FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: September 8, 2016

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS KICK OFF THEIR THIRD SEASON TOGETHER WITH AN OPENING NIGHT GALA ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24; ALL-RUSSIAN PROGRAM TO FEATURE VIRTUOSO PIANIST LANG LANG PERFORMING PROKOFIEV’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 3 ON A PROGRAM WITH MUSSORGSKY’S PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION AND SHOSTAKOVICH’S FESTIVE OVERTURE

ELEGANT BLACK-TIE PARTY TO TAKE PLACE POST-CONCERT IN SYMPHONY HALL, WITH ROOM DÉCOR INSPIRED BY SEVERAL OF THE EVOCATIVE THEMES FROM PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION; THREE-COURSE DINNER TO BE CREATED BY CHEF PATRICK CAMPBELL OF CAFÉ ARTSCIENCE

THE 2016-17 BSO SEASON IS SPONSORED BY BANK OF AMERICA AND DELL EMC

To view an online press kit with complete programs, concert listing, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here: www.bso.org/presskit

The Boston Symphony Orchestra opens its 2016-17 season (September 24, 2016-May 6, 2017) on Saturday, September 24, with a gala celebration featuring the BSO in an all-Russian program conducted by BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons. The season opener, marking the start of the BSO’s 136th season, features the highly acclaimed Chinese pianist Lang Lang in Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3. The BSO and Mr. Nelsons begin the program with Shostakovich’s Festive Overture and close it with Ravel’s orchestration of Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition, a piece Ravel himself introduced to Serge Koussevitzky (BSO music director, 1924-49), and which inspired Koussevitzky’s commission of the arrangement. An elegant black-tie party, chaired by John S. and Cynthia Reed, will feature cocktails and
an Opening Night gala dinner with a three-course menu created by Chef Patrick Campbell of Café ArtScience in Cambridge.

DETAILS OF THE BSO'S OPENING NIGHT GALA PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 24
Following the concert, Andris Nelsons, Lang Lang, and some of the Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians will join the Opening Night attendees for cocktails and a celebratory dinner, taking place in different rooms in Symphony Hall, decorated based on artistic themes in Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition—a watercolor room (“The Old Castle”) will draw on the fluidity of water with projections on the walls and tablecloths resembling water; a dance-themed room (“Ballet of Chicks in their Shells”) will include draped walls and twinkle lights; an art deco-style architecture room (“The Great Gate of Kiev”) will feature gold and white linens with aqua-colored chairs and décor; and a charcoal-themed room will feature chalkboard tabletops awash in candlelight.

Created by Chef Patrick Campbell of Café ArtScience in Cambridge, the BSO’s opening night dinner menu will feature a first course of salade de canard, local apple and radishes, and fried bread with burgundy truffle; a main course of either grilled Gulf of Maine swordfish with late summer vegetables and a saffron nage with lovage pistou or a vegetarian handmade ricotta gnudi with vegetable ragu, fall mushrooms, and Parmigiano-Reggiano; and panna cotta for dessert. Hors d'oeuvres include chickpea panisse with vegetable purée, warm gougères, toasted brioche with American caviar and herb crème fraîche, and steak tartare and fried oysters.

Design Collaborative’s Jennifer Wheaton designed the event, which will feature flower arrangements by Tori Samuel and Winston Flowers. Rentals will be provided by Andrew Boucher, High Output, La Tavola, Nuage, Table Toppers, Be Our Guest, and Peterson Party Center.

ANDRIS NELSONS AND THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA KICK OFF 2016-17 SEASON SEPTEMBER 24 WITH ALL-RUSSIAN OPENING NIGHT GALA PROGRAM FEATURING PIANIST LANG LANG IN PROKOFIEV’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 3
This year’s Symphony Gala, the orchestra’s Opening Night party celebrating the start of the 2016-17 BSO season, takes place on Saturday September 24, the evening of the first concert of the season. The 6 p.m. Opening Night concert features Maestro Andris Nelsons leading the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the extraordinary pianist Lang Lang in Prokofiev's sparkling Piano Concerto No. 3, on a program with Shostakovich’s aptly named, vibrant Festive Overture, written to celebrate the 37 th anniversary of the October Revolution, and Ravel’s arrangement of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, one of the repertoire’s most barnstorming, kaleidoscopic showpieces. Former BSO Music Director Serge Koussevitzky commissioned Ravel to write the 1922 arrangement after Ravel introduced Koussevitzky to the piano work.

Click here to view the complete 2016-17 BSO concert schedule.
**TICKET INFORMATION IN BRIEF**

Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2016-17 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](http://www.bso.org/subscriptions)). Single tickets, priced from $25-$165, may be purchased by phone through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), online through the BSO’s website ([www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)), or in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston). There is a $6.50 service fee for all tickets purchased online or by phone through SymphonyCharge. Mastercard is the Preferred Card of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The BSO’s <40=$20 program allows patrons under the age of 40 to purchase tickets for $20. 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. 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. The Boston Symphony Orchestra offers **groups** advanced ticket reservations and flexible payment options for BSO concerts at Symphony Hall.

**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](http://www.classicalwcrb.org). Live and archived BSO concerts can also be streamed online at [www.bso.org](http://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 Hampshire Public Radio, Maine Public Broadcasting Network, and New England Public Radio. BSO broadcasts on 99.5 WCRB begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday nights, and are repeated at 8 p.m. on Monday evenings.

**BSO.ORG—THE LARGEST AND MOST VISITED ORCHESTRA WEBSITE IN THE COUNTRY**

The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s extensive website, [BSO.org](http://www.bso.org), is the largest and most-visited orchestral website in the country, receiving approximately 10 million visitors annually and generating over $111 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. The site’s **Media Center** consolidates its numerous new media initiatives in one location, including audio concert preview podcasts; Emmy Award-winning interviews with guest artists and BSO musicians; concert program notes; WGBH radio broadcast streams of select BSO, Boston Pops, and Tanglewood performances; and all self-produced albums by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows. BSO.org is now accessible in a smart phone/mobile device-friendly format, where patrons can access performance schedules, purchase tickets and pre-performance food and beverages, access the BSO’s new media content, and make donations to the BSO – all in the palm of their hand. BSO.org also launched eTicketing and Print-at-Home tickets, making it easier for patrons attending a concert to access their tickets at home or on their smartphones. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is on Facebook at [Facebook.com/BostonSymphony](http://Facebook.com/BostonSymphony) on Twitter at [Twitter.com/BostonSymphony](http://Twitter.com/BostonSymphony), and on Google+ at [Google.com/+bostonsymphony](http://Google.com/+bostonsymphony). Video content from the BSO is also available at [YouTube.com/BostonSymphony](http://YouTube.com/BostonSymphony).

To view an online press kit with complete programs, concert listing, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here: [www.bso.org/presskit](http://www.bso.org/presskit).
SPONSORSHIPS
Bank of America is the Lead Sponsor and Dell EMC is the Supporting Sponsor of the 2016-17 BSO Season. Opening Night at Symphony is a Mastercard Priceless® experience. The Arbella Insurance Foundation is the sponsor of the BSO Casual Fridays Series, BSO College Card, Youth & Family Concerts, and the BSO Young Professionals (YoPro) program. Fairmont Copley Plaza begins its 15th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and Delta Air Lines returns as the Official Airline of the BSO. Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation begins its 14th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation of the BSO.

# # #

PRESS CONTACT:
Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285