



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FINAL PREPARATIONS MADE FOR VSO WORLD PREMIERE OF**  
**“ALL HAMLET” CONCERT JANUARY 19 & 20**

*Maestro Brotons and Broadway’s Kirk Mouser perform in high concept concert*

(Vancouver, WA) In one week, The Vancouver Symphony will offer one of the most thrilling and theatrical concerts in the orchestra’s 34 year history, an “All Hamlet” concert January 19 & 20, 2013. Similar to the orchestra’s sold-out performances of *The Planets* in May 2012, Maestro Salvador Brotons will conduct four different musical interpretations of Hamlet: the *Hamlet Symphonic Poem* by Liszt, selections of movie music by Walton, *Hamlet: Opus 67* by Tchaikovsky and selections from the *Hamlet Film Suite* by Shostakovich. Text from Shakespeare will be performed on stage by Broadway actor and Portland native, Kirk Mouser. Concerts are Saturday at 3 pm and Sunday at 7 pm at Skyview Concert Hall at 1300 NW 139th Street in Vancouver.

Following an idea from Music Director Salvador Brotons and VSO Board member Dr. David Smith, Shakhman (also the orchestra’s principal clarinetist) and VSO marketer Rich Brase, created the concept of a multi-media concert combining the four compositions.

“At least once in every season, we try to create a uniquely creative concert experience to thrill our audience,” says VSO Executive Director Igor Shakhman. “This is one of those concerts. Maestro Broton’s vision is to share the contrasting interpretations of four great composers. When the audience hears Shakespeare’s words added to incredible music, the result is striking and exhilarating. We are lucky to have the incredible Mr. Mouser as our own Hamlet.”

Hamlet has inspired countless works of art, poetry and music. The symphonic poems of Liszt and Tchaikovsky are very different in style, but are united by the way they focus on the psychological side of the drama. In the scores to filmed versions of Hamlet, Walton and Shostakovich are much more literal, but match the creative visions of their directors.

Kirk Mouser is the Artistic Director of Stumptown Stages, Portland's resident musical theatre company at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. His acting credits include the Broadway and national tours of *Les Misérables* (Marius), *Forbidden Broadway*, *Chess*, *The Phantom of the Opera* (Raoul) and Leonard Bernstein’s *Mass*. His film and television credits include the feature film *Untraceable* (Agent Carter Thompson) opposite Diane Lane and TNT’s *Leverage* (Charles Rushing) opposite Timothy Hutton and Richard Chamberlain. He has been honored with the Chicago Area Theatre Jeff Award, Best Actor as Che in *Evita*, and the Portland Drammy, Best Actor as Booth in *Assassins* (Booth).

In the 1840’s, Liszt created an entirely new genre to contain his radical musical ideals, the symphonic poem: a freely-composed orchestral piece based upon an extra-musical idea rather than a strict musical form.

While most of British composer William Walton’s work was concert music, he did compose music for over a dozen films, and wrote music to four film versions of Shakespeare. Laurence Olivier collaborated with Walton when he directed and starred in four Shakespearean adaptations, including Hamlet in 1948.

Like all Romantics, Tchaikovsky knew and admired the works of works of Shakespeare, and in the course of his career, he produced three substantial Shakespearean symphonic poems, including Hamlet, which he wrote in 1888. He dedicated the score of Hamlet to composer Edvard Grieg, whom he had met in Germany earlier that year.

Shostakovich was involved with film scoring throughout his career, with nearly 40 scores to his credit—from music written when he was in early 20s to accompany a silent film through to a score for a Shakespeare film, King Lear, in 1971. Hamlet was released in 1964, during a period of relative openness between East and West.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors (62+) and \$10 for students and are on sale now at (360) 735-7278 or [www.vancouversymphony.org](http://www.vancouversymphony.org).

### **About The VSO**

Led by Music Director and Conductor Salvador Brotons, now in his 22nd season, The VSO has become a cornerstone of Southwest Washington's arts community, providing world-renowned classical music, promoting young musicians, and opening doors to classical music for young audiences through events such as the annual In-School concerts, Young Artists Competition and various family-styled special events and performances. With a full-sized professional orchestra of over 70 core members, many of whom are teachers in our school districts and beyond, the orchestra provides our region with a multi-concert classical season every year. The VSO performs at Skyview Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver. Season support for The VSO is provided by Sterling Bank and All Classical 89.9.

### **THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

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