



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Igor Shakhman

(360) 735-7278

**RENOWNED SOPRANO CHRISTINA KOWALSKI SINGS WITH  
VSO CHAMBER SERIES JANUARY 12, 2014**

*“A Bright New Year” also features VSO members in violin and flute quartet*

(Vancouver, WA) The 2013-2014 **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series** continues to shine at the Kiggins Theatre with its third concert, “A Bright New Year” on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 2 pm.

At the concert, artists will include renowned soprano Christina Kowalski, making her second appearance with the Series; Dr. Michael C. Liu, piano; VSO principal clarinet Dr. Igor Shakhman and a string and flute quartet comprised of VSO concertmaster Eva Richey, violin; Kirsten Norvell, violin; Ashley Peck, cello and Rachel Rencher, flute. Also performing will be Betsy Goy, cello.

The concert will include:

*Salut d'Amour, op.12* by Elgar by the string and flute quartet and *Flute Quartet No.1 in*

*D major, K.285* by Mozart by the string and flute quartet

*Six German Songs for Voice, Piano, and Clarinet* by Louis Spohr and *Ah je ris de me voir*

(“The Jewel Song”) Aria from *Faust* by Charles-François Gounod

and the *Rusalka* Aria by Antonín Dvořák both featuring Ms. Kowalski and Dr. Liu

*Dream with Me* (from the musical *Peter Pan*) by Leonard Bernstein featuring

Ms. Kowalski, Dr. Liu and Ms. Goy

Christina Kowalski, a native of Germany, last sang with The VSO Chamber Series last season. A graduate in music and drama from the Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt, Ms. Kowalski has been active in opera and concert music in both Europe and the United States. She has appeared in productions by the Frankfurt Opera Studio, Stadt-Theater Schiffenberg in Giessen, Orchester Gesellschaft in Frankfurt, and the Stadttheater in Eisenach. In the United States, Ms. Kowalski made her debut as Marzelline in Beethoven’s *Fidelio* at the Mark Theater in Portland. She has been in five productions with the Portland Opera and has performed in the Portland Summer Fest as well as Opera Coeur d’Alene. Her diverse repertoire includes roles in full productions of operas by Monteverdi, Beethoven, Puccini, Mozart, Verdi, Donizetti, Stravinsky, Britten, and Menotti. In both 2001 and 2002 she took first prize in the Oregon District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

The January concert provides the perfect opportunity for concert attendees to not only watch a fabulous staging in comfortable surroundings, but also enjoy wine, soft drinks and refreshments at the newly-renovated Kiggins. Immediately following the concert, a food and drink reception will be held next door to the theatre at Niche—a wine and art bar, which is open to all concert attendees.

The Kiggins Theater, located at 1101 Main Street in downtown Vancouver, will house the third season of The VSO's Chamber Music Series. The collaboration with the Kiggins is part of the City's substantial effort to revitalize downtown Vancouver.

### **Upcoming VSO Chamber Series Concerts**

Sunday, March 16th, 2014 at 2 pm    *Easter Parade*  
Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 2 pm     *Signs of Spring*  
Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 2 pm      *Sunbreaks*

### **About the Kiggins Theater**

Primarily known as a movie theater, the Kiggins was designed in the Art Deco style by architect Day Walter Hilborn and named for former Vancouver mayor and businessman John P. Kiggins. Opened in 1936, the theater was renovated and reopened in September 2011. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. The theatre is owned and operated by Dan Wyatt.

### **About The VSO Chamber Series**

Entering its third season, this series was created by Dr. Michael C. Liu, the VSO pianist and board member and aims to present great musicians playing in a very intimate setting. The content of each concert is unique, and most of the participating musicians are members of The Vancouver Symphony.

### **About The VSO**

Acclaimed Maestro Salvador Brotons is now in his 23rd season of leading the professional orchestra of over 70 core members. For 35 seasons 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. 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. 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](http://www.vancouversymphony.org).

**THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
PO Box 525    Vancouver, WA 98666-0525  
Phone (360) 735-7278 Fax: (360) 906-0355  
[www.vancouversymphony.org](http://www.vancouversymphony.org)