

THEARTS

White Rock Concerts snags Heppner

White Rock Concerts has scored a major coup for its 50th anniversary season.

The organization will present world-renowned Canadian tenor Ben Heppner as a feature of its 2006-07 season of subscription concerts.

Heppner will perform a recital at White Rock Concerts' regular venue, White Rock Baptist Church, Jan. 19, 2007.

The announcement was made Friday

in a recorded message from White Rock Concerts artistic director, George Zukerman, prior to the current season concert by pianist Marcus Groh.

For Heppner, who was born in Dawson Creek, the concert will be part of a three-stop tour of his home province, sandwiched between international engagements in Amsterdam, Dresden and Paris.

There is also a much-anticipated duo recital with Deborah Voigt in Phil-

adelphia Jan. 27.

Heppner, in a statement from his Toronto home, said he was pleased at the chance to perform in smaller cities.

"I have always welcomed the chance to return home to B.C.," he said.

"I enjoy singing for an audience in a smaller centre just as much as at the great opera houses of the world."

The mini-tour also includes stops in Vernon and Kelowna.