BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR **ANDRIS NELSONS** TO LEAD THE ORCHESTRA IN FIVE WEEKS OF PROGRAMS FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH MARCH 5, INCLUDING THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED WORLD PREMIERE OF A NEW WORK BY SOFIA GUBAIDULINA, BACH’S MASS IN B MINOR, BSO CO-COMMISSIONS BY GUNThER SCHULLER AND GEORGE BENJAMIN, MAJOR WORKS BY BEETHOVEN AND SHOSTAKOVICH, AND CONCERTS FEATURING EMANUEL AX IN WORKS OF MOZART AND BEETHOVEN

NELSONS TO LEAD BSO PERFORMANCES AT SYMPHONY HALL (FEB. 2-25), CARNEGIE HALL (FEB 28, MARCH 1, AND 2), AND IN MONTREAL (MARCH 4) AND TORONTO (MARCH 5)

[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL CONCERT LISTING](#)

MAESTRO NELSONS LEADS THE BSO, A CAST OF VOCAL SOLOISTS, AND THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS, IN BACH’S B MINOR MASS

COUNTERTENOR **BEJUN MEHTA** JOINS MR. NELSONS AND THE ORCHESTRA FOR **GEORGE BENJAMIN’S DREAM OF THE SONG**, A BSO COMMISSION ON A PROGRAM WITH WORKS BY RAVEL AND BERLIOZ

**EMANUEL AX** JOINS THE BSO FOR BEETHOVEN’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 2 AND MOZART’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 22
SOLOISTS BAIBA SKRIDE, HARRIET KRIJGH, AND ELSBETH MOSER JOIN ANDRIS NELSONS
AND THE BSO FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF SOFIA GUBAIDULINA’S TRIPLE CONCERTO
FOR VIOLIN, CELLO, AND BAYAN ON A PROGRAM WITH
SHOSTAKOVICH’S SYMPHONY NO. 7, LENINGRAD

BSO SEASON TICKETS (FEBRUARY 2-25): $25-$165, VISIT WWW.BSO.ORG OR CALL 888-266-1200
CARNEGIE HALL TICKETS (FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2): $12.50-$156, VISIT WWW.CARNegieHALL.ORG
OR CALL 212-247-7800

MONTREAL TICKETS (MARCH 4): FROM $43, VISIT WWW.OSM.CA OR CALL 888-842-9951
TORONTO TICKETS (MARCH 5): $49.50-169.50, VISIT WWW.ROYTHOMSON.COM OR CALL 416-872-4255

TICKETS FOR THE 2016-17 BSO SEASON ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH
WWW.BSO.ORG OR BY CALLING 888-266-1200

For press releases, downloadable photos, and artist bios, visit bso.org/presskit;
for press tickets, email tlott@bso.org or call 617-638-9283

Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director Andris Nelsons returns to the BSO podium for five weeks of
programs with the orchestra including performances at Symphony Hall, February 2-25, Carnegie Hall,
February 28 and March 1 and 2, and in Montreal and Toronto, March 4 and 5. From Bach’s great
masterpiece, the Mass in B Minor, to two recent BSO commissions by Gunther Schuller and George
Benjamin, major works by Beethoven and Shostakovich, special guest appearances by Emanuel Ax
performing music of Mozart and Beethoven, and the world premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina’s Triple Concerto,
Maestro Nelsons and the BSO will explore a wide cross-section of his and the orchestra’s artistry.

For the first week of concerts at Symphony Hall, Thursday, February 2-Tuesday, February 7, Mr. Nelsons and
the BSO are joined by the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and four distinguished vocal soloists for Bach’s Mass in
B Minor, one of the composer’s towering late masterworks.

The following week at Symphony Hall, February 9-11, brings the first of the two BSO-commissioned
contemporary works being performed this month—George Benjamin’s Dream of the Song, for which the
orchestra teams up with countertenor Bejun Mehta and the women’s vocal group Lorelei Ensemble. The
program also includes Ravel’s Le Tombeau de Couperin and Berlioz’s masterpiece Symphonie fantastique—one
of the BSO’s most popular signature works. This program will also be performed at Carnegie Hall on
March 2.

