MAESTRO STÉPHANE DENÈVE RETURNS TO BSO WITH VIOLINIST JAMES EHNES FEBRUARY 19-21

FRENCH-RUSSIAN PROGRAM INCLUDES MUSIC BY STRAVINSKY, PROKOFIEV, MILHAUD, AND POULENC

These concerts are part of a three-program series, February 12-March 3, focusing on music closely associated with the Ballet Russes

Performances to take place Thursday, February 19 and Saturday, February 21, at 8 p.m., and Friday, February 20 at 1:30 p.m., with an Open Rehearsal Thursday, February 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Tickets for the 2014-15 BSO season, priced from $30 to $135, are available for purchase through www.bso.org or by calling 888-266-1200

French conductor Stéphane Denève, chief conductor of the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra and a frequent BSO guest in recent seasons, takes the podium for three concerts Thursday, February 19-Saturday, February 21 featuring Russian and French music with a focus on works closely associated with the Ballet Russes. Before intermission, Maestro Denève leads the orchestra in Stravinsky’s glittering Pulcinella Suite—substantially based on music of the Italian Baroque—and Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 1, for which the orchestra is joined by prodigious Canadian soloist James Ehnes. On the second half of the program, Mr. Denève leads music from France, including Milhaud’s jazz-inflected The Creation of the World and Poulenc’s music for Les Biches, an urbane ballet depicting a sophisticated 1920s house party.

These concerts are part of a series of three programs, February 12-March 3, presenting influential works from the first three decades of the 20th century, many of which share the common thread of association with
the Ballets Russes. Many are also works that represent a key component of the BSO’s history, having been written by composers whom Serge Koussevitzky championed during his twenty-five-year tenure as BSO music director from 1925 to 1949.

For further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra, visit [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org) or click here for complete programs, ticket information, photos, press documents, and artist bios.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra will present an extensive free adult education program this February, exploring BSO programming through the lens of Serge Diaghilev’s legendary Ballets Russes. The series incorporates lectures, film, and performances for an in-depth look at works to be performed by the BSO. “Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes: Crucible of Modern Music,” February 9-24, will take a look at works commissioned, performed, and danced by Serge Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes, along with other, related music from the culturally significant period covering roughly the first two decades of the 20th century. [Click here for further information on the BSO Insights series.]

PROGRAM DETAILS
Completed in 1920, *Pulcinella* holds the distinction of being Stravinsky’s first full-fledged work in the neoclassical style that would occupy him for the next 30 years. In 1919, keen to build upon the success of previous collaborations such as *Firebird* and *The Rite of Spring*, impresario Sergei Diaghilev lured Stravinsky back to his Ballets Russes for a new project, with costume and set design by Pablo Picasso, based on music that was at the time attributed to the early 18th-century composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi. Though—never one to take the obvious path—Stravinsky’s resulting ballet calls for a peculiar roster of chamber orchestra, string quintet, and three vocal soloists (soprano, tenor, and bass), the orchestra and quintet interact in the manner of a Baroque *concerto grosso*, their frequent interchanges lending a conversational nature to the music that exemplifies the rearward-looking aspects of the composer’s new style. Stravinsky prepared the concert suite version of *Pulcinella* in 1922, and it had its American premiere in Boston that same year.

Prokofiev wrote his Violin Concerto No. 1 amid the chaos of the October Revolution in 1917, the same year he completed his *Classical Symphony*. The concerto leans in its drama and lyricism toward the late Romantic, though the always-innovative Prokofiev still includes plenty of modern touches. In three movements and calling for a relatively small orchestra for this era, the concerto was described by the great violinist Joseph Szigeti, who became one of the work’s strongest proponents, as a “mixture of fairy-tale naïveté and daring savagery in layout and texture.”

The concerts conclude with music from two French ballets of the early 1920s. Darius Milhaud’s *The Creation of the World* was written in 1922 and 1923 following a trip the composer made to the United States, during which he had his first in-depth experience with jazz in Harlem. Marrying his modern French musical style with influences from his newfound love of jazz, the ballet is based on an African creation myth—a fad for African fashion and art was sweeping Paris at the time—and originally featured cubist sets and costumes by Fernand Léger. Francis Poulenc’s *Les Biches* premiered one year after Milhaud’s work, in 1924, at Sergei Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes. Inspired by paintings by Jean-Antoine Watteau of Louis XV and the various women with whom he entertained himself in his Parc aux biches (“Garden of Does”) at Versailles, the ballet is a
playful, fast-paced, and sensual depiction of a chic house party featuring the adventures of the young and beautiful. The composer described it as follows: “a contemporary drawing room party suffused with an atmosphere of wantonness, which you sense if you are corrupted, but of which an innocent-minded girl would not be conscious.”

**TICKET, SPONSORSHIP, AND OTHER PATRON INFORMATION**

**TICKET INFORMATION**
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-$145, 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.

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 $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.

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-Cahnners 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.

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. 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. 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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PRESS CONTACT:
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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, FEBRUARY 19-21

Thursday, February 19, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, February 19
Friday, February 20, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 21
Stéphane Denève, conductor
James Ehnes, violin
STRAVINSKY Pulcinella Suite
PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto No. 1
MILHAUD The Creation of the World
POULENC Les Biches