



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VSO SEASON FINALE SHOWCASES 20TH CENTURY SYMPHONIC GEM - KHACHATURIAN'S MONUMENTAL SYMPHONY No. 2, *THE BELL*, JUNE 3 & 4

Rare NW appearance of International Piano Virtuoso Sofya Melikyan

https://youtu.be/-j1Ai_TNe-k

(Vancouver, WA) The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra closes out its 2016-2017 season with the spectacular Symphony No. 2 by Aram Khachaturian and also welcomes award-winning pianist Sofya Melikyan to Skyview Concert Hall, performing Strauss' celebrated *Burleske For Piano and Orchestra*.

Known as the **Bell Symphony**, Khachaturian's masterwork is a powerful and poignant reminder of the horrors of the Nazi Regime during the Second World War and its impact on those throughout the world. Leonard Bernstein conducted the United States premiere of the *Bell Symphony* on April 13, 1945 at Carnegie Hall, where a special orchestra was assembled only for the occasion. All the musicians performing dedicated their service to the War Orphans of Stalingrad, and the concert's proceeds were donated there as well.

"One of the greatest orchestral and opera composers of the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Richard Strauss created brilliant tone poems such as *Don Juan* and *Till Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche*, which rank among the most performed and studied works in the repertoire. His popular early work, ***Burleske for Piano and Orchestra***, fully displays the remarkable orchestral color and brilliant orchestration so characteristic of his later works." (*Music Scores*)

The home of The VSO, Skyview Concert Hall is located at 1300 NW 139th Street in Vancouver. Tickets are available now at vancouversymphony.org or (360) 735-7278. Steinway pianos are provided by Michelle's Piano Company in Portland.

About Sofya Melikyan Hailed for her "magnificent singing line and an exquisite artistic sensibility", Armenian-born pianist Sofya Melikyan is recognized as an artist with a unique voice, who combines "high-wire virtuosity" with "deep musical intuition and ability to connect with the audience" (*Mundociasico*). Educated at the famed Royal Conservatory of Madrid and the École Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot in Paris, this piano virtuoso has gained international acclaim as one of the leading pianists of her generation with performances in major concert halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Jordan Hall in Boston, Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona and Salle Cortot in Paris. Watch Sofya here: <https://youtu.be/h3do0d4Jfpl>

Calendar Editors, please note:

VSO Season Finale with Sofya Melikyan

Saturday, June 3 at 3pm & Sunday, June 4 at 7pm

Skyview Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver WA

Tickets at vancouversymphony.org or 360.735.7278

About The VSO

World-renowned Maestro Salvador Brotons is in his 26th season leading the professional orchestra of over 70 core members. For 38 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 and The Columbian. 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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