FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: September 22, 2016

2016-17 BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SEASON, SEPTEMBER 24-MAY 6, FEATURES A VARIETY OF AFFORDABLE TICKET OPTIONS

THREE BSO CASUAL FRIDAY CONCERTS (9/30, 2/10, & 3/31) OFFER PATRONS SPECIALLY PRICED TICKETS, A CHANCE TO HEAR THE CONDUCTOR AND SOLOISTS SPEAK FROM THE STAGE, AND A “CONDUCTOR CAM” FOR PATRONS SITTING IN A DESIGNATED SECTION, ALLOWING THEM TO SEE THE ORCHESTRA’S POINT OF VIEW; AND A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WHERE CASUAL ATTIRE AND MINGLING WITH FELLOW-CONCERT GOERS AT PRE- AND POST-CONCERT GATHERINGS IS ENCOURAGED

BSO’S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP (YOPRO) FEATURES A DISCOUNTED TICKET PACKAGE WITH PRE- AND POST-CONCERT RECEPTIONS OFFERING A CHANCE TO MEET WITH OTHER YOUNG BOSTONIANS

DISCOUNTED TICKET PROGRAMS INCLUDE $20 TICKETS FOR PATRONS UNDER 40, AS WELL AS THE COLLEGE CARD ($25), HIGH SCHOOL CARD ($10), AND MEDICAL CARD OFFERING STUDENTS ACCESS TO AN UNLIMITED NUMBER OF CONCERTS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

FOUR THURSDAY-MORNING OPEN REHEARSALS INCLUDE A PERFORMANCE FEATURING ORGANIST CAMERON CARPENTER, LED BY BRAMWELL TOVEY (1/12); CONDUCTOR FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH WITH CELLIST ALISA WEILERSTEIN (3/23); AND ANDRIS NELSONS-LED PERFORMANCES FEATURING PIANIST RADU LUPU AND VOCALISTS IN AN ALL-MOZART PROGRAM (4/20) AND PIANIST LEIF OVE ANDSNESS AND SOPRANO KRISTINE OPOLAIS (MAY 4)

PATRONS OF ALL AGES CAN EXPERIENCE THE BSO WITH $9 RUSH TICKETS
The **Boston Symphony Orchestra**’s 2015-16 season, September 24-May 6, features a variety of affordable ticket options for patrons in every age group. Now in its second season, **“Casual Fridays”** is a young audience initiative featuring discounted ticket prices ($25-45), free pre- and post-concert receptions, conductor and musician comments from the stage, and, in designated areas of the auditorium, a “Conductor Cam,” from which patrons see the orchestra’s perspective. Ticket options designed to encourage young concert-goers to enjoy BSO concerts at Symphony Hall include the orchestra’s highly successful **$20 concert tickets for patrons under the age of 40**; the **BSO College Card** ($25), and the **High School Card** ($10), programs that invite students to attend virtually any concert of their choosing throughout the BSO season for just the one-time cost of the card, with the exception of a some pre-designated dates. The **Young Professionals Group (YoPro)** offers discounted ticket packages ($150 for 4 tickets) to BSO and Pops concerts featuring pre-and post-concert receptions, allowing members to meet and mingle with other young Bostonians. Patrons of all ages can also take advantage of **BSO Rush Tickets**, costing $9 each, as well as the four **BSO Open Rehearsals**, affordably priced between $18-30, providing patrons a unique look at the rehearsal process.In addition, the orchestra continues to offer the **Massachusetts Teachers Association** and **members of the military** a **thirty percent discount** on all single tickets and subscriptions.

Tickets may be purchased through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org), by phone through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), or in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston).

