon with Governor General Michaëlle Jean at his investiture into the Order of Canada.

Photo: Sgt Eric Jolin

Mr. Vernon's citation reads as follows:

Timothy Vernon, C.M., Saanichton, British Columbia.
Member of the Order of Canada

Timothy Vernon is an artistic director and conductor lauded for expanding professional opera in Canada and for his commitment to young musicians. He is the driving force behind the flourishing Pacific Opera Victoria and the debut of professional opera in London, Ontario, where he serves as principal conductor and music director for Orchestra London. He is also credited with raising McGill University's Orchestra, which he conducted for 13 years, to exceptionally high, professional standards. A champion of Canadian musicians, he has helped launch the careers of both prominent singers and instrumentalists.

In her speech Governor General Michaëlle Jean congratulated the recipients on the remarkable difference they have made in the lives of their fellow citizens.

"It is the way in which you have put forward unique approaches, bold new ways of dealing with complex situations.

You have set up organizations, launched initiatives, given form to extraordinary creations. And you have often done this with a pioneering spirit and by utilizing your abilities to bring people together...

You who are receiving the Order of Canada today are a treasure, a wealth of knowledge and of experience that benefit the entire country, especially our young people, who want only to follow in your footsteps.

... You represent the best in all of us.

You represent a sense of commitment, an ability to excel, caring for others, passion, a desire to dig deeper, and a willingness to see things through and explore knowledge and life in all their dimensions, the very cornerstones of civic responsibility.

Today, as you join this honour roll, I thank you on behalf of your fellow citizens. We have all gained from your accomplishments.

May we all learn from your experiences.

You have shared with us not only the wealth of your thoughts, but the fire of your passion."

All at Pacific Opera Victoria are proud of Mr. Vernon's accomplishments and delighted at this honour. Like the Opera Canada Ruby Award that Mr. Vernon received in 2005, this is a fitting recognition of his contribution to opera and the performing arts over more than a quarter century.

