Spanish-style symphony

The Vancouver Symphony will bring a dose of Spanish culture to Clark Concert Hall this weekend. The Cobia de Cámara de Catalunya from Barcelona, Spain, will team up with the Vancouver Symphony to perform the U.S. premiere of a work by the orchestra’s conductor and music director, Salvador Brotons. The collaboration agrees Brotons’ 50th birthday and promises to be a crowd pleaser during the two Memorial Day weekend concerts.

The Cobia ensemble is well-known in Spain for its performances of traditional music from the Catalonian region. Cobia groups — which typically consist of one trombone, two trumpets, two flugelhorns (called fliscornas), two double oboes (called flutes), two bassoons, two horns, a triangle, a drum, and a small drum (called a tambour) — often play in outdoor venues.

The grow up with this folk music,” Brotons said. “When people hear Cobia music, they say it’s different, which is a Catalanian dance. It’s very lively. So, that inspired me to write music for a Cobia ensemble and orchestra.”

Entitled “Catalanish Concerto,” Brotons’ piece includes solo passages for the tenor. For the Vancouver Symphony concert, these solos will be played by Jordi Molina, who has recorded more than 70 albums as a tenor performer in several musical genres and performed in the world premiere of Brotons’ piece in 2006 in Barcelona.

The concert will open with Leonard Bernstein’s Symphony No. 1, which is also known as the “Jewish” symphony. Inspired by the Biblical story of the prophet Jeremiahs Lamentations, Bernstein wrote this work in 1942, when he was only 23 years old. At that young age, he had already written some songs and chamber works, as well as incidental music for two theatrical productions. With his first symphony, Bernstein achieved critical and popular acclaim after it was performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony and then the New York Philharmonic.

Bernstein’s work contains three movements, and the final one includes excerpts from the “Book of Lamentations.” This text, in Hebrew, will be sung by Soprano Sari Lederer, who has performed in the Portland Symphony’s production of “La Calzada” and sang Mahler’s “Songs of a Wayfarer” with the Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra in the 2000 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

By JAMES RASH
for The Columbian

Vancouver Symphony joins performers from Spain on U.S. premiere of piece by conductor Brotons

Cobia de Cámara de Catalunya will perform with the Vancouver Symphony during its two Memorial Day weekend concerts.

If you go
- **What:** Vancouver Symphony plays works by Leonard Bernstein and Salvador Brotons
- **When:** 8 p.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday
- **Where:** Svetlov Concert Hall, 1000 N.W. 19th St., Vancouver
- **Cost:** $35, $25 for seniors and $15 for students
- **Information:** 503-798-7728 or vancouver symphony.org

Angela Niederloh will sing excerpts from “Book of Lamentations.”

**Spanish-style symphony**

Salvador Brotons’ “Catalanish Concerto” will have its U.S. premiere when it’s performed by the Vancouver Symphony Saturday and Sunday.

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If you go

- **What:** Clark College Orchestra concert with guest conductor Josep Ferré and guest pianist Antonio Di Cristofano.
- **When:** 7:30 p.m. June 7.
- **Where:** Royal Durst Theatre at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 301 Main St. Vancouver.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **Information:** 360-992-2262 or 360-992-2195.

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**Symphony:**

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Donald Appert, the music director and conductor of the Clark College Orchestra, said Ferré will be coming to Clark County as part of an exchange. Appert conducted Ferré’s orchestra in Spain last fall.

“It’s really terrific for the students to get experience with another professional conductor,” Appert said. “Different styles help to broaden their experience.”

The June 7 concert will feature Italian pianist Antonio Di Cristofano, who will perform the U.S. premiere of Domenico Bartolucci’s Piano Concerto. Bartolucci was a composer at the Vatican and has written a lot of film music.

The orchestra will also play music from Catalonia and the “Ritual Fire Dance” by Manuel de Falla.

Simfonica Sant Cugat.

- **What:** Concert featuring music from Catalonia.
- **Information:** 360-992-2262 or 360-992-2195.