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Photo attached: Vancouver Big Band.jpg, Aaron Meyer & Tim.jpg

AARON MEYER AND THE VANCOUVER BIG BAND BRING DOWN THE HOUSE & HALF THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

(Vancouver, WA) Skyview Concert Hall: The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra presented, for the first time, a very special event with Aaron Meyer and the Vancouver Big Band, featuring Tim Ellis and Shirley Nanette. Founded and led by the VSO's own Douglas Peebles, Vancouver Big Band's members include music teachers from throughout our school districts who are, as Peebles pointed out, "working with your kids and grandkids every day!"

The keen variety of VBB members make up a group that individually is comprised of musicians very successful in their own right. Band members include a teacher from Willamette University, now teaching in the Jazz department at Mt. Hood Community College, a musician from the Columbia, Newport and Oregon Symphonies (an attorney in his "other life."), a public defender, a jazz musician who has played with people like Pete Fountain, BB King and Gladys Knight, to name a few, a veteran or two from the Woody Hite Band, another who has worked with such greats as Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett, and Pink Martini, a principal of the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, and professor from Lewis and Clark College. And oh yes – another who has played for the likes of Buddy Rich, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, and Harry James, as well as for Engelbert Humperdinck, Tom Jones, Helen Reddy and Bette Midler. These are just a few of the connections to big music that were on stage February 12th performing for an audience of over 600.

Carly McDowell, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's Executive Director commented, "They just could not disappoint! There just was not one toe in the house that wasn't tapping. All hands were clapping!" The combination of extraordinary talents, from Mr. Peebles crooning-style singing voice, and down-home narrative style, to the Celtic and international violin and acoustic guitar of Aaron Meyer and Tim Ellis, followed by jazz hits such as *Nevertheless*, *Lullaby on the Leaves* and *Friend like Me*; then Shirley Nanette belting out *Too close for Comfort* and improv on voices of the past such as Louis Armstrong singing *Aint Misbehaving*, was a perfect elixir for bringing down the house. McDowell added, "Peebles' narrative style is like Anthony Bourdain meets Garrison Keillor. The audience ate it up."

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is a 70-member professional orchestra presenting international guest artists and varied programs, October through May. The concert season includes live classical performances led by Maestro Salvador Brotons as well as special events such as the 17th Annual Young Artists Competition, February 27th at Trinity Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA. VSO April concert 9-10th. Visit www.VancouverSymphony.org for tickets and information.

THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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The Vancouver Big Band



Aaron Meyer (left) and Tim Evans (right)