February 14-21, pianist Emanuel Ax joins the BSO and Maestro Nelsons for two works at Symphony Hall. On
February 14, Mr. Ax is soloist in Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 2, on a program with the Symphonie
fantastique. February 16-21, Mr. Ax performs Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 22, and Mr. Nelsons leads the
orchestra in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3, Eroica, and Gunther Schuller’s Seven Studies on Themes of Paul
Klee; this program will also be performed at Carnegie Hall on March 1. Related to this programming, on
Saturday, March 4, Andris Nelsons and the BSO take the stage at Montreal’s Maison Symphonique for a
performance of Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 22, with Mr. Ax, on a program with Symphonie fantastique. On
Sunday, March 5, at Toronto’s Roy Thomson Hall, Mr. Ax joins the orchestra and Mr. Nelsons for a
performance of Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 2, also featuring Symphonie fantastique. The performances
in Montreal and Toronto represent the BSO’s first performances in Canada in 21 years; they also mark Maestro Nelsons’ Canadian conducting debut.

For the final week of Maestro Nelsons’ February concerts at Symphony Hall February 23-25, he leads the world premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina’s BSO co-commissioned Triple Concerto for violin, cello, and bayan—featuring soloists Baiba Skride, Harriet Krijgh, and Elsbeth Moser, respectively—and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7, Leningrad, the latter continuing Andris Nelsons and the BSO’s survey of the composer’s complete symphonies. This program will also be performed at Carnegie Hall on February 28.

ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS THE BSO, A CAST OF VOCAL SOLOISTS, AND THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS IN BACH’S B MINOR MASS, FEBRUARY 2-7
Performances take place at Symphony Hall on Thursday, February 2, Friday, February 3, Saturday, February 4, and Tuesday, February 7, at 8 p.m.
BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra, with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and a distinguished cast of vocal soloists—including soprano Malin Christensson, mezzo-soprano Christine Rice, tenor Benjamin Bruns, and bass-baritone Hanno Müller-Brachmann—in four performances of Bach’s Mass in B minor, Thursday, February 2-Tuesday, February 7. The Mass in B minor, one of Bach’s final completed works and considered one of the greatest musical achievements in history, was last performed by the BSO with Seiji Ozawa in February 2001. The various sections of the B minor Mass were composed over an extended period of time but only compiled in 1748-49, near the end of the composer’s life, into a single manuscript as an extended musical setting of the entire Ordinary of the Roman Catholic Mass.

ANDRIS NELSONS, BEJUN MEHTA, LORELEI ENSEMBLE, AND THE BSO, FEBRUARY 9-11
Performances take place at Symphony Hall on Thursday, February 9, Friday, February 10, and Saturday, February 11, at 8 p.m.; at Carnegie Hall on Thursday, March 2
In three performances Thursday, February 9-Saturday, February 11, Andris Nelsons, the BSO, countertenor Bejun Mehta, and the female vocal group Lorelei Ensemble perform George Benjamin’s Dream of the Song, a BSO co-commission which was given its US premiere by the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra this past summer. The piece sets verses by three major poets who spent formative years in Granada: two Hebrew poets of the mid-11th century, Samuel Ha Nagid and Solomon Ibn Gabirol (sung by solo countertenor in English versions by Peter Cole), and Gabriel Garcia Lorca (sung by the female chorus in the original Spanish). Also on the program is Ravel’s Le Tombeau de Couperin—a paean to François Couperin and to comrades of Ravel’s who died in World War I—and Berlioz’s feverishly brilliant Symphonie fantastique, one of the BSO’s signature works.

