STÉPHANE DENÈVE LEADS BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN PROGRAM FOCUSED ON MUSIC FROM FRANCE, INCLUDING WORKS BY BERLIOZ AND ROUSSEL, AS WELL AS SAINT-SAËNS’S PIANO NO. 5, WITH JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET AS SOLOIST

MR. DENÈVE ALSO CONDUCTS CONTEMPORARY COMPOSER JAMES MACMILLAN’S THREE INTERLUDES FROM THE SACRIFICE

Performances to take place Thursday, November 29, and Saturday, December 1, at 8 p.m., and Friday, November 30, at 1:30 p.m.; for press tickets reply to this email or call 617-638-9283

Returning to the Boston Symphony Orchestra podium for the third consecutive season, French conductor Stéphane Denève, chief conductor of the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, leads the BSO in three concerts Thursday, November 29-Saturday, December 1, in a trio of works by composers from his native country: Berlioz’s dynamic overture to the unfinished early opera Les Francs-juges, Albert Roussel’s Suite No. 2 from his 1930 ballet Bacchus et Ariane, and Saint-Saëns’s Piano Concerto No. 5, Egyptian, with fellow Frenchman Jean-Yves Thibaudet as soloist. Also on the program are the Three Interludes from The Sacrifice, Scottish contemporary composer James MacMillan’s 2006 opera.

For complete programs, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here: https://www.box.com/s/bdc46390a330b3d7eba0.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Berlioz was just 23 years old in 1826 when he began his incomplete opera Les Francs-juges (The Free Judges). Employing a libretto written by his friend Humbert Ferrand, the opera was based on true events, telling the tale of a quasi-vigilante justice system (now known as the Vehmic courts) that ruthlessly doled out death sentences in the Germanic province of Westphalia during the 14th and 15th centuries. Berlioz was similarly merciless with his opera, abandoning the project midstream and destroying most of the music. But he thought highly enough of the work’s overture to grant it clemency, and even re-used some of its energetic, inventive music in later works, including the “March to the Scaffold” movement of the Symphonie fantastique.
Saint-Saëns’s fifth and final piano concerto was written in 1896, and though it is nicknamed “Egyptian” because the composer wrote it while on vacation in Luxor, Saint-Saëns himself said the music represented an ocean voyage. The piece does have a certain exotic character, however, and legend has it that the melody at the heart of the second movement was inspired by a Nubian song the composer heard in Egypt. Albert Roussel’s 1930 ballet Bacchus et Ariane is based on the pendant to the Minotaur myth in which Ariadne, having been spurned by Theseus, takes up with the god Bacchus. Packed with gorgeous melody and driving rhythms, and expertly crafted, the Suite No. 2 represents Roussel at the height of his neoclassical powers.

The Sacrifice, by Scottish composer James MacMillan—who says he has “always been on the lookout for parallel mythic tales other than the famous Greco-Roman canon”—is based on a story from The Mabinogion, a collection of ancient Welsh romances and folktales. “The story we have culled from The Mabinogion has a timeless quality which resonates with the King Arthur story, the Fisher-King myth, and Tristan,” the composer wrote shortly before the opera’s 2007 premiere. “There is a common source to all of these tales but, because the heart of this story examines core issues of love and communal conflict, we find certain universals which are as contemporary as they are eternal.” In 2008, MacMillan extracted the three orchestral interludes presented on this program to be performed as a concert suite.

STÉPHANE DENÈVE

Stéphane Denève last led the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood on August 7, 2012, during Tanglewood on Parade and August 11, 2012, conducting the orchestra in the world premiere of André Previn’s Music for Boston, as well as Elgar’s Cello Concerto, with soloist Yo-Yo Ma, and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5. He last led the BSO at Symphony Hall February 16-18, 2012, in Ravel’s Mother Goose Suite, Stravinsky’s Concerto for Piano and Winds, with soloist Peter Serkin, and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5.

