



THE VANCOUVER
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SALVADOR BROTONS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Photos available upon request

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CLARK COUNTY GETS “MOONSTRUCK IN VIENNA” AT VSO’S GLITTERING GALA SEPTEMBER 24TH

All Classical Portland’s Suzanne Nance to Host Event

(Vancouver, WA) The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Launches its 38th concert season with “Moonstruck in Vienna,” the 2016 Annual Gala and Fundraiser at the Clark County Event Center on Saturday, September 24th at 5:30pm.

This year’s dinner and fundraising Gala event will showcase The VSO’s cultural impact as the premiere musical arts organization in SW Washington and will feature a live orchestra comprised of VSO musicians. Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be All Classical Portland’s [Suzanne Nance](#). Cocktails and silent auction will be from 5:30 to 7pm with dinner and festivities beginning at 7pm. Ballroom dancing will accompany live orchestra music throughout the evening. Lauren Yoon, one of the three Gold Medalists in The VSO’s 2016 Young Artists Competition, will perform.

In addition to a sumptuous Austrian-inspired dinner crafted by award-winning chef [John Paulk](#) of Portland’s Mezzaluna Fine Catering, attendees will be treated to a decadent hand-made boxed Moonstruck Chocolate truffle, graciously presented by the VSO’s event partner, Portland chocolatier [Moonstruck Chocolate Co.](#)

The highlight of the evening will be the cultural trip of a lifetime -- a [Classical River Cruise & Concert Series](#) for two, presented by Special Travel International. Renowned impresario and raconteur George Zukerman has orchestrated a glorious music cruise in April and May 2017 through the famed wine regions of the Douro River from Lisbon to Madrid. This 12-night musical journey includes 10 exceptional classical concerts both on board the luxury ship *Amavida* and in some of the great performance halls of Portugal and Spain.

Tickets for “Moonstruck In Vienna” are one sale now at vancouversymphony.org or by calling 360.735.7278. Early Bird tickets can be purchased for \$100 until September 1st with regular tickets starting at \$125 thereafter. Seating is limited. <http://vancouversymphony.org/2016Gala.php>

About All Classical Portland’s Suzanne Nance

Proclaimed the “Queen of Classical” by Maine’s *Portland Press Herald*, Nance is an award-winning broadcaster, soprano, actor and arts ambassador who has produced and hosted dozens of radio and TV programs and documentaries. She most recently produced and hosted the afternoon drive-time

radio show on 98.7FM WFMT Chicago in addition to her work as co-producer and host of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's internationally syndicated broadcast series. Nance was the music director and morning host for MPBN where she created, produced and hosted the Emmy-award winning series *MainArts!* Ms. Nance is a frequent guest lecturer and writer about music and an active arts ambassador.

About Chef John Paulk

John Paulk established Mezzaluna Fine Catering in 2004, and it has grown into an exclusive, award-winner on the Portland culinary scene. His client list includes Nike, OPB, MTV, American Idol, Yahoo co-founder Brian Gottlieb, and many more. Chef John graduated Summa Cum Laude from Le Cordon Bleu and was awarded a highest honors medal and the Diplome Le Cordon Bleu from Academie D'Art Culinaire de Paris. He regularly appears on KATU's *AM Northwest* and KOIN's *Studio 6* program. In 2015 Chef John appeared on the Food Network's number one-rated competition show, *Cutthroat Kitchen* where he placed second.

About Lauren Yoon

The 17 year-old Lauren was among 60 finalists competing for scholarships in the VSO's 2016 Young Artists Competition in January. She was awarded top honors alongside fellow Gold Medalists Anthony Zheng and Richard Lu. All three winners performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Salvador Brotons before a sold-out crowd in April at Skyview Concert Hall. Lauren was recently accepted into the prestigious Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles, and will be flying up to Washington State for her special appearance at the Gala on the 24th.

About The VSO

Now in its 38th season, 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, 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.

About Our Sponsors

The VSO is generously supported by All Classical Portland, Oregon Public Broadcasting, The Community Foundation of SW Washington, The Columbian and Michelle's Pianos.

Tickets for all VSO symphony concerts, the VSO Chamber Series and all VSO events are on sale now at (360) 735-7278 or www.vancouversymphony.org.

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