



Jordi Molina, who plays the tenora, will play the solo passages in "Catalanish Concerto."



PAUL QUACKENBUSH

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

Spanish-style symphony

By JAMES BASH
for *The Columbian*

The Vancouver Symphony will bring a dose of Spanish culture to Clark County this weekend. The Cobla de Cambra 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 accents Brotons' 50th birthday and promises to be a crowd pleaser during the two Memorial Day weekend concerts.

The Cobla ensemble is well-known in Spain for its performances of traditional music from the Catalan region. Cobla groups — which typically consist of one trombone, two trumpets, two flugelhorns (called fiscorns), two alto oboes (called tibles), two tenor oboes (called tenora), a three-holed flute (called a flaboil), and a small drum (called a tambori) — often play outdoors in town squares during the summer.

"I grew up with this folk music," Brotons said. "When people hear Cobla music, they dance the sardana, which is a Catalanian dance. It's very lively music. So, that inspired me to write music for a Cobla ensemble and orchestra."

Entitled "Catalanish Concerto," Brotons' piece includes solo passages for the tenora. For the Vancouver Symphony concert, these solos will be played by Jordi Molina, who has recorded more than 70 albums as a tenora 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 "Jeremiah" symphony. Inspired by the Biblical story of the prophet Jeremiah's 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 excerpted text from the "Book of Lamentations." This text, in Hebrew, will be sung by mezzo-soprano Angela Niederloh, who most recently appeared in Portland Opera's production of "La Calisto" and sang Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer" with the Portland Columbia Symphony. A finalist in the 2000 Metropolitan Opera National Council Audi-

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



RICH BRASE

Cobla de Cambra 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:** 3 p.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday.
- **Where:** Skyview Concert Hall, 1300 N.W. 139th St., Vancouver.
- **Cost:** \$28, \$23 for seniors and \$7 for students.
- **Information:** 360-735-7278 or vancouversymphony.org.



Angela Niederloh will sing excerpts from "Book of Lamentations."

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, 3101 Main St. Vancouver.

■ **Cost:** Free.

■ **Information:** 360-992-2262 or 360-992-2195.

Symphony:

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tions, Niederloh currently teaches voice at Portland State University and Pacific University. She will appear again with Portland Opera in its production of Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutti" in February 2010.

A second opportunity to soak up Spanish culture in Clark County comes in June.

The Clark College Orchestra will feature guest conductor Josep Ferré, who is the music director of an orchestra based in Barcelona called Orquestra

Simfonica Sant Cugat.

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.