FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 15, 2014

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WELCOMES MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS TO BOSTON WITH SEPTEMBER 23 GALA DINNER PARTY TO TAKE PLACE INSIDE SYMPHONY HALL, DECORATED IN A COLOR PALETTE INSPIRED BY THE LATVIAN FLAG, A CLASSIC DESIGN GIVEN A MODERN TWIST BY RAFANELLI EVENTS

GALA PARTY TO OPEN WITH A NEW FANFARE, “A TOAST!”, WRITTEN BY JOHN WILLIAMS ESPECIALLY IN HONOR OF MR. NELSONS AND THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA; PERFORMANCES TO FEATURE MEMBERS OF THE BSO, THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS, BOSTON CHILDREN’S CHORUS, AND BOSTON POPS SWING BAND IN A PROGRAM OF CONTRASTING MUSICAL ELEMENTS INTENDED AS A SURPRISE FOR MR. NELSONS

MR. NELSONS MAKES HIS FIRST APPEARANCE AS BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR ON SEPTEMBER 27 IN A SOLD-OUT GALA CONCERT FEATURING THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, WITH ACCLAIMED SOPRANO KRISTINE OPOLAISS AND THE GREAT TENOR JONAS KAUFMANN, IN A CELEBRATORY PROGRAM TO INCLUDE OPERATIC AND ORCHESTRAL MASTERWORKS BY PUCCINI, WAGNER, AND RESPIGHI, AMONG OTHERS

To view an online press kit with complete programs, concert listing, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here: www.bso.org/presskit

THE 2014-15 SEASON IS SPONSORED BY BANK OF AMERICA AND EMC CORPORATION
On Tuesday, September 23, a newly composed brass fanfare, “A Toast!”, by John Williams will herald the start of celebratory gala dinner party in honor of Andris Nelsons, who makes his first appearance as Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director later that week on September 27.

The September 23 gala party will take place in festively adorned Symphony Hall, with an evening richly programmed to reflect this momentous time in the storied history of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1881. One of the leading sopranos of our time, Kristine Opolais, who will be featured along with noted tenor Jonas Kaufmann in the September 27 inaugural program (link to program), will join Mr. Nelsons, her husband, for the September 23 gala, which will welcome them both in grand style to the Boston community.

The program for the September 23 gala dinner party, which is intended as a surprise for Mr. Nelsons and Ms. Opolais, will feature a wide variety of musical elements. In addition to the premiere of a fanfare composed by John Williams, performances will feature a small ensemble of BSO musicians, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Boston Children’s Chorus. Guests will also be invited to dance to the music of the Boston Pops Swing Band, conducted by bandleader Bo Winiker.

When Mr. Nelsons takes on the title of BSO Music Director on September 27, at age 35, he will be the youngest conductor to hold that title with the orchestra in over 100 years. The fifteenth music director since the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s founding in 1881, Mr. Nelsons is also the first Latvian-born conductor to assume the post.

DETAILS OF THE BSO’S OPENING GALA PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 23
The evening begins at 6 p.m. with hors d’oeuvres and cocktails in festively decorated event rooms throughout Symphony Hall. At 6:45 p.m., guests will be invited into Symphony Hall proper for an evening of great food, music, and dance.

The elegant gala dinner, prepared by Chef Daniel Boulud and Chef Aaron Chambers of Bar Boulud, will feature a local lobster salad with kaffir lime, watermelon, scallion, red curry, and coconut as an appetizer; a main course of Coq au Vin with button mushrooms, pearl onion, smoked carrot, and Cavette red wine jus; and the Bar Boulud sundae, featuring goat milk sorbet, fig, raspberry, and pistachio financier for dessert. Canapés include Mini Croque Monsieur, Gougères, Truffé Arancini, Classic Beef Tartar, and Vadouvan Ahi Tuna.

The color palette for the Symphony Hall decorations has been inspired by the Latvian flag, interpreted in a classic yet modern design by Rafanelli Events. The décor will feature a mix of long mirrored tables and round tables with ornate gold, red, and dark pink patterned linens. The distinctive floral designs, dispersed throughout the Hall, will feature glass, mirrors, and gloriosa lilies, provided by Winston Flowers. Intermingling with the Hall’s existing chandeliers will be seven Lucite chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. Rentals will be provided by Be Our Guest, Peterson’s Party Center, and New England Country Rentals.
Some of the special guests who will be attending the September 23 gala party include the Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the USA H.E. Mr. Andris Razans, Keith and Emiley Lockhart, and more than 85 members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Board of Trustees and Overseers.

