BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FEATURED ON TWO NEW ALBUM RELEASES THIS FALL

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 28: A COMPREHENSIVE 86-CD BOX SET FEATURING ALL OF CHARLES MUNCH’S RCA VICTOR RECORDINGS WITH THE BSO, 1949-1962

AVAILABLE NOW: FORMER MUSIC DIRECTOR JAMES LEVINE CONDUCTS THE BSO IN TWO COMMISSIONED WORKS BY AMERICAN COMPOSER CHARLES WUORINEN

To request a copy of the Wuorinen album or Munch box set for review purposes, please email press@bso.org

This fall, the Boston Symphony Orchestra is featured in two new recording projects. The first, which is currently available for purchase, showcases former Music Director James Levine (2004-2011) conducting the world premiere performances of two BSO-commissioned works by American composer Charles Wuorinen: his Eighth Symphony (“Theologoumena”) and his Fourth Piano Concerto, featuring soloist Peter Serkin. Further details about this recording appear below. Released on Bridge Records, the CD recording is available for $17.95 at BSO.org and the Symphony Shop, as well as other online retailers.

In addition, for the first time, all of Maestro Charles Munch’s RCA Victor recordings with the Boston Symphony Orchestra are available in one comprehensive 86-CD box set, to be released in the United States on Friday, October 28 by Sony Classical. Nearly 65 hours of music are featured, with varied repertoire spanning two centuries by more than 40 composers. Maestro Munch, particularly known for his interpretations of French music and for developing the BSO into one of the world’s greatest French orchestras, is heard on these recordings leading the BSO in works of illustrious French composers Claude
Debussy, Maurice Ravel, and Camille Saint-Saëns, as well as 12 works by Hector Berlioz, including “La Damnation de Faust,” “Roméo et Juliette,” and “Symphonie fantastique.” Further details about the works featured appear below. This collection will be available for $189.95 at BSO.org and the Symphony Shop, as well as other online retailers.

To request a copy of the Wuorinen album or Munch box set for review purposes, please email press@bso.org.

BACKGROUND ON WUORINEN'S EIGHTH SYMPHONY (“THEOLOGOUMENA”) AND FOURTH PIANO CONCERTO

James Levine—whose history with the BSO dates back to his conducting debut in 1972—strived to commission works from renowned American composers when he became the BSO’s Music Director in 2004. The first American-born conductor to lead the BSO, Mr. Levine successfully commissioned multiple pieces from such composers as Elliott Carter, John Harbison, and Charles Wuorinen during his seven seasons in Boston.

The recordings featured on this album are taken from the world premiere performances of these works at Symphony Hall. Wuorinen’s Fourth Piano Concerto was one of the first BSO commissions that Maestro Levine conducted as BSO Music Director. It received its world premiere at Boston’s Symphony Hall on March 24, 2005, and was followed by performances on March 25, 26, and 28, 2005. This concerto was written specifically for American pianist Peter Serkin, for whom Mr. Wuorinen had previously composed other works.

Commissioned specifically for the BSO’s 125th anniversary, Wuorinen’s Eighth Symphony (“Theologoumena”) received its world premiere at Symphony Hall on February 15, 2007, with subsequent performances taking place on February 16 and 17, 2007. Wuorinen composed this three-movement symphony after completing “Theologoumenon,” a single-movement symphonic poem written for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in honor of Maestro Levine’s 60th birthday (Levine served as the Metropolitan Opera’s Music Director from 1976-2016). “Theologoumenon” was the source work for the Eighth Symphony, and the two compositions can be played independently or together as a four-movement symphony.

In addition to these two compositions, Charles Wuorinen’s further contributions to the BSO include directing Tanglewood’s Festival of Contemporary Music in 2011. Born in 1938, Mr. Wuorinen first had his music performed by the BSO in 1964 at Tanglewood and in 1990 at Symphony Hall. An accomplished pianist, he also performed at Tanglewood in the 1960s.

RECORDING PERSONNEL FOR WUORINEN ALBUM

Recording personnel responsible for producing the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s new recording of Wuorinen’s Eighth Symphony (“Theologoumena”) and Fourth Piano Concerto are Howard Stokar and Becky Starobin, Executive Producers; David Starobin, Producer; John Newton of Soundmirror Boston,
Recording Engineer; Nick Squire, BSO Audio Engineer; Adam Abeshouse, Mastering Engineer; Doron Schachter, Editor and Transfer Engineer; and Silas Brown, Transfer Engineer.

BACKGROUND ON CHARLES MUNCH – THE COMPLETE RCA ALBUM COLLECTION
Released by Sony Classical, this special 86-CD box set pays tribute to conductor Charles Munch (BSO Music Director, 1949-62), featuring all of his RCA Victor recordings with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The collection includes 16 works new to CD and 29 works newly remastered from original analog tape recordings, as well as a 162-page hardcover book written by Munch biographer D. Kern Holoman and offering historical photos, detailed track lists, and insights into the maestro’s recording legacy with the BSO. It also includes several albums that Maestro Munch recorded with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra before and after his tenure with the BSO. The 86-CD box collection was released internationally on September 16, 2016, and will be available for sale in the United States on October 28, 2016. A complete track list can be found at the end of this release.

In addition to his acclaimed expertise in French music, Munch was also known for championing contemporary works, leading 34 world premieres during his tenure as BSO Music Director. Several of these compositions—including Bohuslav Martinů’s Symphony No. 6, “Fantaisies Symphoniques,” and Arthur Honegger’s Symphony No. 5—are included in this box set. The comprehensive collection spans two centuries of classical music, featuring orchestra works from George Frideric Handel’s “Water Music,” to Easley Blackwood Jr.’s Symphony No. 1. Concertos highlight such acclaimed soloists as Benny Goodman, Jascha Heifetz, Yehudi Menuhin, David Oistrakh, Sviatoslav Richter, and Artur Rubinstein.