Stéphane Denève is Chief Conductor of Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra (SWR) and the former Music Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Recognized internationally for the exceptional quality of his performances and programming, he regularly appears at major concert venues with the world's leading orchestras and soloists. Recent engagements include his Carnegie Hall debut with Boston Symphony, and appearances with Chicago Symphony, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony, Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, NDR Symphony Hamburg and Swedish Radio Symphony. With the Royal Scottish National Orchestra he has performed at Europe's most prestigious festivals and venues including the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International Festival, Festival Présences, Vienna Konzerthaus, Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Théâtre des Champs-Elysées. A graduate and prize-winner of the Paris Conservatoire, Stéphane Denève began his career as Sir Georg Solti’s assistant with the Orchestre de Paris and Paris National Opera, and also assisted Georges Prêtre and Seiji Ozawa during this time. At home in a broad range of repertoire, he has a special affinity for the music of his native France, and is also a champion of new music.

JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET

Jean-Yves Thibaudet last performed with the BSO at Tanglewood on August 5, 2012, performing Saint-Saëns’s Piano Concerto No. 5, Egyptian, with conductor Lorin Maazel. His last performances with the BSO at Symphony Hall took place February 26-28, 2009, when he joined the orchestra and conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin for Liszt’s Piano Concerto No. 2.

One of today's most sought-after soloists, Jean-Yves Thibaudet has the rare ability to combine poetic musical sensibilities with dazzling technical prowess. Thibaudet’s musical depth and natural charisma have
underlined a career with global impact, including 30 years of performing around the world and over 40 recorded albums. After three striking summer appearances at Tanglewood in which he played the complete piano works of Ravel, Thibaudet began his 2011-12 schedule with a European tour with Charles Dutoit and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Thibaudet builds seasons around composers, delving into their repertoire with un-matched passion and depth. Much of the 2011-12 season was centered on Liszt, Ravel, and Saint-Saëns, and he performed the concertos of Ravel and Liszt with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and with the San Diego Symphony at its season-opening gala in October. Known for his style and elegance on and off the traditional concert stage, Thibaudet has had an impact on the world of fashion, film, and philanthropy. His concert wardrobe is by celebrated London designer Vivienne Westwood. In November 2004, Mr. Thibaudet served as president of the prestigious Hospices de Beaune, an annual charity auction in Burgundy, France. He had an onscreen cameo in the Bruce Beresford feature film on Alma Mahler entitled Bride of the Wind, and his playing is showcased throughout the movie soundtrack. Thibaudet was the soloist on the Oscar- and Golden Globe-award winning soundtrack to Universal Pictures’ Atonement and the Oscar-nominated Pride and Prejudice.

TICKET, SPONSORSHIP, AND OTHER PATRON INFORMATION

TICKET INFORMATION
Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2012-13 season are available by calling the BSO Subscription Office at 888-266-7575 or online through the BSO’s website (http://www.bso.org/subscriptions). Single tickets are priced from $30 to $124. Regular-season Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings are priced from $30 to $114; Friday afternoons are priced from $31 to $107; concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings are priced from $33 to $124. Tickets may be purchased by phone through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), online through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org), or in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston). There is a $6.25 service fee for all tickets purchased online or by phone through SymphonyCharge.

A limited number of Rush Tickets for Boston Symphony Orchestra subscription concerts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons are set aside to be sold on the day of a performance. These tickets are sold at $9 each, one to a customer, at the Symphony Hall Box Office. For Friday afternoon concerts Rush Tickets are available beginning at 10 a.m. For Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evening concerts Rush Tickets are available beginning at 5 p.m.

The BSO’s <40=$20 program allows patrons under the age of 40 to purchase tickets for $20. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis on both the orchestra and balcony levels. There is a limit of one pair per performance, but patrons may attend as many performances as desired.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra offers groups advanced ticket reservations and flexible payment options for BSO concerts at Symphony Hall. Groups of 20 or more may take advantage of ticket discounts, backstage tours, clinics, and master classes. Pre- and post-concert dining options and private function space are available. More information is available through the group sales office at groupsales@bso.org

The BSO College Card and High School Card are the best way for students and aspiring young musicians to experience the BSO on a regular basis. For only $25 (College Card) or $10 (High School Card) students can attend most BSO concerts at no additional cost by registering the card online to receive text and email notifications of real-time ticket availability.

