



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA **RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM** **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

(Vancouver, WA) **The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra** is the recipient of a 2015 Arts Engagement in American Communities (AEAC) grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, it was announced today by VSO Executive Director Igor Shakhman. This \$10,000 NEA grant will be matched by an equal amount for a combined amount of \$20,000 to help expand The VSO's audience through creative programming.

“The Vancouver Symphony is honored to receive this grant from the NEA for a second straight year,” said Dr. Shakhman. “This shows incredible faith in our mission and will continue to help provide us with the means to bring in accomplished and unique performers.”

The Vancouver Symphony begins its 36th season with a salute to the Power of Water at Skyview Concert Hall on Saturday, October 4 at 3 pm and Sunday, October 5 at 7 pm. Maestro Salvador Brotons returns for his 24th consecutive season as music director and conductor, leading the orchestra in four memorable pieces with a similar theme—*Mississippi Suite* by Grofe, *The Moldau* by Smetana, *The Blue Danube* by Strauss and *La Mer* by Debussy.

Following October's opening concerts will be five more symphony offerings through May 2015, six VSO Chamber Series concerts at the downtown Kiggins Theatre and the annual Big Horn Brass Holiday Concert. Complete information on the season schedule and ticket information is at vancouversymphony.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. See more at arts.gov.

About The VSO

Now in its 36th 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

Skew Concert Hall, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver. Season support for The VSO is provided by NW Equity Partners LLC, All Classical Portland, *The Columbian* and 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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