**“CASUAL FRIDAYS”**

**“Casual Fridays,”** a young audience initiative designed to make concerts more affordable for and accessible to the next generation of attendees, takes place on three Friday evenings during the 2016-17 season, September 30, February 10, and March 31. This lower-priced series includes a free pre-concert reception for all concertgoers and an opportunity for audience members to hear directly from conductors and musicians from the Symphony Hall stage. Patrons who choose to sit in “Conductor Cam” seats in the rear orchestra and second balcony levels can watch the conductor from the orchestra’s perspective via monitors placed in front of these sections. This series also encourages both concert-goers and orchestra members to wear their favorite casual attire to Symphony Hall. Ticket-holders are invited to attend a post-concert gathering in Higginson Hall to mingle and share their concert experiences in a relaxed setting with live music, snacks, and a cash bar. “Casual Fridays” launched last season and builds on the success of the “Underscore Fridays” concerts offered in previous years.

The “Casual Friday” concerts on September 30 and February 10 are conducted by BSO Music Director **Andris Nelsons**, and French conductor **Alain Altinoglu**—making his BSO debut this season—leads the final “Casual Friday” on March 31. The September 30 program features Shostakovich’s **Festive Overture** and Mussorgsky’s **Pictures at an Exhibition**. The February 10 performance includes Berlioz’s **Symphonie fantastique** and George Benjamin’s **Dream of the Song**, a BSO co-commission featuring countertenor Bejun Mehta and Boston-based Lorelei Ensemble. The “Casual Friday” concert on March 31 features Berlioz’s **Roman Carnival** Overture, Lalo’s **Symphonie espagnole**, for violin and orchestra (with soloist Renaud Capuçon), and Roussel’s **Bacchus et Ariane**, Suite No. 2.
“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).

**Young Professionals Group (YoPro)**
The BSO’s **Young Professionals Group (YoPro)** offers young Bostonians an opportunity to enjoy BSO and Boston Pops concerts at a discounted price. The YoPro events feature both pre- and post-concert receptions with a buffet dinner and complimentary wine and beer for each performance. This year’s YoPro events include the October 27 Charles Dutoit-led performance of Mozart’s Symphony No. 29 and Bartók’s *Bluebeard’s Castle*, and the December 8 Holiday Pops concert. Tickets for each YoPro event are available at [www.bso.org/yopro](http://www.bso.org/yopro) or by calling 888-266-1200. Patrons can purchase a 4-ticket ($150) package that includes pre- and post-concert receptions with a buffet dinner and complimentary wine and beer.

**$20 Tickets to Patrons under 40**
The Boston Symphony Orchestra will continue offering **$20 concert tickets for patrons under the age of 40** to BSO concerts for the 2016-17 Symphony Hall season. The tickets, normally priced from $25 to $116, will be made available for many Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Symphony Chamber Players programs during the 2016-17 season. For blackout dates please visit [http://www.bso.org/20under40](http://www.bso.org/20under40).

**<40=$20** tickets, available on both the orchestra and balcony levels, may be purchased by phone 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) with the promotional code “20under40.” Eligible patrons may purchase up to two tickets per show and must provide proof of age at the box office when picking up their tickets in order to receive the discount.

**BSO College Card**
The [BSO College Card](http://www.bso.org/collegecard) gives Boston-area college students the opportunity to attend most of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s concerts on a regular basis throughout the season for only $25. Weekly concert availability is listed on [www.bso.org/collegecard](http://www.bso.org/collegecard) and tickets can be picked up—one per cardholder, student ID required—at the Symphony Hall Box Office beginning on Monday at 10 a.m. the week of the concert date. Availability is not guaranteed for all concerts. Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must register their cards online at [www.bso.org/collegecard](http://www.bso.org/collegecard) to receive up-to-date information on ticket availability.

College Cards may be purchased online at www.bso.org, by visiting the Symphony Hall Box Office, or by calling Symphony Charge at 617-266-1200.
**High School Card**
The **High School Card** is the best way for aspiring young high school musicians to experience the BSO on a regular basis. For only $10, High School Card-holders can attend an **unlimited** number of concerts throughout the BSO season (with exception to blackout dates, listed at [www.bso.org/highschoolcard](http://www.bso.org/highschoolcard)). Tickets can be picked up—one per cardholder, student ID required—at the Symphony Hall Box Office beginning on Saturday at Noon on the week of the concert date. Availability is not guaranteed for all concerts. Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Students can register their cards online to receive up-to-date information on ticket availability. The BSO website ([www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)) will be updated each Saturday with any additional upcoming blackout dates. High School Card-holders will also be invited to Teen Nights at Symphony, hosted by the BSO Teen Council. At these events, they will have the opportunity to connect with other high school musicians and meet members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