ANDRIS NELSONS’ FIRST PROGRAM AS BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR ON SEPTEMBER 27
In an evening of operatic and orchestral showpieces on September 27, Mr. Nelsons opens his first concert as the BSO Ray and Maria Stata Music Director with the overture to Wagner’s *Tannhäuser*—the first live opera Nelsons ever heard as a child and the work that would set him on the path of becoming a conductor—putting a special focus on this exciting new collaboration between conductor and orchestra. That focus on the orchestra and its new conductor continues with Wagner’s Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*, which also features the highly acclaimed singer Kristine Opolais; the Intermezzo from Mascagni’s *Cavalleria rusticana*, and Respighi’s resplendent *Pines of Rome*, which will bring the program to an end.

The opera portion of the evening will feature the great tenor Jonas Kaufmann along with Ms. Opolais—two artists with whom Mr. Nelsons frequently collaborates—in a performance of the famous duet “Tu, tu, amore? Tu?" from Puccini’s *Manon Lescaut*. Each singer will also take center stage for solo arias, with Ms. Opolais singing the moving Italian aria "Ebben? Ne andrò lontana" from Catalani’s *La Wally* and Mr. Kaufmann in two beloved selections for tenor: the title character’s magical third-act narrative, “In fernem Land,” from Wagner’s *Lohengrin*, and the moving aria, “Mamma, quel vino è generoso,” from Mascagni’s *Cavalleria rusticana*.

99.5 WCRB BROADCAST DETAILS
99.5 WCRB, Boston’s listener-supported classical radio station and the BSO's radio broadcast partner, will broadcast the entire opening gala concert with Andris Nelsons and the BSO, live on Saturday, September 27, starting at 7:30 p.m. WCRB 99.5 and ClassicalWCRB.org are the only places where radio listeners can hear the sold-out opening gala, which will be broadcast live and streamed online at www.classicalwcrb.org. WCRB also plans a week of dedicated programming celebrating Maestro Nelsons’ arrival in Boston, including a special retrospective of the previous five music directors, hosted by Ron Della Chiesa on Sunday, September 21 at 7 p.m.; a week of *Symphony at 8* broadcasts highlighting select symphonies from the past half-century [of BSO performances?] at 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; and the premiere of WCRB's *Sunday Night Special* on Sunday, September 28, at 8 p.m. featuring the BSO’s March 6, 2014 performance of “Salome” led by Mr. Nelsons.

Click here to view the complete 2014-15 BSO concert schedule.

TICKET INFORMATION IN BRIEF
Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2014-15 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, priced from $30-$135 (tickets to the sold out September 27 gala are priced differently, with information about this available at 888-266-1200), 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.

The BSO’s <40=$20 program allows patrons under the age of 40 to purchase tickets for $20. 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. 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. The Boston Symphony Orchestra offers groups advanced ticket reservations and flexible payment options for BSO concerts at Symphony Hall. Further ticket information is available at the end of this release.

**BSO.ORG—the largest and most visited orchestra website in the country**

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 $92 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. The site’s Media Center consolidates its numerous new media initiatives in one location, including audio concert preview podcasts; Emmy Award-winning interviews with guest artists and BSO musicians; concert program notes; WGBH radio broadcast streams of select BSO, Boston Pops, and Tanglewood performances; and all self-produced albums by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows. BSO.org is now accessible in a smart phone/mobile device-friendly format, where patrons can access performance schedules, purchase tickets and pre-performance food and beverages, access the BSO’s new media content, and make donations to the BSO— all in the palm of their hand. BSO.org also launched eTicketing and Print-at-Home tickets, making it easier for patrons attending a concert to access their tickets at home or on their smartphones. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is on Facebook at Facebook.com/BostonSymphony on Twitter at Twitter.com/BostonSymphony, and on Google+ at Google.com/+bostonsymphony. Video content from the BSO is also available at YouTube.com/BostonSymphony.