American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, and Discover (in person or by mail) and cash (in person only) are all accepted at the Symphony Hall Box Office. Gift certificates are available in any amount and may be used toward the purchase of tickets (subject to availability) to any Boston Symphony Orchestra or Boston Pops performance at Symphony Hall or Tanglewood. Gift certificates may also be used at the Symphony Shop to purchase merchandise.
Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Massachusetts Avenue lobby or the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue. An access service center, accessible restrooms, and elevators are available inside the Cohen Wing entrance. For ticket information, call the Access Services Administrator at 617-638-9431 or TDD/TTY 617-638-9289.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AT SYMPHONY HALL

As part of the BSO’s ongoing initiative to make classical music programming and education widely available to listeners, the orchestra is offering adult educational initiatives for the 2012-2013 season.

**UnderScore Fridays** is a uniquely formatted concert series. At all Friday-evening concerts, subscribers will hear comments from the evening’s conductor, guest artists, or other important guests speaking from the stage about the program. Tickets for UnderScore Fridays range from $33 to $123.

**BSO 101: Are You Listening?** returns in 2012-2013, offering seven Wednesday-evening sessions with BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel and members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra designed to enhance your listening abilities and general appreciation of music by focusing on works from the BSO’s repertoire. No prior musical training, or attendance at any previous session, is required, since each session is self-contained. **BSO: 101: An Insider’s View** also returns in 2012-2013, offering four Tuesday-evening sessions with BSO administrative staff and musicians in discussions of such behind-the-scenes activities as program planning, auditions, and the rehearsal process, as well as player perspectives on performing with the BSO. All “BSO 101” sessions take place from 5:30-6:45pm at Symphony Hall, and each is followed by a complimentary reception. Full details of the 2012-2013 “BSO 101” schedule will be announced at a later date.

The popular **Friday Preview Talks**, during which sandwiches and beverages are available for purchase, run from 12:15pm to 12:45pm and the Symphony Hall doors open at 11:30am. Given by BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel and Assistant Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger, these informative half-hour talks incorporate recorded examples from the music to be performed.

**BSO MEDIA OFFERINGS**

The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s extensive website, [BSO.org](http://BSO.org), is the largest and most-visited orchestral website in the country, receiving approximately 7 million visitors annually and generating over $70 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is on Facebook at [Facebook.com/BostonSymphony](http://Facebook.com/BostonSymphony) and on Twitter at [Twitter.com/BostonSymphony](http://Twitter.com/BostonSymphony). Video content from the BSO is also available at [YouTube.com/BostonSymphony](http://YouTube.com/BostonSymphony).

In the fall of 2011, the BSO redesigned and updated its popular website at [BSO.org](http://BSO.org). The site’s Media Center, consolidates its numerous new media initiatives in one location. In addition to comprehensive access to all BSO, Boston Pops, Tanglewood, and Symphony Hall performance schedules, patrons have access to a number of free and paid media options. Free offerings include WGBH radio broadcast streams of select BSO, Boston Pops, and Tanglewood performances; audio concert preview podcasts; Emmy Award-winning audio and video interviews with guest artists and BSO musicians; music excerpts, of up to three minutes, highlighting upcoming programs as well as all self-produced albums by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows, and complete program notes for all performances, which can be downloaded and printed or saved offline to an e-reading device such as a Kindle or Nook.