ANDRIS NELSONS, EMANUEL AX, AND THE BSO, FEBRUARY 14-21
Performances take place at Symphony Hall on Tuesday, February 14, Saturday, February 18, and Tuesday, February 21, at 8 p.m., and Friday, February 17, at 1:30p.m.; Schuller/Mozart/Beethoven program also to be performed at Carnegie Hall on March 1
On February 14, Andris Nelsons and the BSO present a single concert featuring pianist Emanuel Ax in Beethoven’s lyrical Piano Concerto No. 2, a youthful work that received its premiere in 1795 and was used by the composer as a vehicle to display his own virtuosity soon after he moved to Vienna. The second half of the program features Berlioz’s Symphonie fantastique, the composer’s innovative programmatic symphony detailing a fever dream of obsessive love. Emanuel Ax then joins Mr. Nelsons and the BSO for four more performances Thursday, February 16-Tuesday, February 21 for the pianist’s favorite concerto, 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, a delightfully wide-ranging aural representation of the colors and patterns shown in seven paintings by Swiss-German artist Paul Klee. Beethoven’s revolutionary Eroica Symphony closes the program.
PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE AT SYMPHONY HALL ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, AT 8 P.M., AND FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, AT 1:30 P.M.; AT CARNEGIE HALL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Andris Nelsons and the BSO open the program of Thursday, February 23-Saturday, February 25 with the American premiere of Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina’s Triple Concerto for violin, cello, and bayan (a BSO co-commission), featuring violinist Baiba Skride, cellist Harriet Krijgh, and bayan player Elsbeth Moser, with both Ms. Krijgh and Ms. Moser making their BSO debuts. The bayan is a Russian button accordion, a traditional instrument featured in many of Gubaidulina’s works. The program closes with Shostakovich’s epic Symphony No. 7, Leningrad, which depicts the heroic struggle of the citizens of Leningrad during the Third Reich’s long siege on that city in World War II. These performances are part of Andris Nelson’s ongoing Shostakovich cycle with the BSO.

ANDRIS NELSONS MAKES CONDUCTING DEBUT IN CANADA 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.

For further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra, visit www.bso.org or click here for complete programs, ticket information, photos, press documents, and artist bios.

TICKET, SPONSORSHIP, AND OTHER PATRON 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 avail-
able beginning at 5 p.m.

The BSO’s $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.

**Educational Initiatives at Symphony Hall**

As part of the BSO’s ongoing initiative to enhance its patrons’ awareness and knowledge of the music being performed, the Boston Symphony Orchestra continues to offer a variety of adult education initiatives at Symphony Hall for the 2016–17 season.

This season will continue the popular “Casual Fridays” program, which encourages both patrons and the orchestra to come dressed in comfortable clothing. The three evening “Casual Friday” concerts in September, February, and March will feature both a pre-concert reception and post-concert reception with live music until midnight. The evening will incorporate a technology component to engage audiences with content related to the evening’s performance.

BSO 101 returns in 2016–17, again offering the opportunity to increase your enjoyment of BSO concerts. These free Wednesday sessions with BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel joined by members of the BSO are designed to enhance your listening abilities and appreciation of music by focusing on upcoming BSO repertoire. In addition, each session is followed by a free tour of Symphony Hall. Dates and more information will be provided in your Subscription Package, and at bso.org in the fall. RSVPs for the BSO 101 sessions will not be accepted until the fall. Visit bso.org for details. Full details of the 2016-17 “BSO 101” schedule will be announced at a later date.

The popular Friday Preview Talks continue to take place from 12:15-12:45 p.m. before each Friday-afternoon subscription concert; the Symphony Hall doors open at 11:30 a.m. Given by BSO Director of Program Publica-
tions Marc Mandel, Assistant Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger, and occasional guest speakers, these informative half-hour talks incorporate recorded examples from the music to be performed. The BSO also offers talks before each of the season’s four Thursday-morning Open Rehearsals at Symphony Hall. These take place from 9:30-10 a.m. The Symphony Hall doors open at 9 a.m., and the Open Rehearsal itself begins at 10:30 a.m. Admission to the Friday Preview Talks and Open Rehearsal Talks is free of charge free to ticket holders for the Friday-afternoon subscription concerts and Thursday-morning Open Rehearsals.

