



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FINALISTS NAMED IN 17th ANNUAL VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce its 2011 Young Artists Competition finalists. Judges selected the following nine young artists from thirty-seven applicants who entered for the chance at a \$1,000 award and the opportunity to play with The VSO at its **April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 concert**.

### 2011 FINALISTS INCLUDE:

#### Piano

- **Ruta Kuzmickas (age 15)**  
Portland, Oregon  
Parent: Diana Kuzmickas  
Teacher: Jean-David Coen
- **Alexander Zhu (age 16)**  
Portland, Oregon  
Parent: Maggie Wang  
Teacher: Kellie Stephens
- **Sherry Liang (age 15)**  
Happy Valley, Oregon  
Parent: Xixian Huang  
Teacher: Barbara Parker

#### Strings

- **Kristin Qian, violin (age 13)**  
West Linn, Oregon  
Parent: Li Dai  
Teacher: Carol Sindell
- **David Kim, cello (age 13)**  
Portland, Oregon  
Parent: Yeon Kim  
Teacher: Mark Pritchard
- **Lauren Siess, viola (age 14)**  
Vancouver, Washington  
Parent: Stacy Edgar  
Teacher: Brian Quincey

#### Brass/Woodwinds

- **Kenneth Fukumoto, alto sax (age 16)**  
Happy Valley, Oregon  
Parent: Kumiko  
Teacher: Phil Baldino
- **Nick Rector, trumpet (age 18)**  
Gresham, Oregon  
Parent: Traci Rector  
Teacher: Paul Nickolas
- **John Church, trombone (age 18)**  
Portland, Oregon  
Parent: Tim Church  
Teacher: Henry Henniger

Following the judging of recorded performances from each applicant, finalists were notified and will perform "concert style", February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA. The concert is open to the public. While admission is free a donation toward The VSO mission and education outreach is appreciated.

Students named above will compete for the following scholarship amounts: First place \$1,000; Second place \$500; Third place \$250. The three category winners will then perform live with **The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra** April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Skyview High School Concert Hall, Vancouver, WA.

The competition was open to students 18 years or younger in three categories: strings, brass/woodwinds and piano. Contestants all currently study with music teachers and reside within a fifty-mile radius of Vancouver, Washington.

Follow these talented young artists online at [www.VancouverSymphony.org](http://www.VancouverSymphony.org).

A global gift and local treasure, **The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra** is a 70-member professional orchestra presenting international guest artists and varied programs. The concert season includes live classical performances led by Maestro, Dr. Salvador Brotons as well as special events such as Aaron Meyer & The Vancouver Big Band, February 12, 2011, the recently sold-out Big Horn Brass, and the annual In-School concerts, exposing youth to live orchestral music.

**THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

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