**High School Cards may be purchased online at [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org), by visiting the Symphony Hall Box Office, or by calling Symphony Charge at 617-266-1200.**

**Medical Card**
The **BSO Medical Card** gives Boston-area medical students and residents the opportunity to attend most of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s concerts on a regular basis throughout the season. The new BSO pilot program is organized directly with select hospital programs, including Massachusetts General Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham and Womens’ Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital for Children, Harvard Medical School, Mount Auburn Hospital, The Cambridge Heath Alliance, and Boston Children’s Hospital. For more information contact customerservice@bso.org.

**Open Rehearsal Tickets**
Tickets to **Open Rehearsals** are priced between $18 and $30 and provide Boston Symphony fans with a unique look at the rehearsal process. Because these are working rehearsals, patrons may experience interactions between the conductor, soloist, and orchestra throughout the performance, as well as more in-depth rehearsal of particular passages of the music that the conductor considers requiring more refinement. Open Rehearsal dates during the 2016-17 season include a performance of music by Barber, Riley, and Elgar, led by **Bramwell Tovey** and featuring organist **Cameron Carpenter** (January 12, 2017); conductor **François-Xavier Roth** with cellist **Alisa Weilerstein** in a performance of music by Berlioz, Pintscher, and Beethoven (March 23, 2017); **Andris Nelsons** with pianist **Radu Lupu** and vocalists **Lucy Crowe, Tamara Mumford, Ben Johnson, and Morris Robinson** in an all-Mozart program (April 20, 2017); and a program of music by Shostakovich, Rachmaninoff, and Mahler, led by **Andris Nelsons** and featuring pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes** and soprano **Kristine Opolais** (May 4, 2017). The Open Rehearsals also feature a pre-rehearsal talk from 9:30-10 a.m. in Symphony Hall, free to ticket holders.

**Open Rehearsal tickets are reserved seating only. Tickets range from $18-$30 and can be purchased at the BSO Box Office, online at [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org), or through Symphony Charge at 888-266-1200.**
BSO High School Open Rehearsal Series

The **BSO’s High School Open Rehearsal Series** offers students in grades 8-12 the opportunity to attend up to three designated open rehearsals throughout the BSO season, offering students a look into a working rehearsal setting. High School Open Rehearsals include Thursday, October 20, 2016, with Yo-Yo Ma and conductor Charles Dutoit; Thursday, November 3, 2016, with BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès, mezzo-soprano Christianne Stotijn, and baritone Mark Stone; and Thursday, April 13, 2017, with BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons and pianist Mitsuko Uchida. The program is designed for students to become a part of these in-depth rehearsal sessions and the day begins at 9:30 a.m. with a discussion about the music to be performed.

Tickets for High School Open Rehearsals are $10. Tickets must be purchased through SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200 or at the Symphony Hall Box Office. A ticket handling fee of $1.50 per order will apply.

**BSO Rush Tickets**

**BSO Rush Tickets** enable concert-goers of all ages to enjoy a performance at Symphony Hall by the BSO for only $9 per ticket. A limited number of Rush Tickets for Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons are set aside to be sold on the day of the performance. Rush Tickets are limited to one per customer, and must be purchased with cash only. Rush Tickets are available at the BSO Box Office on Massachusetts Avenue beginning at 5 p.m. for Tuesday-, and Thursday-evening concerts, and 10 a.m. for Friday-afternoon concerts. This program is made possible through the Richard and Claire Morse Rush Ticket Fund.

All programs and artists are subject to change. For more information or to purchase a College Card, High School Card, or High School Open Rehearsal ticket, contact the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200 or online at www.bso.org. For current program information, dial 617-CONCERT (266-2378). The Boston Symphony Orchestra is online at www.bso.org.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

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). Single tickets, available 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), 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.

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 notifications of 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.

**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.

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