

'Year of concert audience' marked in White Rock

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It's official: Concert audiences are greatly appreciated in White Rock.

This week, the city will hear an official proclamation from Mayor Judy Forster marking 2008 as "the Year of the Concert Audience," a gesture that celebrates the 50-plus years of performances put on by White Rock Concerts Society.

The organization's classical music concerts, staged at White Rock Baptist Church, are sold out well in advance every season, thanks to its subscription base of more than 800 members.

"We have celebrated good music in every season since we first began in 1956," says White Rock Concerts artistic director George Zukerman, a founder of the society.

"None of it would have happened without the audience support here in White Rock and South Surrey, which makes it all the more significant that the City of White Rock and Her Worship, Mayor Judy Forster, have now extended this public recognition to the people who made it all possible."

Forster will make the proclamation this Friday evening at the society's next concert, featuring British-born mezzo-soprano Susan Platts with pianist Rena Sharon.

Last year, White Rock Concerts earned Presenter of the Year honours in Ottawa at the national conference of the Canadian Arts Presenters.