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**Ticket, sponsorship, and other patron information**

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A limited number of Rush Tickets for Boston Symphony Orchestra subscription concerts on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 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 enhance its patrons’ awareness and knowledge of the music being performed, the Boston Symphony Orchestra continues to offer a variety of adult education initiatives at Symphony Hall for the 2014-15 season.

UnderScore Fridays is a uniquely formatted concert series. At all Friday-evening performances, members of the BSO introduce the concerts from the stage. Selected concerts also include comments from the stage by guest artists appearing in the program. Tickets for UnderScore Fridays range from $32 to $130.

“BSO 101: Are You Listening?” returns in 2014-15. In this popular Wednesday-evening series, BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel is joined by members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for presentations designed to enhance one’s 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 2014-15, offering three Tuesday-evening sessions focusing on behind-the-scenes activities at Symphony Hall with BSO musicians and administrative staff, including player perspectives on performing with the orchestra. All “BSO 101” sessions take place from 5:30-6:45 p.m. at Symphony Hall, and each is followed by a reception. Though the “BSO 101” sessions are free, please note that there is a nominal charge for the reception. Full details of the 2014-15 “BSO 101” schedule, including an expansion of the program to locations beyond Symphony Hall, will be announced at a later date.

The popular Friday Preview Talks continue to take place from 12:15-12:45 p.m. before each Friday-afternoon subscription concert; the Symphony Hall doors open at 11:30am. Given by BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel, Assistant Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger, and occasional guest speakers, these informative half-hour talks incorporate recorded examples from the music to be performed. The BSO also offers talks before each of the season’s four Thursday-morning
Open Rehearsals at Symphony Hall. These take place from 9:30-10 a.m. The Symphony Hall doors open at 9 a.m., and the Open Rehearsal itself begins at 10:30 a.m. Admission to the Friday Preview Talks and Open Rehearsal Talks is free of charge free to ticket holders for the Friday-afternoon subscription concerts and Thursday-morning Open Rehearsals.

**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 $95 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is on Facebook at Facebook.com/BostonSymphony on Twitter at Twitter.com/BostonSymphony, and on Google+ at Google.com/+bostonsymphony. Video content from the BSO is also available at YouTube.com/BostonSymphony.

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; free live music streams for select seasonal offerings including the recent Holiday Pops music stream (December 2013); 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. The BSO Media Center is available by visiting BSO.org/mediacenter.

BSO.org is mobile device compatible. Patrons can visit BSO.org on their mobile device 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 99.5 WCRB, 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 in Boston, and online—both live and archived—at www.classicalwcrb.org. Live and archived BSO concerts can also be streamed online at www.bso.org. Listeners can enjoy the “BSO Concert Channel” online, a continuous high-quality audio stream of live BSO performances from Symphony Hall and Tanglewood. In addition, BSO concerts are now heard throughout New England and upstate New York, on a network of stations including WAMC in Albany, NY, WMNR in Monroe, CT, Vermont Public Radio, New England Public Radio, and the Maine Public Broadcasting Network. BSO broadcasts on 99.5 WCRB begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday nights, and are repeated at 8 p.m. on Monday evenings.

**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 $41 per person; the cost of lunch is $27, tax included. 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, casual pre-concert and intermission dining, including sandwiches, light appetizers, and desserts, is available at the bars in Symphony Hall’s Cabot-Cahners Room and O’Block-Kay Room. Light appetizers and sandwiches can also be ordered and picked up at the snack bar outside the O’Block-Kay Room. A tapas style menu is available in the Symphony Café Lounge area alongside Huntington Avenue. Reservations for the Lounge can be made by calling 617-638-9328. Patrons can 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](http://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 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 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](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 an Irving W. and Charlotte F. Rabb Symphony Hall tour, please visit us at [www.bso.org](http://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**
Longstanding major corporate partners Bank of America and EMC Corporation return as the BSO Season Sponsors for the 2014-15 Season. The BSO is proud to announce that longtime sponsor Arbella Insurance Foundation will continue its support this season with its sponsorship of the BSO College Card and BSO Youth and Family Concerts. The Fairmont Copley Plaza, together with Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, begins its 13th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation begins its 12th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation Provider of the BSO.

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