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**2013-2014 VSO OPENS 35TH SEASON WITH
ALL-TCHAIKOVSKY CONCERTS SEPTEMBER 21 & 22**

Maestro Brotons returns for his 23rd season to begin "Season of Stars"

(Vancouver, WA) The VSO's 35th "Season of Stars" opens with an All-Tchaikovsky concert featuring three shining voices and a really explosive finish. Maestro Salvador Brotons returns for his 23rd consecutive season as conductor and artistic director Saturday, September 21 at 3 pm and Sunday, September 22 at 7 pm at Skyview Concert Hall in Vancouver.

The season opens with Tchaikovsky's legendary 1879 lyric opera *Eugene Onegin*, featuring Lucas Meachem as Onegin, soprano Anna Kazakova as Tatyana and mezzo soprano Beth Madsen Bradford as Filipovna. Following *Onegin* is the 1876 masterpiece, *Marche Slave* and the concert ends with the iconic *1812 Overture* with the ultimate in audience participation when attendees get to provide some "pop" during the overture's big finish.

Baritone Lucas Meachem has established himself as an internationally sought-after performer whose compelling lyric baritone voice and dramatic interpretations have led him to some of the world's most important stages. Recently, he has sung with operas in Chicago, San Francisco, London, San Diego and in New York at the Metropolitan Opera. Mr. Meachem's exclusive representation is by Opus 3 Artists.

Anna Kazakova divides her time between Moscow and Portland, and regularly performs with area orchestras. She was a soloist at the Moscow State Philharmonic Society and later at the Bolshoi Theater and the Moscow Stanislavski Academic Musical Theater. She is currently the leading soloist at the Helicon opera theater in Moscow.

Mezzo soprano Beth Madsen Bradford has been praised by critics for her "lovely, vibrant tone" and "gutsy" portrayals of some of opera's greatest characters. She resides in Portland and performs regularly along the West Coast.

About The VSO

Entering its 35th 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 and various family-styled special events and performances. With a full-sized professional orchestra of over 70 core members, many of whom are teachers in our school districts and beyond, the orchestra provides our

region with a multi-concert classical season every year. The VSO performs at Skyview Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver. Season support for The VSO is provided by The Firstenburg Foundation, The Columbian and All Classical Portland. Tickets for all VSO symphony concerts, the VSO Chamber Series and all VSO events are on sale at (360) 735-7278 or www.vancouverSymphony.org.

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