ANDRIS NELSONS AND BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OPEN CARNEGIE HALL THREE-CONCERT SERIES ON FEBRUARY 28 WITH THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF ACCLAIMED RUSSIAN COMPOSER SOFIA GUBAIDULINA’S TRIPLE CONCERTO, FOLLOWING THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE TO TAKE PLACE IN BOSTON ON FEBRUARY 23

TWO WORKS BY TITANS OF THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES TO BE FEATURED ON SUBSEQUENT CARNEGIE HALL PROGRAMS: GUNTHER SCHULLER’S SEVEN STUDIES ON THEMES OF PAUL KLEE ON MARCH 1 AND GEORGE BENJAMIN’S DREAM OF THE SONG, A BSO CO-COMMISSION, ON MARCH 2

FEBRUARY 28
ANDRIS NELSONS-LED PROGRAM OF GUBAIDULINA’S TRIPLE CONCERTO FOR VIOLIN, CELLO, AND BAYAN TO FEATURE BAIBA SKRIDE, HARRIET KRIJGH, AND ELSBETH MOSER TO BE PERFORMED ON A PROGRAM WITH SHOSTAKOVICH’S SYMPHONY NO. 7, Lенинград

MARCH 1
GUNTHER SCHULLER’S SEVEN STUDIES ON THEMES OF PAUL KLEE TO OPEN PROGRAM OF MOZART’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 22 WITH EMANUEL AX AND BEETHOVEN’S EROICA SYMPHONY
MARCH 2
NEW YORK PREMIERE OF GEORGE BENJAMIN’S DREAM OF THE SONG WITH COUNTERTENOR BEJUN MEHTA AND THE LORELEI ENSEMBLE TO BE PERFORMED ON PROGRAM WITH RAVEL’S LE TOMBEAU DE COUPERIN AND BERLIOZ’S SYMPHONY FANTASTIQUE

BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons returns to the Carnegie Hall podium for three programs with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, February 28, March 1 and 2. The New York premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina’s Triple Concerto—on the heels of the recent world premiere performance in Boston on February 23—major works by Gunther Schuller and George Benjamin, as well as Beethoven and Shostakovich, and a special guest appearance by Emanuel Ax performing music of Mozart, are among the highlights of Maestro Nelsons’ and the BSO’s 2016-17 three-concert series at Carnegie Hall.

FEBRUARY 28: ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS THE BSO AND SOLOISTS BAIBA SKRIDE, HARRIET KRIJGH, AND ELSBETH MOSER IN THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF SOFIA GUBAIDULINA’S TRIPLE CONCERTO FOR VIOLIN, CELLO, AND BAYAN ON A PROGRAM WITH SHOSTAKOVICH’S SYMPHONY NO. 7, LENINGRAD
Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra open the first performance of their three-night engagement at Carnegie Hall in 2017 on Tuesday, February 28, with the New York premiere of Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina’s Triple Concerto for violin, cello and bayan—a BSO and Carnegie Hall co-commission—featuring violinist Baiba Skrīde, cellist Harriet Krijgh, and bayan player Elsbeth Moser. The program closes with Shostakovich’s epic Symphony No. 7, Leningrad, dedicated to the Soviet city and one of the composer’s most famous works.

MARCH 1: EMANUEL AX JOINS MAESTRO NELSONS AND THE BSO FOR MOZART’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 22 ON A PROGRAM WITH MUSIC BY SCHULLER AND BEETHOVEN
On Wednesday, March 1, Andris Nelsons and the BSO are joined by pianist Emanuel Ax for Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat, K.482. The program opens with Gunther Schuller’s Seven Studies on Themes of Paul Klee (1959), an aural representation of the colors and patterns shown in seven paintings by Swiss-German artist Paul Klee and one of the composer’s most frequently performed works. Beethoven’s revolutionary Eroica Symphony closes the program.

MARCH 2: ANDRIS NELSONS AND THE BSO PERFORM THE NEW YORK PREMIERE OF GEORGE BENJAMIN’S DREAM OF THE SONG WITH COUNTERTENOR BEJUN MEHTA AND THE LORELEI ENSEMBLE ON A PROGRAM INCLUDING MUSIC BY RAVEL AND BERLIOZ
Concluding the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 2016-17 Carnegie Hall programs, Maestro Nelsons, the BSO, countertenor Bejun Mehta, and the vocal group Lorelei Ensemble present the New York premiere of George Benjamin’s Dream of the Song, a BSO co-commission, on Thursday, March 2. Also on the program is Ravel’s Le Tombeau de Couperin—a paean to François Couperin and to fellow countrymen who died in World War I—and Berlioz’s feverish Symphonie fantastique, one of the BSO’s signature works.

