FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: February 21, 2013

THOMAS WILKINS LEADS BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN ANNUAL YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS, MARCH 6-9, AT SYMPHONY HALL

CONCERT PROGRAM, FROM THE INSIDE OUT—A MUSICAL LOOK AT COURAGE, COMPETITION, AND CHARACTER, INCLUDES JOHN WILLIAMS’S ADVENTURES ON EARTH FROM E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL AND IMPERIAL MARCH FROM STAR WARS, WAGNER’S PRELUDE TO ACT III OF LOHENGRIN, AND FALLA’S JOTA FROM THE THREE-CORNERED HAT, AS WELL AS MUSIC BY SCHUMAN, PUCCINI, AND BRAHMS

IN ADDITION, BSO TO PRESENT NEW EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS THIS SPRING, INCLUDING A BSO MASTER CLASS SERIES (3/16, 4/10, 5/4), A CONDUCTING WORKSHOP WITH MAESTRO THOMAS WILKINS (5/4), AND A SYMPOSIUM SERIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATORS (3/13)

For further details on the BSO’s Education and Community Engagement programs, including information on new activities, please visit: http://www.bso.org/brands/bso/education-community.aspx.

The BSO’s Youth and Family Concerts take place Wednesday, March 6, through Saturday, March 9, 2013 under the direction of Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins. The theme for this year’s concerts, which is designed for students in grades 4-6, is From the Inside Out—A Musical Look at Courage, Competition, and Character. The program will include John Williams’s Adventures on Earth from E.T. the Extra-terrestrial and Imperial March from Star Wars, Wagner’s Prelude to Act III of Lohengrin, Falla’s Jota from The Three-cornered Hat, “Chester” from William Schuman’s New England Triptych, Puccini’s Intermezzo from Manon Lescaut, as well as the Third movement (Allegro giocoso) from Brahms’s Symphony No. 4. Bassoonist Jacob Thonis, winner of the 2012 BSO Concerto Competition, will be the featured guest soloist during the Saturday, March 9 concerts. The college freshman will perform Weber’s Hungarian Andante and Rondo with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
Maestro Thomas Wilkins, who was appointed the BSO’s Youth and Family Concerts Conductor in 2011, says he has designed these concerts with three goals in mind for the young audience:

Firstly, I want them to experience the power and awe-inspiring sound of one of the world’s greatest orchestras while demonstrating that this can only happen when the orchestra functions as a community. Secondly, we endeavor to create an atmosphere that is not only passionate, engaging and educational, but also just plain fun. Finally, and quite frankly, most important, our programs are designed not necessarily to make new listeners of music, but to encourage students to be better human beings.

The Family Concert on March 9 will feature pre-concert activities from 9 to 10 a.m. including an Instrument Playground and Symphony Hall tours. Thematic activities designed and implemented by the BSO Teen Council will include a Darth Vader coloring activity for 3-8 year olds as well as an interactive conducting activity in which children create their own batons, and learn how conductors use a baton to lead an orchestra. There will also be an instrument demonstration by a BSO musician.

ADDITIONAL YOUTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS SPRING 2013
The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Education and Community Engagement Programs offer individuals of all ages and backgrounds a rich variety of opportunities to experience orchestral music and the BSO, including new programs designed to support the department’s mission of building broader relationships throughout the greater Boston community and beyond; details on the BSO’s education and engagement programs are available at http://www.bso.org/brands/bso/education-community.aspx.

New programs offered in spring 2013 include three BSO Master Classes (3/16, 4/10, 5/4), a Conducting Workshop with Maestro Thomas Wilkins (5/4), and the second event in a Symposium Series for Music Educators (3/13), following the successful debut of this innovative program for teachers this February. These new offerings are part of over 20 BSO Education and Community Engagement Programs designed to offer individuals of all ages and backgrounds a broad selection of access points to the BSO and orchestral music through high quality, relevant, and interactive education and community engagement experiences.

