



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
HONORED WITH \$20,000 MATCHING GRANT
FROM NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Grant helps to expand audience through creative programming

(Vancouver, WA) **The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra** has received a \$20,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, it was announced by the NEA and VSO Executive Director Igor Shakhman. The grant is presented to help expand The VSO's audience through creative programming, and places it in an elite company of a limited number of orchestras around the country that get such an honor.

“This year’s “Season of Stars” has been a turning point in our 35 year history as we’re able to expand our audience with our strongest roster of guest artists ever,” said Dr. Shakhman. “This is the first time in our history that the orchestra was awarded this grant and it is a huge honor. We thank the NEA for providing us with the means to bring in accomplished and unique performers.”

Maestro Salvador Brotons is in his 23rd consecutive season as music director and conductor, returning to Skyview Concert Hall on Saturday, November 2 at 3 pm and Sunday, November 3 at 7 pm as he welcomes international harmonica virtuoso Joe Powers, playing *Five Pieces* by Gordon Jacob and *Libertango* by Astor Piazzolla. In addition, the concert features Dvořák’s Symphony No.6.

Following November's concerts will be four more symphony offerings through May 2014, five additional VSO Chamber Series concerts at the downtown Kiggins Theatre and the annual Big Horn Brass Holiday Concert at LifePoint Church in Vancouver. 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 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 Sterling Bank and All Classical 89.9. 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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