



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Vancouver International Song Institute: New Summer Program for Performers and Listeners at UBC June 17 – 27, 2007

Vancouver, B.C. ~ The newly created Vancouver International Song Institute (VISI) is positioning itself to become a world-renowned centre for the study and performance of song. VISI offers an intense interdisciplinary course on song for singers, pianists, pedagogues, and serious listeners. Internationally distinguished guest faculty includes pianists **Graham Johnson** and **Margo Garrett**, singers **Stephen Varcoe**, **Tracy Dahl**, **Benjamin Butterfield**, **Susan Platts**, scholars **Susan Youens**, **Deen Larsen** and **Ellen Dissanayake**, plus UBC faculty and alumni. The 11-day program and festival runs June 17 – 27, 2007. Within the four program streams, participants will enjoy distinctly structured schedules of activities and performances involving the entire VISI community. All activities take place at the School of Music on the beautiful campus of the University of British Columbia

Mothers sing lullabies to their babies, Alzheimer patients singing melodies from their prom night 60 ago, groups spontaneously sing to celebrate a stranger's birthday. Song resounds among all human communities. From Asia to Australia, from Nunavut to Nigeria, every culture sings its stories. Why is this so?

#### Have you ever wanted...

to study song from the inside out?  
to fathom the poetry's philosophical core?

#### Have you ever wondered...

how to bring centuries of sung stories alive?  
how poems are translated into music by composers?  
what it is that makes humans sing?

VISI created by UBC Professor Rena Sharon (VISI Artistic Director) and a dream team of Canadian and international artists and scholars pursue the core of these questions. Each year there will be an area of focus. In 2007, VISI will explore the questions through the rich and diverse repertoire of song in the English language.

*Songs are jewels of concentrated emotion and thought that can penetrate the core of your being and connect you with the shared themes of humanity. To interpret song—as pedagogue, performer, or listener—requires knowledge, insight, and authenticity. The VISI intensive interdisciplinary approach includes: fascinating lectures designed for musicians, ranging from poetry, history, philosophy, to physiology, biomusicology, and music therapy; workshops on acting, movement, and stagecraft; master classes and performances and explorations in an array of related areas.*

#### Programs:

##### Professional Development:

*Performance Studies* - Collaborative Song Program for current and graduating university students and professional singers and pianists: Acceptance into this program is by audition

*Pedagogical Studies* - Program for teachers of voice and teachers of collaborative piano

##### Lifelong Learning:

*Performance Studies* - Collaborative Song program for singers and pianists age 20 and over

*Listener Studies* - A program for classical music lovers wishing to enhance their understanding of Song

##### Performance Festival

The performance festival is central to VISI. There will be three concerts every day (noon, afternoon, and evening), featuring performances by the faculty, UBC alumni, and VISI participants.

Registration information online [www.visi.ca](http://www.visi.ca)

VISI Partners: University of British Columbia (UBC), UBC School of Music, National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS): Vancouver Chapter

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