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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Igor Shakhman

(360) 735-7278

**VSO LAUNCHES 38<sup>TH</sup> SEASON JULY 28 WITH ANNUAL  
FAMILY-FRIENDLY OUTDOOR CONCERT  
IN ESTHER SHORT PARK**

***Free Concert is Part of Vancouver's "Six to Sunset" Series***

(Vancouver, WA) **The Vancouver Symphony** begins its 2016-2017 season with a family-friendly free outdoor concert in downtown Vancouver's famed Esther Short Park band shell on Thursday, July 28 from 6-8 pm. The concert, featuring some of the most familiar and popular classical music ever, will feature a 70+ member orchestra led by guest conductor Daniel Boico and selections by three singers from the local troupe Opera Quest Northwest. The master of ceremonies will be OPB's Conrad Wilson.

Vocal selections—by soprano Amy Cole, mezzo-soprano ChristyAnne Ford and baritone Bruce Kyte—will include highlights from legendary operas such as *Linda di Chamounix* by Donzetti, *Faust* by Gounod, *Die Fledermaus* by Strauss, *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte* by Mozart and *La Bohème* by Puccini. In addition, the orchestra will play selections from Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, de Falla, Rossini and Marquez.

Also returning this year will be the Beacock Music instrumental "Petting Zoo" where kids can play a wide variety of musical instruments. Get to the park early so your kids can try out their favorite instruments.

Major sponsorship for this concert is provided by Loti and Paul Christensen. Other sponsors include Ann Bardacke and David Wolf, Riverview Community Bank and the City of Vancouver. Major support comes from Oregon Public Broadcasting and Beacock Music.

This is the fourth consecutive summer that The VSO has presented a free concert in Esther Short Park. It is the fourth of six summer offerings in the park by the City of Vancouver on Thursday nights, starting July 7, and features a wide variety of concerts from pop to rock to classical. The entire summer series is underwritten once again by Riverview Community Bank. Learn more at [cityofvancouver.us](http://cityofvancouver.us).

**About Daniel Boico**

Described by critics as "dynamic, vigorous, exciting and imaginative - an undisputed star who combines magnetic charisma with a skilled technique," fast-rising conductor Daniel Boico is the newly appointed Associate General Conductor of the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra, Durban. His innate musical sensitivity paired with a keen ear and deep musicianship have produced exciting performances with orchestras in the U.S., Europe, Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. As Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic in the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 seasons, Boico led all of the

Philharmonic's popular Young People's Concerts, among other concerts, and covered 30 weeks in each season, including all tours, as well as assisted music director Alan Gilbert and visiting guest conductors. His debut with the New York Philharmonic took place in 2009, sharing the podium with Riccardo Muti, and was followed by his subscription debut in April 2011, when he replaced Kurt Masur on short notice in what The New York Times called "a smoldering performance" of Sofia Gubaidulina's *Two Paths: A dedication to Mary and Martha* for two violas and orchestra.

Recent engagements include the Cape Town Philharmonic, Lodz Philharmonic, Poland, Kaohsiung Symphony, Taiwan, Princeton Symphony, the Chautauqua Music Festival, and the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival. Upcoming return engagements include the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, residencies with the DePauland Bloomington (Indiana) University Symphony Orchestras, the OFUNAM Symphony Orchestra of Mexico City and Nurnberger Symphoniker, as well as debuts with Symphonia of Syracuse and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

#### **About Opera Quest Northwest**

The mission of the non-profit Opera Quest Northwest is “to educate, enrich and instill a love of music in the children of our region by introducing them to opera through a lively production that blends classic opera excerpts with a humorous, interactive script.” The performers—five young professional singers and a pianist—are also educators by nature and training. They have performed their show “Opera the Great” for thousands of elementary school students in several SW Washington districts, at little or no cost to the school. (For details, visit [www.operaquestnw.org](http://www.operaquestnw.org).)

#### **About The VSO**

World-renowned Maestro Salvador Brotons is now entering 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](http://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](http://www.vancouversymphony.org)**