FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM INTRODUCES NEW AMATEUR MUSICIAN INITIATIVE: “ONSTAGE AT SYMPHONY” TO GIVE AMATEUR ADULT MUSICIANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REHEARSE AND PERFORM AT SYMPHONY HALL WITH BSO YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS CONductor THOMAS WILKINS, JANUARY 28-31

NEW PROGRAM DESIGNED TO GIVE AMATEUR MUSICIANS AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE SYMPHONY HALL ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE

The Boston Symphony Orchestra kicks off “Onstage at Symphony,” a new program offering a unique concert performance opportunity for adult, Massachusetts amateur musicians on Symphony Hall’s historic stage. The “Onstage at Symphony” Orchestra will be led January 28-31, 2015, by BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins in rehearsals and a final public performance at Symphony Hall. Onstage at Symphony is an opportunity designed for adult amateur musicians—who have a love for musical performance but have pursued alternate career paths—to perform at Symphony Hall in an orchestral environment.

The performance at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, will feature Weber’s Overture to Der Freischütz, von Suppé’s The Beautiful Galatea, Delius’s The Walk to the Paradise Garden, and Liszt’s Les Préludes.

The BSO will select the participating orchestra of musicians from a pool of all applications on a lottery basis. Chosen participants will attend two rehearsals—one on Wednesday evening, January 28, and one on Saturday morning, January 31—as well as a sectional on the evening of Friday, January 30, and will complete their experience by performing a free Saturday-afternoon concert on the stage of Symphony Hall.
Hall. Music will be distributed to the participating musicians at least one month prior to the first rehearsal.

Applications for this program are due by Friday, October 24, at 5 p.m. Applicants must be 18+ years old, current residents of Massachusetts, and cannot be a member of the Musicians' Union.

Additional information and an online application form can be found at: http://www.bso.org/onstageatsymphony. A $25 fee is required for participation to cover the Saturday lunch offering (prior to the Onstage at Symphony final performance).

THOMAS WILKINS, GERMESHAUSEN YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS CONDUCTOR
Music Director of the Omaha Symphony since 2005, Thomas Wilkins also holds the positions of Principal Guest Conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra as well as 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 hailed as 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.”

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 and his wife, Sheri-Lee, are the proud parents of twin daughters, Erica and Nicole.

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“ONSTAGE AT SYMPHONY” PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, JANUARY 31 2015
Saturday, January 31, 1:30 p.m., Symphony Hall
Thomas Wilkins, conductor
(repertoire subject to change)
WEBER Overture to der Freischütz
VON SUPPÉ The Beautiful Galathea
DELIUS The Walk to the Paradise Garden
LISZT Les Préludes
TENTATIVE REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 28, 2015
6pm - 8:30pm First rehearsal with Maestro Thomas Wilkins
Symphony Hall Stage

Friday, January 30, 2015
6:30pm - 8:30pm Group Sectionals
Assigned locations throughout Symphony Hall

Saturday, January 31, 2015
9:30am - 11:30am Second rehearsal with Maestro Thomas Wilkins
Symphony Hall Stage

Saturday, January 31, 2015
1:30 Performance (open to the public)
Symphony Hall Stage