BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Launches Casual Fridays—An Original Concert Series Aimed at New Audiences—On January 15

Patrons seated in designated sections at Symphony Hall will have access to exclusive behind-the-scenes digital media content on BSO-provided iPads for the first time ever, as well as video screens allowing the audience to see the conductor from the point of view of the orchestra.

Three BSO Casual Friday concerts—January 15, February 12, and March 18—offer attendees specially discounted tickets and a relaxed atmosphere where informal attire and mingling with fellow concert-goers at pre- and post-concert gatherings are encouraged.

“Casual Friday” tickets, priced from $25 to $45, 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 akim@bso.org or call 617-638-9286.

On Friday, January 15, the Boston Symphony Orchestra launches “Casual Fridays,” a new audience initiative designed to make concerts more affordable and accessible for the next generation of attendees. “Casual Friday” performances will be offered on three Friday evenings during the 2015-16 season, January 15, February 12, and March 18, with significantly reduced ticket prices ranging from $25.
to $45. In addition, for the first time ever at Symphony Hall, the BSO is doing a pilot project to experiment with iPad content as a way to enhance the concert experience, providing 110 devices to be used by patrons seated in a designated section at the rear of the orchestra floor. “Casual Fridays” also introduce audiences to the people behind the music through informal conversations; on January 15, BSO bass trombonist James Markey will speak to the audience from the Symphony Hall stage. (Speakers for the February 12 and March 18 programs will be announced at a later date.) This new concert series also encourages concert-goers to wear their favorite casual attire to Symphony Hall, and to mingle and share their experiences at a pre-concert reception and a post-concert gathering in Higginson Hall, where live music, snacks, and a cash bar will be offered.

FURTHER DETAILS ON iPADS AT SYMPHONY HALL
Designed to enhance the listening experience, the BSO-provided iPads will feature digital content exclusive and relevant to that evening’s performance, including video interviews with the featured soloists; video podcasts focused on biographical information about the composers; scores of the pieces being performed; and videos explaining the evening’s musical works, including (for the January 15 program) an analysis of the music being performed, a harp demonstration, and a synopsis of the Petrushka story. Patrons seated in this designated area will also have the chance to get a close-up look at the conductor from the orchestra’s point of view through special video screens that will be set up on both sides of the hall. The BSO was the first orchestra to provide extensive digital content to patrons for use during concerts through orchestra-provided tablets with the launch of its Lawncast program at Tanglewood in Summer 2014.

CASUAL FRIDAYS: BSO PROGRAM DETAILS
The first “Casual Friday” concert features François-Xavier Roth conducting the BSO in Mozart’s Concerto in C for Flute and Harp, K.299, with BSO principal flutist Elizabeth Rowe and principal harpist Jessica Zhou as soloists, and Stravinsky’s Petrushka. The “Casual Friday” concert on February 12 will feature BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons leading the orchestra in a Shakespeare-themed program, as part of a tribute commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Bard’s death. Selections include Strauss’s Macbeth, Tchaikovsky’s Romeo and Juliet, and the world premiere of the BSO-commissioned Sonnets, Tone Poems for English Horn and Orchestra by George Tsontakis, featuring BSO principal English horn player Robert Sheena. Conductor Stéphane Denève presents Saint-Saëns’s Symphony No. 3, Organ, and John Williams’s Violin Concerto with soloist Gil Shaham at the final 2015-16 “Casual Friday” concert on March 18.

TICKET INFORMATION
“Casual Friday” tickets, $25-$45, are available through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston), or online through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org).

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 for regularly priced BSO concerts, 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.

This season will introduce “Casual Fridays,” a new concert series that aims to make concerts more affordable and accessible to younger audiences. Tickets to the three evening “Casual Friday” concerts in
January, February, and March are significantly reduced, ranging from $25 to $45. Concert-goers are welcome to attend both a pre-concert reception and a post-concert reception with live music until midnight. In addition, a limited number of iPads loaded with digital content related to the evening’s performance such as music scores, program notes, and guest artist interviews will be distributed to patrons seated in designated sections at the rear of the orchestra floor.

A limited number of Rush Tickets for Boston Symphony Orchestra subscription concerts on Tuesday and Thursday 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 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 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.

**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.
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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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA “CASUAL FRIDAYS” PROGRAM LISTING
JANUARY 15, FEBRUARY 12, AND MARCH 18, 2016

Friday, January 15
François-Xavier Roth, conductor
Elizabeth Rowe, flute
Jessica Zhou, harp
MOZART Concerto in C for Flute and Harp, K.299
STRAVINSKY Petrushka (1911 version)

Friday, February 12
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Robert Sheena, English horn
STRAUSS Macbeth
TSONTAKIS Sonnets, Tone Poems for English Horn and Orchestra (world premiere; BSO commission)
TCHAIKOVSKY Romeo and Juliet

Friday, March 18
Stéphane Denève, conductor
Gil Shaham, violin
WILLIAMS Violin Concerto
SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No. 3, Organ