FOLLOWING PERFORMANCES IN CARNEGIE HALL: ANDRIS NELSONS MAKES CONDUCTING DEBUT IN CANADA, MARCH 4 AND 5, LEADING BSO IN FIRST PERFORMANCES THERE IN 21 YEARS
For the first time in 21 years, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director
Andris Nelsons, makes a highly anticipated return to Canada for two performances: at Montreal’s Maison Symphonique on Saturday, March 4, and Toronto’s Roy Thomson Hall on Sunday, March 5. These performances also mark Maestro Nelsons’ conducting debut in Canada. On Saturday, March 4, at 8 p.m., Andris Nelsons and the BSO take the stage at Montreal’s Maison Symphonique for a performance of Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 22, featuring renowned pianist and regular BSO guest artist Emanuel Ax, on a program with Berlioz’s masterpiece, Symphonie fantastique—one of the BSO’s most popular signature works. On Sunday, March 5, at 3 p.m., at Toronto’s Roy Thomson Hall, Mr. Ax joins the orchestra and Mr. Nelsons for a performance of Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 2; the second half of the program will include a performance of Symphonie fantastique. The Boston Symphony Orchestra last performed in Montreal on March 9, 1984, and in Toronto on February 6, 1996; both of these performances were led by BSO Music Director Laureate Seiji Ozawa (BSO Music Director 1973-2002). For further information about the BSO’s past performances in Montreal and Toronto, please visit archives.bso.org.

Andris Nelsons
Andris Nelsons made his debut as BSO Music Director in the 2014-15 season, leading the Boston Symphony Orchestra in ten programs at Symphony Hall in Boston, repeating three of them at Carnegie Hall in New York; and also six programs at Tanglewood, the orchestra’s summer home in Lenox/Stockbridge, MA. In August 2015, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Mr. Nelsons reached an agreement to extend Mr. Nelsons’ contract as BSO Music Director through the 2021-22 season, following his extraordinary first year in that role, having received virtually unanimous praise and universal enthusiasm for his work with the orchestra from critics and audiences alike.

From the 2017-18 season Andris Nelsons will hold the position of the Gewandhauskapellmeister of the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and will be the central figure in bringing the BSO and GWO together for a unique multidimensional alliance, which will explore the many historic connections between these two orchestras.

In 2016-17, his third season as the BSO's Ray and Maria Stata Music Director, Andris Nelsons leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra in fourteen wide-ranging subscription programs at Symphony Hall, repeating three of them at New York's Carnegie Hall in late February/early March, followed by two concerts in Montreal and Toronto.

Mr. Nelsons made his Boston Symphony debut at Carnegie Hall in March 2011, conducting Mahler’s Symphony No. 9; he made his Tanglewood debut in July 2012, leading both the BSO and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra as part of Tanglewood’s 75th Anniversary Gala (a concert available on DVD and Blu-ray, and telecast nationwide on PBS). He is the fifteenth music director in the history of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His first compact disc with the BSO (also available as a download)—live recordings of Wagner’s Tannhäuser Overture and Sibelius's Symphony No. 2, from concert performances at Symphony Hall in the fall of 2014—was released earlier this season on BSO Classics. Also this season, he and the BSO, in collaboration with Deutsche Grammophon, initiated a multi-year recording project entitled “Shostakovich Under Stalin’s Shadow,” to be drawn from live performances at Symphony Hall of Shostakovich’s symphonies 5 through 10, the Passacaglia from his opera Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, and selections from Shostakovich’s incidental music to Hamlet and King Lear, all composed during the period the composer labored under the life-threatening shadow of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

A Brief History of the Boston Symphony Orchestra

Now in its 135th season, the Boston Symphony Orchestra gave its inaugural concert in 1881, realizing the dream of its founder, the Civil War veteran/businessman/philanthropist Henry Lee Higginson, who envisioned a great and permanent orchestra in his hometown of Boston. In 2014, the orchestra will continue to build upon its storied history with the beginning of a new chapter as Andris Nelsons becomes the orchestra’s 15th music director at the start of the BSO’s 2014-15 season.

Today the BSO reaches millions of listeners, not only through its concert performances in Boston and at Tanglewood, but also via the internet, radio, television, educational programs, recordings, and tours. It commissions works from today’s most important composers; its summer season at Tanglewood in the Berkshire hills of Western Massachusetts is among the world’s most important music festivals; it helps develop future audiences through BSO Youth Concerts and educational outreach programs involving the entire Boston community; and, during the Tanglewood season, it operates the Tanglewood Music Center, one of the world’s most important training grounds for young professional-caliber musicians. The Boston Symphony Chamber Players, made up of BSO principals, are known worldwide, and the Boston Pops Orchestra—with its cabaret style festive atmosphere and food and drink served during the concerts—sets an international standard for performances of lighter music. The BSO’s winter season and the Boston Pops holiday and spring seasons take place in Boston’s Symphony Hall, widely acclaimed for its great acoustics and considered among the top concert halls in the world.