In addition to the dozens of albums he recorded with the BSO, Charles Munch left his mark on the orchestra through tours and televised concerts. He led the Boston Symphony Orchestra on its first international tours, and their 1956 visit to the Soviet Union made the BSO the first-ever American orchestra to tour the region. In 1955, the BSO’s concerts were televised for the first time during Maestro Munch’s directorship, when Boston public television station WGBH aired the performances on its “Evening at Symphony” series.

RECORDING PERSONNEL FOR CHARLES MUNCH – THE COMPLETE RCA ALBUM COLLECTION
Recording personnel responsible for producing the Charles Munch – The Complete RCA Album Collection are Robert Russ, Producer; Guido Eitberger, Production Manager; Martin Kistner, Andreas K. Meyer, and Mark Donahue, Mixing and Mastering Engineers. Recording personnel responsible for producing the original Boston Symphony Orchestra RCA Victor recordings (1949-1962) include Richard Mohr, John Pfeiffer, Max Wilcox, and Peter Dellheim, Producers; and Lewis Layton, John Crawford, Fred Lynch, and Leslie Chase, Recording Engineers.

OTHER BSO RELEASES IN 2016
Earlier in 2016, the Boston Symphony Orchestra was featured on two additional albums: Shostakovich Under Stalin’s Shadow: Symphonies 5, 8, & 9, conducted by Music Director Andris Nelsons and released
by Deutsche Grammophon; and the Boston Symphony Chamber Players’ *Brahms|Dvořák Serenades* CD released by the Boston Symphony’s own **BSO Classics** recording label.

*Shostakovich Under Stalin’s Shadow: Symphonies 5, 8, & 9* is the second installment in the BSO’s partnership with Deutsche Grammophon of live performance recordings of Shostakovich’s complete symphonies. This 2-CD set is a follow-up to the 2016 Grammy-winning album for Best Orchestral Performance, *Shostakovich Under Stalin’s Shadow: Symphony No. 10*, which was released on July 31, 2015. The third Shostakovich installment is scheduled to be released in summer 2017 as a 2-CD set and will include Symphonies Nos. 6 and 7, as well as the Suite from the Incidental Music to *King Lear*.

*Brahms|Dvořák Serenades* is the latest release from the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. The album features Brahms’s Serenade No. 1 in D, arranged for chamber orchestra by Alan Boustead, and Dvořák’s Octet-Serenade for clarinet, bassoon, horn, two violins, viola, double bass, and piano.

*Shostakovich Under Stalin’s Shadow: Symphonies 5, 8, & 9, Brahms|Dvořák Serenades*, and many other releases featuring the BSO are available at the Symphony Shop, BSO.org, and other online retailers.

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**COMPLETE ALBUM LISTING FOR CHARLES MUNCH RCA ALBUM COLLECTION**

*denotes New York Philharmonic

**denotes Philadelphia Orchestra

***denotes Philharmonia Orchestra with conductor George Weldon

**DISC 1**: Saint-Saëns: Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78, “Organ Symphony” (1947) [new to CD]*


**DISC 3**: d’Indy: Symphonie sur un chant montagnard français, Op. 25 (1948) [new to CD]* / Franck: Variations symphoniques, FWV 46 [new to CD]*** / Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21 in C, K.467 [new to CD]*


**DISC 5**: Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op.26 / Schumann: Symphony No. 1 in B-flat, Op.38, "Spring" (1951) [new to CD]


DISC 9: Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat, Op. 83


DISC 14: Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto in D, Op. 35 (1953)


DISC 17: Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21 / Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto No. 4 in C minor, Op. 44

DISC 18: Menotti: Violin Concerto in A minor / Honegger: Symphony No. 2 for String Orchestra, H. 153

DISC 19: Ravel: “Daphnis et Chloé,” M. 57 (1955)


DISC 24: Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36


DISC 28: Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 in F, Op. 68, “Pastoral”

DISC 29: Debussy: “Le Martyre de saint Sébastien,” L. 124

DISC 30: Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D, Op. 61


DISC 33: Piston: Symphony No. 6 [remastered] / Martinů: Fantaisies symphoniques (Symphony No. 6), H. 343 [remastered]

DISC 34: Brahms: Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68 [remastered]


DISC 37: Walton: Cello Concerto / Bloch: “Schelomo” [new to CD]

DISC 38: Debussy: “La Mer,” L. 109 / Ibert: “Escales”

DISC 39: Franck: Symphony in D minor, FWV 48


DISC 47: Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30


DISC 50: Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15 [remastered 2013]


DISC 52: Debussy: Images pour orchestre, L. 122

DISC 53: Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98 (1958) [remastered]

DISC 54: Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F, BWV 1046 / Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F, BWV 1047 / Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G, BWV 1048

DISC 55: Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G, BWV 1049 / Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D, BWV 1050 / Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in B-flat, BWV 1051

DISC 56: Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, "Choral" [remastered]

DISC 57: Beethoven: Symphony No. 8 in F, Op. 93

DISC 58: Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 / Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 63 (Remastered)


DISC 60: Saint-Saëns: Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78, "Organ Symphony" (1959)

DISC 61: Blackwood: Symphony No. 1, Op. 3 [new to CD] / Haieff: Symphony No. 2 [new to CD]


DISC 63: Mahler: “Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen” / Mahler: “Kindertotenlieder”


DISC 67: Dvořák: Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104


DISC 73: Poulenc: Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani in G minor, FP93 [remastered] / Stravinsky: “Jeu de cartes” [remastered]
DISC 78: Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G, Op. 88 [remastered, labeled as Symphony No. 4]
DISC 84: Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74, “Pathétique”