FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: March 24, 2015

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS APRIL 12 SYMPHONY HALL OPEN HOUSE IN HONOR OF ITS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS; BSO WELCOMES THE COMMUNITY INTO THE HALL FOR A FREE DAY OF PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES

MR. NELSONS TO LEAD THE BSO IN PERFORMANCE AND TAKE AUDIENCE QUESTIONS FROM THE STAGE; IN ADDITION, SYMPHONY HALL OPEN HOUSE, 11:30 A.M.-4 P.M., TO FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS, THE BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, ALUMNI OF THE TANGLEWOOD MUSIC CENTER, AND STUDENT ENSEMBLES FROM BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC, BOSTON CONSERVATORY, AND NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

FAMILY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING AN INSTRUMENT PLAYGROUND, SYMPHONY HALL TOURS, CRAFT ACTIVITIES, AND A COMPOSER SCAVENGER HUNT WILL TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE DAY

EMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CRITIC JOYCE KULHAWIK (JOYCESCHOICES.COM) WILL HOST THE OPEN HOUSE AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Symphony Hall will open its doors for a free day of musical activities for the community on Sunday, April 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in celebration of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s new music director, Andris Nelsons. In his first public appearances since taking on the role of BSO music director this past September, Mr. Nelsons will lead a performance featuring the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Festival Chorus and spend some time interacting with visitors and taking audience questions from the stage. The Symphony Hall Open House will also provide visitors with an opportunity to explore historic Symphony Hall and enjoy fun family activities and a wide variety of performances by the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, alumni of the Tanglewood Music Center, and student ensembles from Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory, and New England Conservatory. Emmy Award-winning arts and entertainment critic Joyce Kulhawik (JoycesChoices.com) will host the event as the Open House master of ceremonies.
In what is sure to be the center point of the day, **BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons** will lead the orchestra at 2 p.m. in a program including the magnificent Prelude and Liebestod from Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*, the third and fourth movements from Haydn’s Symphony No. 90, and the Overture to Bernstein’s *Candide*. The **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** will join Mr. Nelsons and the BSO for performances of Verdi’s “Va, pensiero” from *Nabucco* and Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds’ *Lakes Awake at Dawn*. Following the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Festival Chorus performance, **Andris Nelsons** will participate in an **on-stage interview** with **BSO Managing Director Mark Volpe** at 3 p.m.

The **Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra**, led by **Federico Cortese**, and the **New England Conservatory Brass and Percussion Ensemble**, led by BSO principal horn **James Sommerville** and featuring soprano **Meredith Hansen**, will give performances on the Symphony Hall stage during the Open House. A string ensemble made up of alumni of the **Tanglewood Music Center**; a chamber ensemble from the **Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra**; **Mixcla**, a Latin jazz ensemble from **Berklee College of Music**, and members of **Boston Conservatory Theater Division** will perform in Higginson Hall throughout the day. **Project STEP** will also host a master class, open for attendees to observe the student string players working with BSO cellist **Owen Young**. **A full schedule of events is available below.**

Family-friendly activities taking place at Symphony Hall throughout the day will include an **Instrument Playground**, where children have a chance to try out a variety of musical instruments; **craft activities**; a station for children to get **temporary tattoos**; a **composer scavenger hunt** throughout the hall; and tours of the **Boston Symphony’s new Archives facilities**.

The **Symphony Shop** will also be open during the Open House, and **food and beverages** will be available for purchase in the O’Block/Kay room throughout the afternoon. Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue.

**The Open House is free and open to the public. Seating for the performances is open and available on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**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.

**PRESS CONTACTS:**
Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (**bhorgan@bso.org**) 617-638-9285
APRIL 12 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
Performances begin at noon

Symphony Hall Stage
Noon-1:00 p.m.
Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra
Federico Cortese, conductor
Henri Bouchard, violin (BSO Concerto Competition Winner)

BEETHOVEN Leonore Overture No. 3
VIEUXTEMPS Violin Concerto No. 5
STRAVINSKY Feu d’artifice (Fireworks)

1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.
New England Conservatory Brass and Percussion Ensemble
James Sommerville, conductor
Meredith Hansen, soprano

PÄRT Arbos
LAURIDSEN O Magnum Mysterium
TOMASINI Fanfares liturgiques

2:00 p.m.-2:40 p.m.
Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Festival Chorus
Andris Nelsons, conductor

WAGNER Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde
VERDI “Va, pensiero” from Nabucco
HAYDN Symphony No. 90, movements 3 & 4
EŠENVALDS Lakes Awake at Dawn, for chorus and orchestra
BERNSTEIN Overture to Candide

3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Interview with BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons and
BSO Managing Director Mark Volpe

Higginson Hall
12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m.
Mixcla, a Latin jazz ensemble from the Berklee College of Music
A selection of original pieces, drawing on Chilean, Cuban,
and Japanese influences.

1:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
String quartet of Tanglewood Music Center alumni
Program to be announced.

2:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.
Chamber ensemble from the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra
Program to be announced.

3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Members of the Boston Conservatory Theater Division
Michelle Chassé, director and choreographer
Peter Mansfield, music director
Highlights from the 2014-15 season productions of Bernstein’s *On the Town* and Adler and Ross’s *The Pajama Game*

**Public Master Class, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Miller Room**
Observe as students of Project STEP work with BSO cellist Owen Young in a public master class.

**Tours of Symphony Hall and the Symphony Hall Archives**
Members of the Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers will be giving tours of the new BSO Archives facilities, starting from the corridor outside the Miller Room at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

**Children’s Activities**
Join us for a variety of children’s activities, including an Instrument Playground in the Cabot-Cahners Room (first balcony level), a temporary tattoo station in the first-balcony corridor, and craft activities in the rear orchestra-level corridor.