BSO Master Classes (3/16, 4/10, 5/4)
This spring the Boston Symphony Orchestra will offer a Master Class Series providing advanced high school and college level instrumentalists the opportunity to study one-on-one with a BSO musician in front of a public audience. The BSO’s Assistant Principal Viola Cathy Basrak will lead a viola master class on Saturday, March 16 from 10:30 a.m. to noon; Principal Flute Elizabeth Rowe leads a flute master class on Wednesday, April 10, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.; and Principal Tuba Mike Roylance will lead a tuba master class on Saturday, May 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m. One applicant will be selected to participate in Mike Roylance’s class via Skype. Participants must be recommended for the master class by their school music teacher or private lesson instructor and should be come prepared to work through the selected repertoire. Classes are free and open to the public. To RSVP as an auditor for a master class, email education@bso.org. To apply to perform in a BSO master class please visit: http://www.bso.org/brands/bso/education-community/young-musicians/bso-musician-master-class-series.aspx
CONDUCTING WORKSHOP WITH MAESTRO THOMAS WILKINS (5/4)
In a completely new educational offering, BSO Germeshausen Youth and Family Concert Conductor Thomas Wilkins will lead an engaging all-day Conducting Workshop on Saturday, May 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Symphony Hall. The workshop, geared primarily to music educators and band directors, will overview the physicality of conducting, conducting exercises, issues related to score study, and rehearsal preparation. A small selection of applicants will be selected to conduct a live chamber ensemble under Maestro Wilkins’s guidance, and a group discussion will follow the day’s experience. Although there is no fee for the workshop, space is limited and participants should register by March 1 by visiting:

SYMPOSIUM SERIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATORS (3/13)
The next Symposium Series for Music Educators, Triangle to Timpani: Percussion Methods with Daniel Bauch and Kyle Brightwell, will take place on Wednesday, March 13, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Symphony Hall. BSO percussionists Bauch and Brightwell will review issues of technique and musicality for aspects of percussion playing, and address challenges unique to each percussion instrument family, as well as common setup and maintenance issues. The Symposium is intended for band and orchestra directors at the middle and high school levels. Although there is no fee for the workshop, space is limited and participants should register by March 1 by visiting: http://www.bso.org/brands/bso/education-community/schools-educators/symposium-series-for-educators.aspx

THOMAS WILKINS, GERMESHAUSEN YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS CONDUCTOR
Thomas Wilkins is Music Director of the Omaha Symphony, a position he has held since 2005. Additionally he is Principal Guest Conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and holds the Germeshausen Family and Youth Concert Conductor chair with the Boston Symphony. Past positions have included Resident Conductor of the Detroit Symphony, the Florida Orchestra (Tampa Bay), and Associate Conductor of the Richmond (VA) Symphony. He also has served on the music faculties of North Park University (Chicago), the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Devoted to promoting a life-long enthusiasm for music, Thomas Wilkins brings energy and commitment to audiences of all ages. He is considered a master at communicating and connecting with audiences. Following his highly successful first season with the Boston Symphony, the Boston Globe named him among the "Best People and Ideas of 2011." During his conducting career, he has led orchestras throughout the United States, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Houston Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony, the Utah Symphony and the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., to name a few. He continues to make frequent appearances with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony, the San Diego Symphony, and the New Jersey Symphony. During the 2012-13 season he makes debuts with the orchestras of Phoenix, Sarasota, Naples, and Long Beach, California. His commitment to community has been demonstrated by his participation on several Boards of Directors, including the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the Charles Drew Health Center (Omaha), the Center Against Spouse Abuse in Tampa Bay, and the Museum of Fine Arts as well as he Academy Preparatory Center both in St.
Petersburg, FL. Currently, he serves as chairman of the board for the Raymond James Charitable
Endowment Fund and as National Ambassador for the non-profit World Pediatric Project headquartered
in Richmond, Virginia, which provides children throughout Central America and the Caribbean critical
surgical and diagnostic care. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Thomas Wilkins is a graduate of the
Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He resides
with his wife Sheri-Lee in Omaha. They are the proud parents of twin daughters, Erica and Nicole.

