



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LEGENDARY JAZZ CLARINETIST KEN PEPOWSKI TO PLAY VSO BENEFIT AT VANCOUVER'S HEATHMAN LODGE APRIL 21**

*“Ken Peplowski is arguably the greatest living jazz clarinetist” –  
Russell Davies, BBC2 August 2013*

(Vancouver, WA) The Vancouver Symphony is excited to announce the creation of its First Annual Evening of Jazz Benefit Concert at 6 pm on Thursday, April 21 at Vancouver's Heathman Lodge. The concert and dinner will feature legendary jazz clarinetist and saxophonist Ken Peplowski and benefit The VSO Education Initiative.

Award-winning KOIN 6 reporter Tim Becker will serve as emcee of an evening of music and a delicious catered dinner featuring regional wines and cocktails along with a cigar station and door prizes. Tickets are \$100, with each ticket-holder also being given one complimentary ticket to any VSO concert beginning in March 2016. To order tickets or get more information, contact 360-735-7278 or [vancouverSymphony.org](http://vancouverSymphony.org).

Proceeds from this event benefit The VSO's Education Initiative, focusing on extensive music education outreach programs that serve to empower students, educators and adults in our community. Your partnership contributes to the profound impact we have on the lives of others, particularly those in under-served areas. Performing with Mr. Peplowski will be Randy Porter, piano; Dave Captein, bass and Gary Hobbs, drums.

From polka bands to the Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey Orchestras and eventually Dixieland and jazz, the award-winning Mr. Peplowski has played with legendary musicians from Mel Torme and Peggy Lee to Madonna and (another clarinetist) Woody Allen. His life on the road has taken him from small clubs to the Hollywood Bowl, headlining in Las Vegas, the Newport Jazz Festival, pops concerts, European festivals and clubs, or at home in NYC, doing everything from playing on the soundtracks to Woody Allen movies to guest soloing on records. Ken's done it all.

The Heathman Lodge is located at 7801 NE Greenwood Drive Vancouver, Washington. This event benefits The VSO, a non-profit orchestra, now in its 37<sup>th</sup> Season and conducted for the 25<sup>th</sup> straight season by Masestro Salvador Brotons.

The Steinway piano will be donated by Michelle's Piano Company in Portland.

### **About Ken Peplowski**

A Cleveland, Ohio native, Ken and his trumpet-playing brother Ted made many local radio and TV appearances and played for Polish dances and weddings virtually every weekend all through high-school. “That’s where I learned to improvise, ‘fake’ songs, learn about chord changes, etc.- it’s exactly like learning to swim by being thrown into the water!” Peplowski signed with Concord Records, under the tutelage of Carl Jefferson, the founder and president, and recorded close to 20 albums as a leader, including “The Natural Touch” in 1992 which won Best Jazz Record of the Year by the Prises Deutschen Schallplatten Kritiken, and “The Other Portrait,” recorded in Sophia, Bulgaria with the symphony orchestra and highlighting Ken’s classical side. He also recorded two records on the Nagel Heyer label, “Lost In The Stars” and “Easy To Remember,” the latter of which features Bobby Short on his last recording. “I loved Bobby Short’s approach to the American songbook, and we’d talked about doing a record together for a while – I’m glad we got this one ‘in the can.’”

Ken Peplowski has recorded approximately 50 CDs as a soloist, and close to 400 as a sideman. He travels at least half of every year, playing clubs, concert halls, colleges, and pops concerts. He has headlined the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, the Blue Note, and Dizzy’s Club amongst many other venues. Ken’s recorded the Darius Milhaud Clarinet Concerto with an orchestra in Sofia, Bulgaria, and was a featured soloist (playing Mozart) in 2015 at the Siletz Bay Music Festival in Oregon. Ken was the musical director of the Oregon Festival Of American Music (OFAM) for eight years, and is a longtime performer/consultant to The Jazz Cruise, where he was elected into the Jazz Cruise Hall Of Fame in 2013. Ken’s new album, recorded for Capri is called “Enrapture”.

### **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](http://www.vancouverSymphony.org).

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