THOMAS WILKINS LEADS BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN ANNUAL YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS, FEBRUARY 4-7, AT SYMPHONY HALL


VIOLIST CHRISTOPHER ROGERS-BEADLE— THE 2014 BSO CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER—JOINS MR. WILKINS FOR THE FINALE FROM BARTÓK’S VIOLA CONCERTO ON FEBRUARY 7

Youth Concerts to take place Wednesday, February 4-Friday, February 6, 10 a.m. and 11:50 a.m. (February 4 at 10 a.m. only); Family Concerts to take place Saturday, February 7, at 10:15 a.m. and noon

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

The 2014-15 BSO Youth and Family Concerts series will take place Wednesday, February 4, through Saturday, February 7 under the direction of Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins. The theme for this year’s concerts is “Keeping Good Company”—Musical Partnerships of Inspiration and Innovation. The program will include Stravinsky’s Infernal Dance, from The Firebird; Ginastera’s Malambo, from Estancia; Mendelssohn’s Scherzo from A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Grieg’s Morning Mood, from Peer Gynt; Williams’ Duel of the Fates, from Star Wars: The Phantom Menace; Bates’ Warehouse Medicine, from The B-Sides; and Mussorgsky’s Baba-Yaga and The Great Gate of Kiev, from Pictures at an Exhibition. Weekday Youth Concerts, designed for students in grades 4-6, take place Wednesday, February 4, at 10 a.m., Thursday, February 5, at 10 a.m. and 11:50 a.m., and Friday, February 6, at 10 a.m. and 11:50 a.m.
Seventeen-year-old violist Christopher Rogers-Beadle, a senior at Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts, was the winner of the 2014 BSO Concerto Competition, and will join Mr. Wilkins and the BSO for a performance of the finale (Allegro vivace) from Bartók’s Viola Concerto at the two Family Concerts to take place on Saturday, February 7, at 10:15 a.m. and noon; these concerts are especially designed for children ages 3-8 and their families.

The 10:15 a.m. Family Concert on February 7 will feature pre-concert activities from 9 to 10 a.m. including an Instrument Playground, Symphony Hall tours, thematic activities connected to the musical program, and an instrument demonstration by a BSO musician.

ADDITIONAL YOUTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS SPRING 2015
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 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 Community Engagement programs are available at http://www.bso.org/brands/bso/education-community.aspx.

THOMAS WILKINS, GERMESHAUSEN YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS CONDUCTOR
Music Director of the Omaha Symphony since 2005, Thomas Wilkins was also recently promoted to the position of Principal Conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and has held the Germeshausen Family and Youth Concert Conductor chair with the Boston Symphony since 2011. 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.

CHRISTOPHER ROGERS-BEADLE, VIOLA
Christopher Rogers-Beadle was born in Portland, Oregon, and began violin studies at the age of four. In 2012 he began viola studies under David Rubinstein at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School and now studies with Dimitri Murrath. Chris is a senior at Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts, where he is an avid chamber musician. Chris participates in chamber music at New England Conservatory and is the principal violist of the NEC Philharmonic Orchestra. The winner of numerous competitions, Chris has performed with the Walden Chamber Music Players and was the featured soloist with the Boston Civic Symphony this past fall. Chris performed in master classes with Andrés Cárdenes and Helen Callus and was recently invited to play in a master class with Maxim
Rysanov in Norway. For the past two summers Chris attended the prestigious Senior Young Artist Program in Canada. He plans to return to this program at the National Arts Centre under the tutelage of Pinchas Zuckerman again this summer. In the Spring of 2015, Chris will perform as a viola soloist with the Philharmonic Society of Arlington and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Adult single tickets for the two Family Concerts (February 7 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 AND FAMILY 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 15000 young people, educators, and family members, annually. Harry Ellis Dickson held the title of Youth Concerts Conductor until Keith Lockhart took over the role in 1995, holding the title until 2004. Conductor Thomas Wilkins was appointed to the position in February 2011. In addition to introducing students to the BSO and orchestral music, the Youth and Family 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. The 2012-13 BSO season ushered in a significant expansion to the partnership including a program called “BYSO/BSO: Partnering for the Future,” which promises to develop new training programs and offer joint performance opportunities for young musicians, audiences, and the wider community, while exploring innovative ways to continue to foster the future of classical music.

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285
**Youth Concerts**
Wednesday, February 4, 10 a.m.
Thursday, February 5, 10 a.m. and 11:50 a.m.
Friday, February 6, 10 a.m. and 11:50 a.m.

**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
Thomas Wilkins, conductor

*“Keeping Good Company” Musical Partnerships of Inspiration and Innovation*

STRAVINSKY Infernal Dance, from *The Firebird*
GINASTERA Malambo, from *Estancia*
MENDELSSOHN Scherzo from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
GRIEG Morning Mood, from *Peer Gynt*
WILLIAMS Duel of the Fates, from *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*
BATES Warehouse Medicine, from *The B-Sides*
MUSSORGSKY (orch. RAVEL) Baba-Yaga and The Great Gate of Kiev, from *Pictures at an Exhibition*

**Family Concerts**
Saturday, March 1, 10:15 a.m. and 12noon

**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
Thomas Wilkins, conductor
Christopher Rogers-Beadle, viola

*“Keeping Good Company” Musical Partnerships of Inspiration and Innovation*

STRAVINSKY Infernal Dance, from *The Firebird*
GINASTERA Malambo, from *Estancia*
BARTÓK Finale (III. Allegro vivace) from Viola Concerto
  Christopher Rogers-Beadle, viola,
  2014 BSO Concerto Competition Winner
MENDELSSOHN Scherzo from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*
WILLIAMS Duel of the Fates, from *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*
BATES Warehouse Medicine, from *The B-Sides*
MUSSORGSKY (orch. RAVEL) Baba-Yaga and The Great Gate of Kiev, from *Pictures at an Exhibition*