



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEGENDARY PORTLAND PIANIST THOMAS LAUDERDALE
HEADLINES ALL-AMERICAN VANCOUVER SYMPHONY
CONCERTS WITH *RHAPSODY IN BLUE*
FEB 20 & 21 AT SKYVIEW**

Maestro Salvador Brotons conducts Pink Martini founder

(Vancouver, WA) The second concert of 2016 promises to be one of the highlights of The Vancouver Symphony's 37th season when Maestro Brotons conducts an All-American concert of compositions by Aaron Copland and George Gershwin. Our guest artist is the one and only Thomas Lauderdale, founder of Pink Martini, performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* on February 20 & 21.

Opening the concert will be Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, followed by *Rhapsody in Blue*. In the second half, the audience will be treated to Aaron Copland's spirited *El Salon Mexico*, followed by his majestic *Appalachian Spring*.

The performances are Saturday, February 20 at 3 pm and Sunday, February 21 at 7 pm at Skyview Concert Hall, located at 1300 NW 139th Street in Vancouver, WA. Tickets are available for this concert and all 2015-2016 events at vancouversymphony.org or (360) 735-7278. Tickets are \$50 reserved, \$37 General admission, \$32 Senior (62+) and \$10 Student.

About Thomas Lauderdale

Thomas Lauderdale was raised in rural Indiana and began piano lessons at age six. When his family moved to Portland in 1982, he began studying with Sylvia Killman, who remains his coach and mentor today. At the age of 14, he made his first appearance with the Oregon Symphony under the direction of Norman Leyden.

Active in Oregon politics since he was student body president at Grant High School, Thomas served under Portland Mayor Bud Clark and Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt. In 1991, he worked under Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury on the drafting and passage of the city's civil rights ordinance. He graduated with honors from Harvard with a degree in History and Literature in 1992. He spent most of his collegiate years, however, in cocktail dresses, taking on the role of "cruise director," throwing waltzes with live orchestras and ice sculptures, disco masquerades, and operating a Tuesday night coffeehouse called Café Mardi.

Instead of running for political office, Lauderdale founded Pink Martini in 1994 to play political fundraisers for progressive causes such as civil rights, the environment and affordable housing.

Now in its 20th year, Pink Martini and Lauderdale are Oregon's "musical ambassadors to the world," performing a multilingual repertoire on concert stages from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl to Royal Albert Hall, and with more than 50 symphony orchestras throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. The band has released nine albums on its own label Heinz Records, most recently "Dream a Little Dream," a collaboration with the von Trapps. Lauderdale currently serves on the boards of the Oregon Symphony and Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland, Oregon.



Thomas Lauderdale



About The VSO

World-renowned Maestro Salvador Brotons is in his 25th season leading the professional orchestra of over 70 core members. For 37 seasons The VSO has been 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. Many of our musicians are teachers in our school districts and beyond. The VSO provides our region with a multi-concert classical season every year and performs at Skyview Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver. Season support for The VSO is provided by All Classical Portland, The Columbian and The Community Foundation of SW Washington. Additional support for the orchestra is provided by Oregon Public Broadcasting. Tickets for the VSO Chamber Series and all VSO symphony concerts are on sale now at (360) 735-7278 or www.vancouversymphony.org.

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