



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 31, 2014

Contact: Igor Shakhman

(360) 735-7278

**DAZZLING SOPRANO CHRISTINA KOWALSKI**  
**AND BRAHMS SYMPHONY NO. 3 HIGHLIGHT**  
**JANUARY 24 & 25 CONCERTS**

*Salvador Brotons conducts selections from Gershwin, Wagner and Brahms*

(Vancouver, WA) The most romantic concerts of **The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's** 36<sup>th</sup> season arrive in January combining the fire of Gershwin with the passion of a new love and warmth of a Brahms classic. Our first concerts of 2015 burst forth January 24 & 25 on the stage of Skyview Concert Hall with Spinto Soprano Christina Kowalski as guest artist and Maestro Brotons conducting.

The concerts begin with George Gershwin's spicy classic *Cuban Overture*, followed by Northwest favorite soprano Christina Kowalski singing Wagner's romantic *Wesendonck-Lieder*. The entire second half is dedicated to the lyrical and sentimental Brahms 1883 Symphony No. 3, arguably the most finely crafted of his symphonies, which goes some way towards explaining its enduring popularity today. Symphony No. 3 is filled with conflicts and warm resolutions, turbulence and gentle sentiment, desolation and geniality and ends with a hyper-personal vision of twilight serenity.

Concert times are 3 pm on Saturday, January 24 at 3 pm and Sunday, January 25 at 7 pm. Skyview Concert Hall is located at 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver.

Tickets to these concerts, as well as all VSO performances are available now at [vancouversymphony.org](http://vancouversymphony.org) or by calling (360) 735-7278.

The VSO thanks its partners, NW Equity Holdings LLC, The Columbian and All Classical Portland for their season support. Additional support is provided by Oregon Public Broadcasting.

**About Christina Kowalski**

A native of Germany, she earned her Master's Degree in Music and Drama from the Hochschule für Musik und Kunst in Frankfurt am Main. Ms. Kowalski appeared in productions of the Frankfurt Opera Studio as the Governess in *Turn of the Screw* and *Parascha* in Stravinsky's *Mavra*. She toured with Febi Armonici under Maestro Michael Schneider throughout Germany and appeared as Amore in *Poppea* at the Stadttheater Eisenach and the Berlin Philharmonic. Ms. Kowalski held an all-Schubert Recital in Vienna, and was a member of the Lied-Klasse of Professor Charles Spencer in Frankfurt, Kammer Saengerin Gundula Janowitz in Vienna and Ms. Elena Lazarska in Salzburg.

### **About Maestro Brotons**

What more can be written about the remarkable career of Dr. Salvador Brotons? In his 24th 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. From 1977 to 1985 he was principal flute in the Orchestra of the Liceu in Barcelona, and a member of the Orquestra Citutat de Barcelona. 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 2002, he received the Florida State University Alumni Award for his professional achievements.

Dr. Brotons resides in Barcelona with his wife, Dr. Melissa Brotons, renowned music therapist and director of the Interuniversity Master Program in Music Therapy in Barcelona. Their daughter, Clara, is a college student in New York.

### **About The VSO**

For 36 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 NW Equity Holdings LLC, All Classical Portland, The Columbian and OPB. Additional support for the orchestra is provided by 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](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)**