BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
APPOINTS ANDRIS POGA AS NEW ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

MR. POGA TO SHARE ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR DUTIES
WITH MARCELO LEHNINGER, AN ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR WITH THE
ORCHESTRA SINCE 2010

The Boston Symphony Orchestra has appointed Andris Poga as the orchestra’s new assistant conductor beginning with the 2012-13 season for a two-year term. Mr. Poga joins the members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for his first podium appearance on April 18-23 to conductor Britten’s The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra on a program featuring each individual section of the orchestra. He will then make his full concert debut at Tanglewood in 2013 and his subscription series debut during the 2013-14 season.

Mr. Poga will share assistant conductor duties with Marcelo Lehninger, who was appointed an assistant conductor in 2010. Mr. Lehninger will lead the BSO this season, October 4-9, in works of Tchaikovsky and Dvořák, as well as Bernstein’s Serenade (after Plato’s Symposium) for violin and orchestra, with soloist Joshua Bell (October 4-6) and Schulhoff’s Concerto for String Quartet and Wind Orchestra with the Hawthorne String Quartet (October 9), following highly successful performances with the orchestra at Symphony Hall (October 21-26, 2010; March 3-8, 2011; January 4-7, 2012; February 21, 2012), Carnegie Hall (March 15, 2011), and Tanglewood (July 16 and 27, 2012). Mr. Lehninger was also recently named music director of the New West Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles and will open their 2012-13 season on Friday, September 28, 2012.

ANDRIS POGA

Andris Poga graduated from the Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music in 2004 with a degree in conducting. He also studied philosophy at the University of Latvia, and from 2004 to 2005 studied conducting with Uros Lajovic at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts. While still a student, he took part in the master classes of conductors including Mariss Jansons, Seiji Ozawa, and Leif Segerstam.

Since 2007, he has been a regular conductor of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra and has led performances of Beethoven, Brahms, and Mahler symphonies, as well as works by Weber, Richard Strauss, Hindemith, Messiaen, and Alban Berg, among others.
He was appointed music director and chief conductor of the Riga Professional Symphonic Band and held this position from 2007-2010. Mr. Poga founded the Konsonanse Chamber Orchestra and has conducted concert tours in Latvia, Germany, Finland, and Spain.

Winner of the Latvia Great Music Award in 2007, he was also awarded First Prize in the 2010 Evgeny Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Montpellier. Since then, he has conducted Orchestre National de Bordeaux, Orchestre National de Montpellier, Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire at the “La Folle Journée” Festival, and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. He was the assistant to Maestro Myung-Whun Chung for a concert of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France in October 2010.

His engagements for the 2011-12 season included a tour with the Orchestre de Rouen; concerts with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Latvian National Opera, Israel Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National de Lille, Orchestre National de Montpellier and Boris Berezovsky, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, Orchestre National de Bordeaux, and Orchestre de Paris; and a tour of Japan with the Sendai Philharmonic, the New Japan Philharmonic, and the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra.

Andris Poga became assistant conductor to Paavo Järvi at the Orchestre de Paris in 2011, and assumes the role of assistant conductor of the BSO at the beginning of the 2012-13 season. He will lead the orchestra in programs during the Boston Symphony’s subscription season at Symphony Hall and during the Tanglewood Music Festival.

MARCELO LEHNINGER
Born in Brazil, Marcelo Lehninger was appointed assistant conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra by James Levine; he occupies the BSO’s Anna E. Finnerty Chair, endowed in perpetuity. He was recently named as music director of the New West Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles and will open their 2012-13 season on Friday, September 28, 2012.

Mr. Lehninger made his BSO debut in October 2010 and in March 2011 substituted for Mr. Levine at short notice to conduct the first performances of Harrison Birtwistle’s BSO-commissioned Violin Concerto with soloist Christian Tetzlaff in Boston and at New York’s Carnegie Hall. He led two subscription programs with the BSO during the 2011-12 season, including substituting for Andris Nelsons to conduct the U.S. premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage’s trumpet concerto From the Wreckage with soloist Håkan Hardenberger. At Tanglewood this past summer he made his debut with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra in Ozawa Hall and conducted the BSO and Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire in the Koussevitzky Music Shed.

He has served as cover conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra’s subscription concerts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and as associate conductor of the Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra in Brazil. In 2007-08 he was music advisor of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, of which Plácido Domingo is artistic advisor. Mr. Lehninger placed second in the First Eleazar de Carvalho National Conducting Competition in Rio de Janeiro in 2001, subsequently leading all of the top orchestras in Brazil. In the United States he has led the Boston, Houston, National, New West, Hartford, Fairfax, and Jacksonville symphony orchestras; he made his Canadian debut in 2011 with the Hamilton Philharmonic.

An alumnus of the National Conducting Institute, he made his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra in 2007 and was invited to conduct the NSO again the following year. Chosen by Kurt Masur, Marcelo Lehninger was awarded the First Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholarship sponsored by the American Friends of the Mendelssohn Foundation in 2008, spending one month as Mr. Masur’s assistant with the Orchestre National de France, the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig, and the New York Philharmonic. He participated in the 2009 Malko Competition for Young Conductors in Denmark, leading the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra at Copenhagen’s Koncerthuset; he also participated in the 2011 Bruno Walter
National Conductor Preview, conducting the Louisiana Philharmonic.

Upcoming appearances include reengagements with the New West and São Paulo State symphony orchestras and the Minas Gerais and Hamilton philharmonic orchestras, and debuts with the New Jersey and Elgin symphony orchestras. Mr. Lehninger holds a master’s degree from the Conductors Institute at New York’s Bard College, where he studied conducting under Harold Farberman and composition with Laurence Wallach. In Brazil he studied with Roberto Tibiriçá, and he has also participated in master classes with Kurt Masur, Leonard Slatkin, Marin Alsop, Moche Atzmon, and Andréas Weiss. A citizen of Brazil and Germany, Marcelo Goulart Lehninger is the son of pianist Sônia Goulart and violinist Erich Lehninger. He lives with his wife Laura and daughter Sofia in Boston.

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