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Notes from editor (not for publication):

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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 VSO spreads holiday cheer with brass quintet,
2 Counterpoint chorus in Grafton, Manchester

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) invites
6 audiences ~~across the state~~ to celebrate the holiday season with its
7 ~~beloved~~ annual Brass Quintet and Counterpoint Chorus
8 ~~H~~oliday Concert" tour, which will be visiting Warren,
9 Newport, Grafton, and Manchester between Dec. 11–and 14.

10 Conducted by Nathaniel G. Lew, this ~~cherished~~ VSO
11 tradition brings together ~~festive~~ brass and choral music in a ~~joyful~~

12 | program featuring traditional carols, contemporary works, and a
13 | world premiere by a Vermont high school composer.

14 | This year's performances include ~~timeless~~ carols and ~~a~~
15 | ~~focuses~~ on compositions by Vermont composer Erik Nielsen
16 | alongside works of Moses Hogan for chorus, and Tylman Susato
17 | and Anne McGinty for brass.

18 | "The Brass Quintet and Counterpoint Chorus tour
19 | remains one of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra's beloved and
20 | enduring holiday traditions," said VSO Executive Director Elise
21 | Brunelle in a news release. "Each year, this program unites
22 | Vermonters across communities and generations, inviting them to
23 | share in the warmth, beauty, and joy that live music brings during
24 | the holiday season."

25 | In collaboration with Music-COMP [\(Composition](#)
26 | [Mentoring Program\)](#), the VSO ~~proudly~~ showcases new works by
27 | emerging Vermont composers to highlight the creativity and
28 | talent of young musicians across the state. This year's program
29 | features a world premiere by Sam Acus, a Mount Mansfield
30 | Union High School student, multi-instrumentalist, and Music-
31 | COMP composer. A lifelong musician headed to Berklee College
32 | of Music in Boston next year to study jazz mandolin, Acus
33 | explores the topic of climate change and collective hope in his
34 | composition.

35 | "My piece, 'A Warm Winter,' is about climate change
36 | and all the scary stuff going on in the world today — but more
37 | than that, it's about hope. It's a call to action. I want people to
38 | remember that we can fix things if we work together," said Acus.
39 | "I believe deeply in the power of music to change the world and
40 | to heal people. This piece helped me process my own emotions
41 | about climate change, and I hope it helps others feel and act,
42 | too."

43 | Concerts in southern Vermont will take place on
44 | Saturday, Dec. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Grafton Community
45 | Church (free admission with advanced registration required;
46 | seating limited) and Sunday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 6 p.m. at First

47 Congregational Church in Manchester (free for ages 18 and
48 under, \$24 for ages 65+, and \$28 for ages 19–64, plus tax/fees).
49 For more information and to reserve tickets, visit vso.org.

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