BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS TO PRESENT PROKOFIEV’S *PETER AND THE WOLF*, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF FEDERICO CORTESE AT NOON ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, IN FIRST PERFORMANCE OF THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA’S 2014-15 FAMILY CONCERT SERIES

THE BSO WILL PRESENT A VARIETY OF PRE-CONCERT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT PLAYGROUND, WHERE YOUNG VISITORS CAN GET A CLOSE-UP VIEW AND A CHANCE TO TRY OUT VARIOUS INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA

The first Family Concert of the Boston Symphony’s 2014-15 season will spotlight the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO), featuring many of Boston’s most talented young musicians ranging in age from 10-18, in a performance of *Peter and the Wolf* on Saturday, November 8, at 12 noon. The performance of Prokofiev’s youth-friendly classic will be led by former BSO Assistant Conductor Federico Cortese. Mr. Cortese and the members of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras will be joined by bass-baritone Ashraf Sewailam, whose narration will bring to life the tale of Peter and his friends the cat, the bird, and the duck, who assist in the valiant boy’s pursuit of the hungry wolf. Victoria Crutchfield is the staging and production advisor for the performance.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra will provide a variety of pre-concert educational activities for young people from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., including an Instrument Playground, where children have a chance to try out a variety of musical instruments; special instrument demonstrations and a coloring project featuring the characters from *Peter and the Wolf*; group tours of Symphony Hall, and a story time featuring several children’s classics. Tickets cost $20 at www.bso.org or by calling 888-266-1200. Tickets are free for children under age 18.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras will partner to present two more Family Concerts during the 2014-15 season, each with an engaging theme to appeal to listeners of all ages. On Saturday, February 7, BSO Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins will lead the Boston Symphony Orchestra in two performances of a program themed “Keeping
Good Company: Musical Partnerships of Inspiration and Innovation,” which features the music of composers Stravinsky, Mussorgsky, and Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams. On Saturday, April 25 conductor Marta Zurad will lead the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra’s Young People’s String Orchestra with magician Matt Roberts in a program themed “Shall We Dance.”

**BSO/BYSO PARTNERSHIP**
The BSO and BYSO began their collaboration during the 2009-10 season as part of the BSO’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of its Youth Concert Series and the 2012-13 season brought significant development to this program in a commitment called “BYSO/BSO: Partnering for the Future.” The partnership offers joint performance opportunities for young musicians, audiences, and the wider community, while exploring innovative ways to continue to foster the future of classical music.

As part of this unique collaboration, the management of the Boston Symphony, together with BYSO, will work closely with BSO musicians, guest artists, conductors, and assistant conductors to offer BYSO musicians special coaching, master classes, and other opportunities for joint music-making. The BSO and BYSO will also develop a mentor/'godparent' program involving the musicians of both organizations.

**BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FAMILY CONCERTS**
The BSO's Family Concert Series provides engaging, age-appropriate, educational orchestral concert experiences especially for children ages 3-8 and their families. BSO Family Concerts are designed to build connection to the orchestra, orchestral music, the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BSO), and Symphony Hall. The BSO offers three Family Concerts per year, one of which is performed by the BSO and conducted by Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins. As a part of a larger organizational partnership with BYSO, the other two are performed by the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras.

**MORE ON FEDERICO CORTESE**
Federico Cortese assumed the post of Music Director of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras in 1999 and celebrates his 16th year with the organization during the 2014-15 season. He has conducted throughout the United States, Australia, China, and Europe. He is currently also the Music Director of the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra at Harvard University. From 1998 to 2002, he served as Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa. In this capacity, in addition to his annual scheduled concerts, Mr. Cortese led the Boston Symphony Orchestra several times in Symphony Hall and at Tanglewood, most notably performing Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 and Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*. Mr. Cortese has conducted several prominent symphony orchestras, including those of Atlanta, Dallas, and Houston, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, and Oslo Philharmonic. Opera engagements have included Maggio Musicale Florence, the Spoleto Festival in Italy and the United States, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Finnish National Opera, Opera Australia, and Washington Opera.

**MORE ON ASHRAF SEWAILAM**
Ashraf Sewailam earned praise from both the *New York Times* and *Opera News* for his debut at Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall. He recently made his acclaimed New Zealand Opera debut as the assassin Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, and sang Alidoro in *La Cenerentola* with Queensland Opera in Australia. Ashraf made his United States debut in 2004 with Opera Colorado quickly becoming a company favorite. He also performs frequently with San Diego Opera and Seattle Opera. Mr. Sewailam began his career as a Cairo Opera Company house soloist, was a prize-winner at the New Voices (Neue Stimmen) international competition in Gütersloh, Germany and was featured in the opening concert of the New Alexandria
MORE ON VICTORIA CRUTCHFIELD
Victoria Crutchfield is a stage director of opera, theater, and everything in between. She recently adapted and staged the last two acts of Ibsen's epic Peer Gynt, using eightactors and minimal props and costumes to create the many worlds, real and fantastical, through which Peer journeys. Ms. Crutchfield has won praise in the New York Times for her productions of L'incoronazione di Poppea and Dialogues des Carmélites with dell'Arte Opera Ensemble. She has directed and assistant-directed at the Juilliard School, Portland Opera, the Bronx Opera, and Southeastern Louisiana University. Ms. Crutchfield also collaborates frequently with composer-conductor Matt Aucoin to create events blending opera, theater, and orchestral performance at the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, MA. Her interest in opera's theatrical models has prompted her to translate scenes from Victor Hugo's Le rois'amuse, the basis for Verdi's Rigoletto, which were performed at the Caramoor International Music Festival this summer.

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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Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras Concert Listing
Saturday, November 8, 12 noon
Boston Youth Symphony
Federico Cortese, conductor
Ashraf Sewailam, narrator
Victoria Crutchfield, staging and production advisor
PROKOFIEV Peter and the Wolf