CONDUCTOR ANDRIS NELSONS MAKES HIS SYMPHONY HALL DEBUT WITH THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 5, LEADING TCHAIKOVSKY’S SYMPHONY NO. 5

LATVIAN VIOLINIST BAIBA SKRIDE, IN HER BSO DEBUT, JOINS NELSONS AND THE ORCHESTRA FOR A PERFORMANCE OF SHOSTAKOVICH’S VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 1

BSO WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBER: DOUBLE BASSIST THOMAS VAN DYCK JOINS THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BEGINNING WITH THESE PERFORMANCES

Performances to take place Thursday, January 31, Saturday, February 2, and Tuesday, February 5, at 8 p.m., and Friday, February 1, at 1:30 p.m.; for press tickets reply to this email or call 617-638-9286

Latvian conductor and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra music director Andris Nelsons, who made his Boston Symphony Orchestra debut with the orchestra at Carnegie Hall in 2011, makes his Symphony Hall and BSO subscription series debut in four concerts January 31-February 5, joined by the exciting young Latvian violinist Baiba Skride. Ms. Skride makes her BSO debut on the first half of the program as soloist in Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1. After intermission, the remainder of the program is devoted to Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5, the second of his final trio of well-known symphonies, all representing the composer’s musical explorations on the subject of fate.

For complete programs, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here: https://www.box.com/s/bdc46390a330b3d7e0a.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Written in the late 1940s, around the same time the composer was denounced by the Communist Party for the second time, Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1 was withheld by its composer until 1955, after Stalin’s death helped relax the constraints on artistic expression in the USSR. Unusual for a concerto in both demeanor and form, the four-movement piece is spiritually not far removed from the composer’s symphonies and string quartets. Musically unusual and far-reaching, it begins not with fanfare but rather a
ruminative Nocturne, proceeds through a bitingly intricate Scherzo and a sober Passacaglia, and concludes with a rambunctious Burlesca.

“Complete resignation before Fate”: So Tchaikovsky emblazoned the mournful, softly grieving theme that begins his Symphony No. 5 and runs through the entirety of the piece in myriad variations and moods. Like the symphonies that immediately precede and follow it in Tchaikovsky’s catalog, the Fifth gives the impression of being a raw musical testimony of the perennially distressed and depressed composer’s struggle with his own fate, or at least his own thoughts of what that fate would be. One of Tchaikovsky’s finest works, this symphony displays all of the elements that have made him an audience favorite around the world: an endless procession of memorable melodies, masterful and vivid use of the orchestra’s full color palette, and a musical language full of drama and energy.

ANDRIS NELSONS

Andris Nelsons made his BSO debut filling in for James Levine at Carnegie Hall on March 17, 2011, leading the orchestra in Mahler’s Symphony No. 9. He led the BSO most recently in summer 2012 at Tanglewood during Tanglewood’s 75th anniversary gala on July 14, and in a program on July 15 including Stravinsky’s Symphony of Psalms and Brahms’s Symphony No. 2. Mr. Nelsons was due to make his Symphony Hall debut with the BSO in January 2012; he had to cancel those performances because he and his wife were preparing for the imminent arrival of their first-born child.

Andris Nelsons is one of the most sought-after young conductors on the international scene today, earning himself a distinguished name both on the opera and concert podiums. Over the next few seasons he will continue collaborations with Berliner Philharmoniker, Wiener Philharmoniker, Het Koninklijk Concertgebouworkest, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Staatskapelle Berlin, Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra and Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich. He recently made his debut in Japan, on tour with Wiener Philharmoniker, and this season he will make his debut with Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. Andris Nelsons is a regular guest at Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera New York, Wiener Staatsoper and Deutsche Staatsoper. In summer 2011 he returned to Bayreuther Festspiele as Musical Director for Lohengrin, in a new production directed by Hans Neuenfels. He returns to Bayreuth in 2012. Nelsons has been Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra since 2008 enjoying a critically acclaimed first few seasons. With CBSO he is undertaking major tours worldwide, including regular appearances at such summer festivals as Lucerne Festival, BBC Proms and Berliner Festspiele. Born in Riga in 1978 into a family of musicians, Andris Nelsons began his career as a trumpeter in the Latvian National Opera Orchestra before studying conducting. He was Principal Conductor of Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie in Herford, Germany 2006-2009 and Music Director of Latvian National Opera 2003-2007.

BAIBA SKRIDE

Mark Swed described Baiba Skride’s recording of Shostakovich’s First Violin concerto (Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra) as “the most sophisticated performance of the concerto I know.”

Baiba Skrîde has appeared with such prestigious orchestras as the Sinfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Orchestre de Paris, Philharmonia Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, and the U.S. orchestras of Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. Conductors she regularly collaborates with include Charles Dutoit, Thierry Fischer, Paavo Järvi, Neeme Järvi, John Storgård, Mario Venzago, Andris Nelsons, and Kirill and Vasily Petrenko. Recent highlights include her much-anticipated debut with the Berlin Philharmonic playing Berg’s Violin Concerto under Andris Nelsons. Ms. Skrîde’s growing commitment to contemporary music includes performing the world premiere of the
double concerto by the Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen with the Royal Danish and the Swedish Chamber Orchestras, with her regular chamber music partner, Lauma Skride. The duo received great international acclaim following tours of North America and Japan. European appearances have taken them to London’s Wigmore Hall and the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Ms. Skride was born into a musical Latvian family in Riga where she began her studies, transferring in 1995 to the Conservatory of Music and Theatre in Rostock. In 2001 she won first prize in the Queen Elisabeth Competition. Since November 2010 she has played the Stradivarius “Ex Baron Feilitzsch” violin (1734), which is generously on loan to her from Gidon Kremer. Ms. Skride, who grew up in Riga and attended the same school as Andris Nelsons, first performed under his direction when she substituted for Gidon Kremer in a performance of the Beethoven Violin Concerto in Riga. Ms. Skride, performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, was the featured soloist in Souvenir Russe, the first CD recording Mr. Nelsons made with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

THOMAS VAN DYCK
Thomas Van Dyck, who joins the BSO beginning with the January 31-February 5 performances, is an active chamber and orchestral musician in the United States and abroad. An avid chamber musician and recipient of the Maurice Schwarz Prize at Tanglewood and the Lorraine Hunt Lieberson Prize, he has played at the Mostly Mozart Festival, New York City’s Town Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Boston Chamber Music Society, Harvard University’s Houghton Library chamber music series, Union College Chamber Music Series, Bay Chamber Concerts (Rockport, Maine), Kingston Chamber Music Festival in Rhode Island, Morrison Chamber Music Series in San Francisco, and the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, among others. A former member of the New World Symphony, he was a frequent guest with the BSO, San Francisco Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the San Diego Symphony. In addition to enjoying a diverse performing career, Thomas has been Artist-teacher of Double Bass at the Longy School of Music and guest teacher at the New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, San Francisco Conservatory, and the Hartt School of Music.

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](#), 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](#). 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, WCHN/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, JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 5, 2013

*connotes BSO debut
**connotes BSO subscription debut

Thursday, January 31, 8 p.m.
Friday, February 1, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 2, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, February 5, 8 p.m.
Andris Nelsons, conductor**
Baiba Skride, violin*
SHOSTAKOVICH Violin Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 5