Paid content includes digital music downloads produced and published under the BSO's music label BSO Classics and includes performances by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows. Albums available include the BSO’s and James Levine’s Grammy-winning recording of Ravel's complete *Daphnis and Chloé*, Brahms’s *A German Requiem*; the Boston Pops’ *The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers* featuring Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman, and Ed Harris, and *The Red Sox Album*; as well as the Tanglewood Festival Chorus’s 40th
Anniversary CD. The most recent album released by BSO Classics in November 2011, is the Boston Symphony Chamber Players' Profanes et Sacrées: 20th-Century French Chamber Music. During the summer of 2012, BSO Classics will be releasing 75 archive recordings from Tanglewood's storied history. These recordings will be released individually for the first 70 days of the Tanglewood season. Each release will be free to stream within the first 24 hours of release, and then available as a paid digital download after the streaming period is over. Digital music is available in standard definition MP3, and select content is also available in high definition (HD) stereo and surround formats. The Media Center can be visited by clicking on Media Center at bso.org.

In the Fall of 2012, BSO.org will also be available in a phone/mobile device format. Patrons will be able to use BSO.org Mobile to access performance schedules, purchase tickets as well as pre-performance food and beverages, download program notes, listen to radio broadcasts, music clips, and concert previews, watch video exclusives, and make donations to the BSO – all in the palm of their hand.

**RADIO BROADCASTS AND STREAMING**

BSO concerts are broadcast regularly on the stations of Classical New England, a service of WGBH. Saturday-evening concerts are broadcast live on 99.5 in Boston and 88.7 in Providence, on HD radio at 89.7 HD2, and online – both live and archived – at www.classicalnewengland.org In addition, BSO concerts are now heard throughout New England and upstate New York, on a network of stations including WFCR/Amherst MA, WAMC/Albany NY, WCNH/Concord NH, Vermont Public Radio, and the Maine Public Broadcasting Network. BSO broadcasts on Classical New England begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday nights, and are repeated at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. The full schedule is available at www.classicalnewengland.org/bso.

**FOOD SERVICES AT SYMPHONY HALL**

The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s catering partner, Boston Gourmet, offers a fresh perspective on the food and beverage options offered at Symphony Hall before concerts, during intermission, and in the popular Symphony Café. Symphony Café offers buffet-style dining from 5:30 p.m. until concert time for all evening Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts. In addition, Symphony Café is open for lunch prior to Friday-afternoon concerts. Patrons enjoy the convenience of pre-concert dining at the Café in the unique ambiance of historic Symphony Hall. The cost of dinner is $39 per person; the cost of lunch is $25. The Café is located in Higginson Hall; patrons enter through the Cohen Wing entrance on Huntington Avenue. Please call 617-638-9328 for reservations.

Additionally, appetizers will be available at the bars in Symphony Hall’s Cabot-Cahners Room and O’Block-Kay Room. Patrons can purchase appetizers at the bars or order in advance a pre-concert package that features an appetizer and half-bottle of wine and they can also take advantage of the hall-wide beverage service by purchasing beverage coupons in advance through the BSO’s website at www.bso.org/dining.

**SYMPHONY HALL SHOP AND TOURS**

The Symphony Shop, located in the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue, is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 3pm to 6pm, and from one hour before concert time through intermission. A satellite shop, located on the first-balcony level, is open only during concerts. Merchandise may also be purchased by visiting the BSO website at http://www.bso.org/shop. The shop can be reached at 617-638-9383.

The Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers offers weekly public and private tours of Symphony Hall during the BSO and Pops seasons. For more information on taking a Symphony Hall tour, please visit us at www.bso.org. You may also email bsav@bso.org, or call 617-638-9390 to confirm specific dates and times. Schedules are subject to change.

**SPONSORSHIPS**
Bank of America and EMC Corporation are proud to be the Season Sponsors of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 2012-13 season. The Fairmont Copley Plaza Boston, celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2012, together with Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, is the Official Hotel of the BSO. Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation is the Official Chauffeured Transportation Provider of the BSO.

PRESS CONTACTS:
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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2012

Thursday, November 29, 8 p.m.
Friday, November 30, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 1, 8 p.m.
Stéphane Denève, conductor
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano
BERLIOZ Overture to Les Francs-Juges
SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto No. 5, Egyptian
MacMILLAN Three Interludes from The Sacrifice
ROUSSEL Bacchus et Ariane, Suite No. 2