BSO Media Offerings
The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s extensive website, BSO.org, is one of the world’s largest and most-visited orchestral websites, receiving approximately 10 million visitors annually and generating over $111 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is on Facebook at Facebook.com/BostonSymphony on Twitter at Twitter.com/BostonSymphony, and on Google+ at Google.com/+bostonsymphony. Video content from the BSO is also available at YouTube.com/BostonSymphony.

The site’s Media Center, consolidates its numerous new media initiatives in one location. In addition to comprehensive access to all BSO, Boston Pops, Tanglewood, and Symphony Hall performance schedules, patrons have access to a number of free and paid media options. Free offerings include WGBH radio broadcast streams of select BSO, Boston Pops, and Tanglewood performances; free live music streams for select seasonal offerings including the upcoming Spring Pops music stream (May 2016); audio concert preview podcasts; Emmy Award-winning audio and video interviews with guest artists and BSO musicians; music excerpts, of up to three minutes, highlighting upcoming programs as well as all self-produced albums by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows, and complete program notes for all performances, which can be downloaded and printed or saved offline to an e-reading device such as a Kindle or Nook. The BSO’s recent Grammy-winning album Shostakovich: Under Stalin’s Shadow is also available at www.bso.org

Paid content includes digital music downloads produced and published under the BSO’s music label BSO Classics and includes performances by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows. The BSO Media Center is available by visiting BSO.org/mediacenter.

BSO.org is mobile device compatible. Patrons can visit BSO.org on their mobile device to access performance schedules, purchase tickets as well as pre-performance food and beverages, download program notes, listen to radio broadcasts, music clips, and concert previews, watch video exclusives, and make donations to the BSO—all in the palm of their hand. The BSO also released a new app during the 2015-16 season called, “During the Event,” which provides users with such new media content as concert program notes and multimedia video podcasts relating to specific concerts, as well as practical information including maps of Symphony Hall, details about available dining options, and a complete schedule of special events.

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. Live and archived BSO concerts can also be streamed online at 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 Net-
work, 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.

**Food Services at Symphony Hall**
The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s catering partner, Boston Gourmet, offers a fresh perspective on the food and beverage options offered at Symphony Hall before concerts, during intermission, and in the popular Symphony Café. Symphony Café offers dining from 5:30 p.m. until concert time for all evening Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts. In addition, Symphony Café is open for lunch prior to Friday-afternoon concerts. Patrons enjoy the convenience of pre-concert dining at the Café in the unique ambiance of historic Symphony Hall. The cost of dinner is $39 per person; the cost of lunch is $25, tax included. The Café is located in Higginson Hall; patrons enter through the Cohen Wing entrance on Huntington Avenue. Please call 617-638-9328 for reservations.

Additionally, casual pre-concert and intermission dining, including sandwiches, light appetizers, and desserts, is available at the snack bar outside the O'Block/Kay Room and Cabot-Cahners Room. Drink coupons, Light appetizers, entrees, desserts, and packages that features an appetizer and half-bottle of wine can also be ordered on the BSO's Website at www.bso.org/dining. During the night of the concert all pre-orders can be picked up at the Cabot-Cahners Room.

There are two lounges in Symphony Hall. The O'Block/Kay Room on the Orchestra level and Cabot-Cahners Room on the first balcony level serve drinks starting one hour prior to each performance. For the Friday afternoon concerts, both rooms open at 11:00 AM, with sandwiches available until concert time. Drink coupons may be purchased in advance online or through Symphony Charge for all performances.

**Symphony Hall Shop and Tours**
The Symphony Shop, located in the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue, is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and from one hour before concert time through intermission. A satellite shop, located on the first-balcony level, is open during concerts through intermission. Merchandise may also be purchased by visiting the BSO website at http://www.bso.org/shop. The shop can be reached at 617-638-9383.

The Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers offers weekly public and private tours of Symphony Hall during the BSO seasons. For more information on taking an Irving W. and Charlotte F. Rabb Symphony Hall tour, please visit us at www.bso.org. You may also email bsav@bso.org, or call 617-638-9390 to confirm specific dates and times. Schedules are subject to change.

**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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