JACOB THONIS, BASSOON
Jake began his musical studies playing piano at age five. At age ten, he added the saxophone. Jake's
bassoon career began at age thirteen, with lessons from Janet Underhill. Jake studied with Ms. Underhill
for six years and has participated in master classes with Whitney Crockett, Ole Kristian Dahl, Stephane
Levesque, and Suzanne Nelsen. A member of Boston Youth Symphony for three years, he received their
Robert Hardt Memorial Award in 2012. He also played for three years in the Massachusetts Youth Wind
Ensemble at New England Conservatory, and for one year in NEC's Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. He has
appeared as a soloist with Boston Accompanietta in a performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante,
and in 2011 toured to Cuba with the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. Before transferring to Walnut Hill
School for the Arts, he was a student at Wellesley High School. As a member of their Wind Ensemble,
Jake won gold medals at several MICCA festivals, played in the MMEA District Festivals, and in the All-
State Band. As a member of Wellesley High School's Two O’Clock Jazz Band (on tenor saxophone), Jake
won gold medals in MAJE State finals, UNH's Jazz Festival, and Berklee College of Music's High School
Jazz Festival. As finalists in the Essentially Ellington Festival national competition, the band was one of 15
invited to study and play with Wynton Marsalis in New York. Jake has spent his summers at Camp
Encore Coda, Greenwood Music Camp, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Centre d'Arts
Orford. In addition to winning the 2012 BSO competition, Jake won the 2012 Walden Chamber Players
Young Artist Competition and performed the Devienne Bassoon Quartet in C Major with them in
October 2012. He was also a finalist in the 2011 Boston Youth Symphony Concerto Competition and the
2012 Williams Chorale Bacardi Fallon Scholarship Competition. In addition to playing bassoon, Jake
enjoys making and drinking coffee, conducting, playing piano, and listening to music of all types. A
graduate of Walnut Hill School for the Arts, he is currently pursuing a bachelor of music degree under
Richard Beene at the Colburn School.

TICKET INFORMATION
General admission tickets for the Boston Symphony Youth Concerts (March 6-8, 2013) are priced
at $10. Adult single tickets for the two Family Concerts (March 9 at 10:15 a.m. and noon) are $20 and
include free admission for up to four children, up to 18 years old, as part of an initiative to make
programming more accessible and affordable for families. All concert attendees need to have a ticket.
The BSO Family Concerts have reserved seating.

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 $1.50 service fee for all Youth and Family concert tickets
purchased online or by phone through SymphonyCharge.

BACKGROUND ON BSO YOUTH CONCERTS
Inaugurated as “Young People’s Concerts” by Wilhelm Gericke (1845-1925) in 1888 and revived as an
ongoing program by Harry Ellis Dickson (1908-2003) in 1959, the Youth and Family Concerts reach over
20,000 young people annually in the Boston area. Harry Ellis Dickson held the title of Youth Concerts
Conductor until Keith Lockhart took over the role in 1995, holding the title until 2004. Thomas Wilkins was appointed the Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor in 2011. In addition to introducing the students to the BSO and orchestral music, the Youth Concerts have played an active role in launching a significant number of talented young people on to careers as musicians and composers. Young soloists chosen by competition have appeared on BSO Family Concerts, and works by high school student-composers have been performed. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Youth Concerts Series, the BSO launched a new partnership with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra that began in the 2009-10 season, offering young people the opportunity to hear programs geared especially for them and performed by their peers.

**PRESS CONTACTS:**
Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285

**Youth Concerts**
March 6, 2013, 10 a.m. and 11:50 a.m.
March 7, 2013, 10 a.m.
March 7, 2013, 11:50 a.m. “Metro Concert” – Performance for Boston Public Schools
March 8, 2013, 10 a.m. and 11:50 a.m.

*From the Inside Out—A Musical Look at Courage, Competition and Character*
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Thomas Wilkins, conductor

WAGNER Prelude to Act III of *Lohengrin*
WILLIAMS Imperial March from *Star Wars*
SCHUMAN "Chester" from *New England Triptych*
PUCCINI Intermezzo from *Manon Lescaut*
FALLA Jota from *The Three-cornered Hat*
BRAHMS Third movement (Allegro giocoso) from Symphony No. 4
WILLIAMS Adventures on Earth from *E.T. the Extra-terrestrial*

**Family Concerts**
March 9, 2013, 10:15 p.m. and 12 Noon

*From the Inside Out—A Musical Look at Courage, Competition and Character*
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Thomas Wilkins, conductor
Jacob Thonis, bassoon

WAGNER Prelude to Act III of *Lohengrin*
WILLIAMS Imperial March from *Star Wars*
SCHUMAN "Chester" from *New England Triptych*
PUCCINI Intermezzo from *Manon Lescaut*
FALLA Jota from *The Three-cornered Hat*
WEBER Hungarian Andante and Rondo
WILLIAMS Adventures on Earth from *E.T. the Extra-terrestrial*