



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Igor Shakhman

(360) 735-7278

**EIGHT GREAT STUDENT MUSICIANS COMPETE IN
VSO'S YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION FEBRUARY 9**

20th annual contest winners to perform with Maestro Brotons and VSO

(Vancouver, WA) The finalists have been chosen. Now what remains is the always-exciting Vancouver Symphony Orchestra 20th Annual Young Artists Competition at 1 pm on Sunday, February 9th.

In an exciting, new format this year, eight of the area's finest young musicians will perform head-to-head at Trinity Lutheran Church at 309 W. 39th Street in Vancouver, WA in a concert that is free and open to the public with no advance ticketing required. Previous years had students competing only against other students only in the same instrumental category.

The annual competition pits students against each other in a concert setting before a live audience. The top three contestants will perform with The VSO in a sold out Skyview Concert Hall under the baton of internationally-renowned Maestro Salvador Brotons at concerts at Skyview Concert Hall on April 12 & 13. In addition, students will vie for a portion of \$5,000 in cash in prize money.

FINALISTS

Valerie Ding, piano; Kelli Stephens, teacher

Nathan Kim, piano; Dr. Renato Fabbro, teacher

Ruta Kuzmickas, piano; Jean-David Coen, teacher

Hannah Moon, piano; Kelli Stephens, teacher

Richard Lu, cello; Hamilton Cheifetz, teacher

Fumika Mizuno, violin; Carol Sindell, teacher

Kristin Qian, violin; Carol Sindell, teacher

Edison Tsai, piano; Kelli Stephens, teacher

Area musicians (18 and under) submitted audition recordings to the VSO in late 2013 and were judged by a panel of professional musicians. Master of Ceremonies for the competition will be Edmund Stone, air personality and host of the nationally syndicated show, *The Score* on All Classical Radio. The February 9 competition will be judged by a different blue ribbon panel of area professional musicians.

The competition is sponsored by the Anna C. MacAskill Schwab and Dwight Schwab, Sr. Charitable Foundation.

About The VSO

World-renowned Maestro Salvador Brotons is now in his 23rd season leading the professional orchestra of over 70 core members. For 35 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 the Firstenburg Family, All Classical Portland and The Columbian. Additional support for the orchestra is provided by Oregon Public Broadcasting and Oregon Music News. Tickets for the VSO Chamber Series and all VSO symphony concerts are on sale now at (360) 735-7278 or www.vancouversymphony.org.

THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PO Box 525 Vancouver, WA 98666-0525 Phone (360) 735-7278
Fax: (360) 906-0355 www.vancouversymphony.org