PRESS CONTACT:
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MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS, AND DISTINGUISHED VOCAL SOLOISTS IN TWO CONCERT PERFORMANCES OF STRAUSS’S TRAGIC OPERA ELEKTRA OCTOBER 15 AND 17

CAST INCLUDES CHRISTINE GOERKE IN THE TITLE ROLE, GUN-BRIT BARKMIN AS CHRYSOTHEMIS, AND JANE HENSCHEL AS KLYTÄMNESTRA

Performances to take place Thursday, October 15, and Saturday, October 17 at 8 p.m.

TICKETS FOR THE 2015-16 BSO SEASON, PRICED FROM $25 TO $145, ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH WWW.BSO.ORG OR BY CALLING 888-266-1200

For press releases, downloadable photos, and artist bios, visit bso.org/presskit; for press tickets, email tlott@bso.org or call 617-638-9283

On October 15 and 17, BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons leads the orchestra, Tanglewood Music Festival Chorus, and a large cast of acclaimed vocal soloists in two special concert performances of Strauss’s tragic opera Elektra, featuring American dramatic soprano Christine Goerke in the title role. The performance also features German soprano Gun-Brit Barkmin (Chrysothemis), American mezzo-soprano Jane Henschel (Klytämnestra), German tenor Gerhard Siegel (Aegisth), and British baritone James Rutherford (Orest). The searing one-act opera, Strauss’s first collaboration with librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal, centers on the murder of Elektra’s father, Agamemnon, and Elektra’s obsessive quest for revenge against his murderer, her mother Klytämnestra.

For further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra, visit www.bso.org or click here for complete programs, ticket information, photos, press documents, and artist bios.
PROGRAM DETAILS

With the 1905 premiere of his salacious, violent, and overwhelmingly ingenious Salome, Richard Strauss immediately became opera’s most famous composer and a leading figure of expressionistic musical modernism. Four years later, in his first of six collaborations with the powerfully intellectual Austrian writer, poet, and librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Strauss scandalized audiences once more with Elektra, another brutally graphic, modernistic retelling of a familiar story from antiquity. A searingly intense adaptation of the ancient Greek drama, in which Elektra and her brother Orestes plot to avenge their father Agamemnon’s death, Elektra, like its predecessor Salome, is built upon the mastery of the orchestra and musical form Strauss had achieved in his orchestral tone poems and broke new ground in opera as a musical investigation of human emotion and psychology.

Elektra marks the high-water point of Strauss’s avant-garde, modernistic experimentations, featuring dissonance even more prominently than did Salome and at times detaching almost entirely from traditional harmonic structures. Though Strauss reversed course beginning with his next opera, Der Rosenkavalier, which looked fondly back at the lush melodiousness and sentimentality of Romanticism and Viennese dance music, Elektra served as an example and set the tone for what was very soon to come in the raw, atonal, and intellectually adventurous music of the early and mid 20th century. Extremely demanding of both instrumentalists and vocalists, the opera calls for a gargantuan orchestra and requires fearlessness and endurance from the singers, particularly the soprano lead, who is tasked with one of the most exposed and exhausting roles in the repertoire.

TICKET, SPONSORSHIP, AND OTHER PATRON INFORMATION

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2015-16 season are available now by calling the BSO Subscription Office at 888-266-7575 or online through the BSO’s website (http://www.bso.org/subscriptions). Single tickets, available from $25 to $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 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 and Thursday evening concerts Rush Tickets are available beginning at 5 p.m.

The BSO’s <40=$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 availa-
ble. 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 2015-16 season.

This season will introduce “Casual Fridays,” encouraging both patrons and the orchestra to come dressed in comfortable clothing. The three evening “Casual Friday” concerts in January, February, and March are priced from $25-$45 and will feature both a pre-concert reception and post-concert reception with live music until midnight. In addition, a limited number of iPads will be distributed to concert-goers with pre-loaded content related to the evening’s performance including music scores, program notes, and guest artist information.

“BSO 101: Are You Listening?” returns in 2015-16. 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. Each of these “BSO 101” sessions takes place from 5:30-6:45 p.m., and each is followed by a free guided tour of Symphony Hall, as well as a reception offering beverages, hors d’oeuvres, and further time to share thoughts with other attendees. Though the “BSO 101” sessions are free, please note that there is a nominal charge for the reception. Full details of the 2015-16 “BSO 101” schedule will be announced at a later date.

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 one of the world’s largest and most-visited orchestral websites, receiving approximately 8 million visitors annually and generating over $104 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; a free music stream of Boston Pops recordings; audio concert preview podcasts; Emmy Award-winning audio and video interviews with guest artists and BSO musicians; music excerpts 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 WCRB 99.5 in Boston and WJMF 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 90.3 FM in Albany, NY, WMNR 88.1 FM in Monroe, CT, Vermont Public Radio, New England Public Radio, and WCNH 91.5FM in Concord, NH. 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 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 $39 per person; the cost of lunch is $25, tax included. The Café is located in Higginson Hall; patrons enter through the Cohen Wing entrance on Huntington Avenue. Please call 617-638-
Additionally, casual pre-concert and intermission dining, including sandwiches, light appetizers, and desserts, is available at the bars in Symphony Hall’s Cabot-Cahners 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 2015-16 Season. The BSO is proud to announce that the Arbella Insurance Foundation, a longtime sponsor, will continue its support this season with its sponsorship of the BSO College Card and BSO Youth and Family Concerts. Fairmont Copley Plaza begins its 14th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation begins its 13th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation Provider of the BSO.

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PRESS CONTACT:
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Thursday, October 15
Saturday, October 17

Andris Nelsons, conductor
Christine Goerke, soprano (Elektra)
Gun-Brit Barkmin, soprano (Chrysothemis)
Jane Henschel, mezzo-soprano (Klytämnestra)
Gerhard Siegel, tenor (Aegisth)
James Rutherford, baritone (Orest)
Elizabeth Byrne, soprano (Confidante)
Nadine Secunde, soprano (Overseer)
Meredith Hansen, soprano (Trainbearer)
Nadezhda Serdyuk, Claudia Huckle, Mary Phillips,
    Sandra Lopez, and Rebecca Nash (Maids)
Mark Schowalter, tenor (Young Servant)
Kevin Langan, bass (Orest’s Guardian and Old Servant)
Tanglewood Festival Chorus
STRAUSS Elektra