

## **Rowson chosen for two-year residency with VSO**



William Rowson, in his first season as principal conductor of the SSO, has accepted a two-year residency as assistant conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Rowson and his family will move to Vancouver in August when Mr. Rowson will take up his new responsibilities with the VSO. Those responsibilities will include conducting a Sunday matinee series of concerts and another series of one-hour concerts for student audiences. He will also conduct “run-out” concerts with a smaller version of the VSO performing in outlying communities, and fill in for music director Bramwell Tovey or guest conductors in case they are unable to perform.

In a VSO news release, Mr. Tovey said that Mr. Rowson “was the unanimous choice of the search committee after winning an exceptionally high majority vote from the VSO musicians ... . He is an exceptional young Canadian talent.”

Mr. Rowson will remain in his position with the SSO and will share the podium in Season 12 with a guest conductor to be named soon.

His VSO position is funded by the Canada Council for the Arts; Mr. Rowson calls it a “mentorship position” that will give him exposure not only to the music side of the organization but to the business side as well. “You sit in the budgetary meetings, ... the planning meetings, ... the marketing meetings ... and you just watch and learn how a \$20 million-a-year organization runs.”

Maestro Tovey, says Mr. Rowson, is an authority on the realities of running an orchestra today versus what they were a few years ago, and how orchestras are adapting. Mr. Rowson expects to return to Ontario when the appointment expires and that he will have a new trove of knowledge to contribute to his professional liaisons.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” he says.