Launched in 1996, the BSO’s website, bso.org, is the largest and most-visited orchestral website in the United States, receiving approximately 10 million visitors annually on its full site as well as its smart phone/mobile device-friendly web format. The BSO is also on Facebook and Twitter, and video content from the BSO is available on YouTube. An expansion of the BSO’s educational activities has also played a key role in strengthening the orchestra’s commitment to, and presence within, its surrounding communities. Through its Education and Community Engagement programs, the BSO provides individuals of all backgrounds the opportunity to develop and build relationships with the BSO and orchestral music. In addition, the BSO offers a variety of free educational programs at Symphony Hall and Tanglewood, as well as special initiatives aimed at attracting young audience members.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra gave its inaugural concert on October 22, 1881, under Georg Henschel, who remained as conductor until 1884. For nearly twenty years, BSO concerts were held in the old Boston Music Hall; Symphony Hall, one of the world’s most revered concert halls, opened on October 15, 1900. Henschel was succeeded by the German-born and -trained conductors Wilhelm Gericke, Arthur Nikisch, Emil Paur, and Max Fiedler, culminating in the appointment of the legendary Karl Muck, who served two tenures, 1906-08 and 1912-18. In 1915 the orchestra made its first transcontinental trip, playing thirteen concerts at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. Henri Rabaud, engaged as conductor in 1918, was succeeded a year later by Pierre Monteux. These appointments marked the beginning of a French tradition maintained, even during the Russian-born Serge Koussevitzky’s tenure (1924-49), with the employment of many French-trained musicians.
It was in 1936 that Koussevitzky led the orchestra’s first concerts in the Berkshires; he and the players took up annual summer residence at Tanglewood a year later. Koussevitzky passionately shared Major Higginson’s dream of “a good honest school for musicians,” and in 1940 that dream was realized with the founding of the Berkshire Music Center (now called the Tanglewood Music Center).

Koussevitzky was succeeded in 1949 by Charles Munch, who continued supporting contemporary composers, introduced much French music to the repertoire, and led the BSO on its first international tours. In 1956, the BSO, under the direction of Charles Munch, was the first American orchestra to tour the Soviet Union. Erich Leinsdorf began his term as music director in 1962, to be followed in 1969 by William Steinberg. Seiji Ozawa became the BSO’s thirteenth music director in 1973. His historic twenty-nine-year tenure extended until 2002, when he was named Music Director Laureate. In 1979, the BSO, under the direction of Seiji Ozawa, was the first American orchestra to tour mainland China after the normalization of relations.

Bernard Haitink, named principal guest conductor in 1995 and Conductor Emeritus in 2004, has led the BSO in Boston, New York, at Tanglewood, and on tour in Europe, as well as recording with the orchestra. Previous principal guest conductors of the orchestra included Michael Tilson Thomas, from 1972 to 1974, and the late Sir Colin Davis, from 1972 to 1984.

The first American-born conductor to hold the position, James Levine was the BSO’s music director from 2004 to 2011. Levine led the orchestra in wide-ranging programs that included works newly commissioned for the orchestra’s 125th anniversary, particularly from significant American composers; issued a number of live concert performances on the orchestra’s own label, BSO Classics; taught at the Tanglewood Music Center; and in 2007 led the BSO in an acclaimed tour of European music festivals. In May 2013, a new chapter in the history of the Boston Symphony Orchestra was initiated when the internationally acclaimed young Latvian conductor Andris Nelsons was announced as the BSO’s next music director, a position he took up in the 2014-15 season, following a year as music director designate.

Today, the Boston Symphony Orchestra continues to fulfill and expand upon the vision of its founder Henry Lee Higginson, not only through its concert performances, educational offerings, and internet presence, but also through its expanding use of virtual and electronic media in a manner reflecting the BSO’s continuing awareness of today’s modern, ever-changing, 21st-century world. For further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s many activities, visit www.bso.org.

TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets for the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 2016-17 appearances at Carnegie Hall are available on subscription at the Carnegie Hall Box Office, 154 West 57th Street, New York. They may also be charged to major credit cards by calling CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800 or purchased online at the Carnegie Hall website, www.carnegiehall.org. Single tickets to Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts for the 2016-2017 season will be available in late August.

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Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 8 p.m.
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Baiba Skride, violin
Harriet Krijgh, cello
Elsbeth Moser, bayan
GUBAIDULINA Triple Concerto for violin, cello, and bayan (New York premiere; BSO co-commission)
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 7, Leningrad

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 8 p.m.
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Emanuel Ax, piano
SCHULLER Seven Studies on Themes of Paul Klee
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat, K.482
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3, Eroica

Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 8 p.m.
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Bejun Mehta, countertenor
Lorelei Ensemble
Beth Willer, Artistic Director
RAVEL Le Tombeau de Couperin
BENJAMIN Dream of the Song (New York premiere; BSO co-commission)
BERLIOZ Symphonie fantastique