



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HARMONICA VIRTUOSO JOE POWERS BRINGS
PASSION FOR TANGO TO VSO AUDIENCES NOV 2 & 3**

Concert will marry artist's consummate skill with a love of Argentina

(Vancouver, WA) In what promises to be one of the most unique concerts in recent VSO history, November guest artist Joe Powers brings his consummate skill as a harmonicist, blended with his love of the tango and his ability to play in virtually any style to Vancouver. He brings a Northwest style and Argentinian flair to The VSO's "Season of Stars" at our concerts on Saturday, November 2nd at 3pm and Sunday, November 3rd at 7 pm at Skyview Concert Hall in Vancouver. Salvador Brotons conducts.

Mr. Powers will perform Gordon Jacob's *Five Pieces for Harmonica and Orchestra* as well as Astor Piazzolla's *Libertango*.

A Portland-based award-winning harmonica virtuoso, Joe Powers is known throughout the world as a premier tango artist, yet his musical interests also include Jazz-Fusion, Classical, Blues, Pop-Rock, Brazilian, Hip-Hop, Latin, New Age, World Traditions, and more. He continues to perform and teach throughout North and South America, Europe, Scandinavia, Japan and South Korea, appearing on TV and Radio, and collaborating with renowned artists and ensembles as diverse as the countries he visits.

"I really got into tango dancing when I attended the University of Oregon, where I studied music, and decided that I wanted to live in Argentina after graduating," he says, "So I studied Spanish and went down there, stayed for a year and a half, dancing most every day."

His passion for the tango and unparalleled skill has taken him around the world, winning performance awards from Belgium to Japan. During the past decade, he has become one of the world's best diatonic and chromatic harmonica players, conquering the worlds of blues, jazz, classical and tango.

"We are thrilled to have a guest artist the caliber of Joe Powers," said VSO Executive Director Igor Shakhman. "His versatility and intensity are well known and we look forward to his debut with The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra."

On stage he has been featured with groups as varied as Pink Martini, British pop icon Jamie Cullum, French Blues legend J.J. Milteau, and Canadian Boogie Woogie pianist Michael Kaeshammer. His debut Solo Album, "Amor de Tango" was recorded in Buenos Aires in 2007 and features members of the famed Leopoldo Federico Tango Orchestra, including Latin Grammy nominee Nicolas Ledesma on piano. Joe's latest CD, "Just Duet!" (2012) is an eclectic musical journey from Tango, Brazilian Choro, traditional Chinese and Japanese music to classical music, jazz and more.

About Maestro Salvador Brotons

Now in his 23rd season as music director and conductor of The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, musicians and classical music enthusiasts still delight in having Dr. Brotons lead them. Born into a family of musicians, he began studying flute at an early age with his father, and continued his studies at the Barcelona Conservatory of Music, where he excelled in flute, composition and orchestra conducting. In 1985, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, and moved to the United States to earn a Doctorate in Music from Florida State University.

In addition to his 23 seasons at The VSO, he was also the conductor and music director of the Vallès Symphony Orchestra in Barcelona and is currently conductor and music director of the Balearic Islands Symphony Orchestra in Palma de Mallorca as well as the Orquestra Simfònica de Balears Ciutat de Palma. He is on the faculty of the Escola Superior de Música de Barcelona, where he teaches orchestra conducting and composition. Maestro Brotons has been a guest conductor with many orchestras around the world, including those in Prague, South Africa, Israel, Moscow, Venezuela, Uruguay, Italy, Belgium and Santa Barbara. Dr. Brotons resides in Barcelona with his wife, Dr. Melissa Brotons, the renowned director of the Interuniversity Master Program in Music Therapy in Barcelona. Their daughter, Clara, is a college student in New York.

About The VSO

Now in 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 Family, All Classical Portland and The Columbian. 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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