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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
GERMESHAUSEN YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS CONDUCTOR
THOMAS WILKINS LEADS ORCHESTRA IN
ANNUAL YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS, AT SYMPHONY HALL

SOLD OUT MARCH 5 CONCERT PROGRAM, “GROWING UP WHOLE”: HEARING THE ORCHESTRA GROW, INCLUDES MUSIC BY BOSTON POPS LAUREATE CONDUCTOR JOHN WILLIAMS, AS WELL AS POPULAR WORKS BY BEETHOVEN, TCHAIKOVSKY, BACH, MOZART, AND STRAUSS

APRIL 26-28 CONCERT PROGRAM, “SOUND DECISIONS”: A MUSICAL LOOK AT CHOICE, CHANCE AND APPLICATION, INCLUDES MUSIC BY PROKOFIEV, BEETHOVEN, AND SHOSTAKOVICH

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WILL ALSO PARTNER WITH BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS TO PRESENT A FAMILY VERSION OF ROSSINI’S OPERA CINDERELLA, APRIL 10

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

Boston Symphony Orchestra Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins will lead the BSO in two Youth and Family concert series at Symphony Hall this spring. The two programs—“Growing Up Whole,” a sold-out concert on March 5, and “Sound Decisions,” on April 26-28—are designed for children ages 3-8 and grades 4-6 respectively. Performances will feature some of the most
recognizable themes in classical music including works by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Strauss, Mozart, and Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams. The BSO will also collaborate with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras for a special performance of Rossini’s opera Cinderella on April 10, with additional details to be announced in separate press release.

**BSO YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERT, “GROWING UP WHOLE” MARCH 5**
Under the direction of Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins, the BSO will present a Family Concert on March 5 with the theme “Growing Up Whole”: Hearing the Orchestra Grow. To introduce children ages 3-8 and young families to classical music, the concert will feature themes from some of the most popular works in the repertoire including Strauss’s Fanfare from Thus Spake Zarathustra, music from Bach’s Brandenburg concertos, excerpts from Beethoven’s Symphony Nos. 1 and 5, and the Finale from Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5. Harvard University freshman Christine Hong, the winner of the 2015 BSO Concerto Competition, will also join Mr. Wilkins and the BSO for a performance of the first movement (Allegro molto appassionato) from Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto in E minor. Additionally, young audience members will be introduced to contemporary music with a performance of Cindy McTee’s percussive orchestral piece Circuits. The 12 noon Family Concert on March 5 will feature pre-concert activities from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. including an Instrument Playground, arts and crafts, and an instrument demonstration by a BSO musician. A brand new activity presented in conjunction with the Boston Children’s Museum will teach families how to make musical instruments out of household objects, with some basic tools and a little imagination.

**BSO YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERTS, “SOUND DECISIONS” APRIL 26, 27, & 28**
Also under the direction of Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins, the Boston Symphony Orchestra will present concerts for students in grades 4-6, with the goal of introducing young audiences to the orchestral experience, encouraging long-term ownership of orchestral music and the BSO, and delivering positive character development messages. The theme of these performances is "Sound Decisions": A Musical Look at Choice, Chance and Application. The concert program will feature popular and engaging works from the classical repertoire including the second movement from Beethoven’s Symphony No. 8, Prokofiev’s Waltz and Midnight from Cinderella Suite No. 1, music from Grofé’s Grand Canyon Suite, and Shostakovich’s Festive Overture. A useful guide for students and teachers attending these programs may be downloaded here and additional ticket details are available here.

**ADDITIONAL YOUTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS SPRING 2016**
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 is also principal guest conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and holds the Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor chair with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. 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 lifelong enthusiasm for music, Thomas Wilkins has been 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.” In 2014 he received the Outstanding Artist award at the Nebraska Governor’s Arts Awards, for his significant contribution to music in the state.

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.

CHRISTINE HONG
Since she started playing the violin at the age of 6, Christine Hong has studied with Malcolm Lowe, Silvian Iticovici, Judith Lee, Amy Sims, and is presently studying with Lynn Chang. She is passionate about serving the community with her music and continues to play in benefit concerts and in elderly homes regularly. She enjoys playing orchestral, chamber, and solo repertoire and served as Concertmaster of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. She has toured Vienna, Prague, Bratislava, Buenos Aires, Rosario, Akureyri, and Reykjavik with the group over the course of five years. In 2015, Hong won the New England Conservatory Concerto Competition in Category D and performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. Hong was awarded the Zinaida Gilels Memorial Book Award by the New England Conservatory Preparatory School in May of 2015. Christine is currently a freshman at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA where she pursues her interest in music and plays in the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra under Maestro Federico Cortese.

FAMILY CONCERT TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets for the March 5 performance at 12 noon are $20 per adult; children 18 and under are free. Concerts take place on 10 a.m. and 12 noon on April 26, 27, and 28, and are free for students and teachers from the Boston Public Schools to attend, subject to availability and with advance reservation. Otherwise, tickets are available for $10. Orders for children’s tickets may be placed by calling Symphony Charge at 617-266-1200, or at the Symphony Hall Box Office. There is a $1.50 handling fee for each transaction. Thanks to the generous support of Arbella Insurance Foundation, sponsor of the BSO's Youth and Family Concerts, a limited amount of funding has been set aside to partially subsidize the costs of bus transportation to and from Symphony Hall for schools attending 2016 BSO Youth Concerts. Please visit: www.arbella.com/BSOBus for more details and for application information.

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 15,000 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:**
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**BSO YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERT LISTING**

**Saturday, March 5, 12 noon**
BSO Family Concert
**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
Thomas Wilkins, conductor
"Growing Up Whole": Hearing the Orchestra Grow

*Works by STRAUSS, WILLIAMS, BACH, MOZART, BEETHOVEN, MCTEE, MENDELSSOHN, and TCHAIKOVSKY*

**Sunday, April 10, 12 noon and 3 p.m.**
Musicians of the Boston Symphony Orchestra
Musicians of the Boston Youth Symphony
**Federico Cortese, conductor**
Edward Berkeley, Stage Director
Lidiya Yankovskaya, Chorus Master
Julia Dawson, Angelina (Cinderella)
Randall Bills, Don Ramiro (Prince of Salerno)
José Adán Pérez, Dandini (his valet)
Thomas Hammons, Don Magnifico (stepfather of Cinderella/Baron of Montefiascone)
Amanda Opuszynski, Clorinda (his daughter)
Sarah Larsen, Thisbe (his daughter)
Louis Otey, Alidoro (a philosopher/tutor to the Prince)
Ladies and gentlemen of the Prince's court

*Special performances of a family version of Rossini's opera, Cinderella, sung in English*

**April 26, 27, and 28 (10 a.m. and 12 noon each day)**
Boston Symphony Orchestra
**Thomas Wilkins, conductor**
"Sound Decisions": A Musical Look at Choice, Chance and Application

*Works by SMETANA, PONCHIELLI, BEETHOVEN, PROKOFIEV, MCTEE, GROFÉ, and SHOSTAKOVICH*