



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Igor Shakhman
(360) 735-7278

**VSO LAUNCHES 37TH SEASON AUGUST 6 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 2015-2016 season with the return of a family-friendly free outdoor concert in downtown Vancouver's famed Esther Short Park band shell on Thursday, August 6 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 Nir Kabaretti and selections with members of Opera Quest Northwest. The master of ceremonies will be OPB's April Baer.

Selections to be performed will include highlights from legendary operas such as *The Barber of Seville* by Rossini, *Carmen* by Bizet, *La Boheme* by Puccini, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Faust* by Gounod, *Cavalleria Rusticana* by Mascagni and *The Magic Flute* by Mozart. The second half will feature a selection of symphonic dances, including *Polovetsian Dances* by Borodin, *Slavonic Dance No. 8* by Dvořák, *Hungarian Dance No. 5* by Brahms, *Ritual Fire Dance* from "El Amor Brujo" by de Falla, *Blue Danube Waltz* by Strauss and *Waltz of the Flowers* by Tchaikovsky.

Also returning this year will be the Beacock Music instrumental "Petting Zoo" where all 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 Christensen. Other sponsors include Anne Bardacke and David Wolf and the City of Vancouver. Major support comes from Oregon Public Broadcasting and Beacock Music.

This is the third consecutive summer that The VSO has presented a free concert in Esther Short Park. It is the fifth of six summer offerings in the park by the City of Vancouver on Thursday nights, starting July 9, and features a wide variety of concerts from pop to rock to classical. The entire summer series is underwritten by Riverview Community Bank, Gaynors Automotive and Humana.

About Nir Kabaretti

Internationally acclaimed conductor, Nir Kabaretti, has been recently appointed Music Director of the South West Florida Symphony, while continuing his tenure as music and artistic director of the Santa Barbara Symphony in Santa Barbara, California. Described as "a conductor with immense musicality and warm personality" by Maestro Zubin Mehta, Kabaretti has earned an impressive reputation across continents for his command of a vast symphonic and operatic repertoire, and his profound knowledge of and sensitivity to the music he conducts

About Opera Quest Northwest

The mission of 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 all educators by nature, training and profession. Over the past three years they have performed “Opera the Great” throughout Vancouver’s Evergreen School District and in other venues with the goal of bringing the program to every school in Clark County, and beyond. Performers include Amy Cole, soprano; ChristyAnne Ford, mezzo soprano; Bruce Kyte, baritone; David Warner, tenor; Patrick Scofield, bass and Kathryn Hobbie, accompanist.

About The VSO

World-renowned Maestro Salvador Brotons is now entering 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 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.

THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PO Box 525 Vancouver, WA 98666-0525 Phone (360) 735-7278
Fax: (360) 906-0355 www.vancouversymphony.org