BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS PRESENT WIDE-RANGING PROGRAM FEATURING SOPRANO ELIZABETH FISCHBORN AND MUSIC BY BRAHMS, PROKOFIEV, JOLIVET, FRED LERDAHL, AND DANIEL CROZIER, SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Soprano Elizabeth Fischborn joins the Boston Symphony Chamber Players for their third program of the season, Sunday, April 2, at 3 p.m. in Jordan Hall on the campus of New England Conservatory. Ms. Fischborn appears as soloist in Fred Lerdahl’s Fire and Ice, for soprano and double bass. Also on the program are Jolivet’s Pastorales de Noël, for flute, bassoon, and harp; Prokofiev’s Quintet for oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, and double bass; Daniel Crozier’s Masques for oboe and string trio; and Brahms’s Quartet No. 1 in G minor for piano and strings, Op. 25, one of the chamber music repertoire’s greatest works, featuring pianist David Deveau.

One of the world’s most distinguished chamber music ensembles sponsored by a major symphony orchestra and made up of that orchestra’s principal players, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players feature first-desk string, woodwind, and brass players from the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The April 2 concert features Boston Symphony Orchestra players Malcolm Lowe, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Blaise Déjardin, cello; Edwin Barker, bass; Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon; and Jessica Zhou, harp.

DETAILS FOR BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS APRIL 2 PROGRAM

In his own words, French composer André Jolivet’s intent with all of his work was to “give back to music its original, ancient meaning, when it was the magical, incantatory expression of the religious beliefs of human groups.” Written under German occupation in 1943, amidst the horrors and chaos of the Second World War, his Pastorales de Noël is a poignant example of this endeavor. Almost painfully simple and lovely, it strikes a
gentle, antique tone in depicting four Christmas scenes with a charming naïveté and the many interesting timbral and textual combinations that the unusual ensemble of flute, bassoon, and harp can muster.

Commissioned by the BSO for the 75th anniversary of the Tanglewood Music Center, Fred Lerdahl’s *Fire and Ice* sets Robert Frost’s famous poem of the same name. Echoing the poem’s juxtaposition of opposites, Lerdahl uses the contrast of double bass and high soprano to full effect, increasing their separation of pitch throughout the work as the soprano moves upward and the bass downward in register. The work also taps into the dread of the poem, at times raising the intensity to a desperate level. Soprano Elizabeth Fischborn and double bassist Edwin Barker gave the world premiere at Tanglewood in August 2015.

In 1924, a small ballet company commissioned Sergei Prokofiev to write music for a ballet called *Trapèze*, depicting scenes from circus life. The company didn’t have the budget for a full orchestra, so Prokofiev wrote his music a small ensemble of oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, and bass. The ballet received little acclaim and was quickly forgotten, so Prokofiev re-arranged some of his modern, angular, uncompromising music into a concert quintet, in which format the composer’s ideas and invention can be the center of attention.

American composer Daniel Crozier is professor of composition and music theory at Rollins College in Florida. His brief 2010 chamber work *Masque*, for oboe and string trio, is an intricate and virtuosic work that ranges in tone from mysterious meandering to complex, disorienting tangles of sonority.

Johannes Brahms’s magnificent Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25, combines all the aspects of the composer’s personality and musical style into an ambitious and sprawling work that stretches the boundaries of what seems possible with only four musicians. In four movements, it is at turns lush and Romantic, Classically ordered, lyrical, symphonic, intimate, dramatic, folk-inflected, and even, in the final movement, imbued with the breathless energy of Gypsy dance music.

**BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS 2016-17 SEASON**

To close the 2016-17 Boston Symphony Chamber Players on Sunday, May 7, pianist Leif Ove Andsnes joins the ensemble for Brahms’s Piano Quartet No. 3 in C minor, Op. 60, on a program also featuring Stravinsky’s Octet for flute, clarinet, two bassoons, two trumpets, and two trombones; Sofia Gubaidulina’s *Garden of Joys and Sorrows*, for flute, viola, and harp; and Weinberg’s Sonata for solo double bass. BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès helped open the 2016-17 Chamber Players season on October 30 with a program featuring Britten’s Sinfonietta for winds and strings, Mr. Adès’s own *Court Studies from The Tempest*, Brahms’s Ophelia-Lieder, Stravinsky’s Three Shakespeare Songs, Two Songs from Purcell’s *The Tempest*, and Schubert’s *Trout* Quintet. The second concert of the season on Sunday, January 22, featured the Chamber Players in an all-French program including Taffanel’s Wind Quintet in G minor; Saint-Saëns’s Septet in E-flat for piano, trumpet, and strings; contemporary composer Eric Tanguy’s 2012 *Afterwards*, for flute and piano; and Françaix’s Octet for winds and strings.

**BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS**

One of the world’s most distinguished chamber music ensembles sponsored by a major symphony orchestra and made up of principal players from that orchestra, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players include first-chair string and wind players from the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Founded in 1964 during Erich Leinsdorf’s tenure as BSO music director, the Chamber Players can perform virtually any work within the vast chamber music literature, expanding their range of repertoire by calling upon other BSO members or enlisting the services of such distinguished artists as pianists Leif Ove Andsnes, Emanuel Ax, and André Previn. The Chamber Players’ activities include an annual four-concert series in Boston’s Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory, regular appearances at Tanglewood, and a busy touring schedule. In addition to their
appearances throughout the United States, they have performed in Europe, Japan, South America, and the
Soviet Union. In September 2008, sponsored by Cunard® Line, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players
performed on the Queen Mary 2's transatlantic crossing from New York to Southampton, England. Among
their many recordings are the Brahms string quintets and works by John Harbison, Aaron Copland, and Leon
Kirchner, all on Nonesuch; and the quintets for clarinet and strings by Mozart and Brahms with former BSO
principal clarinet, the late Harold Wright, on Philips. Their recordings on BSO Classics include an album of
Mozart chamber music for winds and strings (the Clarinet Quintet in A, the Horn Quintet in E-flat, the F major
Oboe Quartet, and the Flute Quartet in A, K.298); an album of chamber music by American composers
William Bolcom (Serenata Notturna), Lukas Foss (For Aaron), Michael Gandolfi (Plain Song, Fantastic Dances),
and Osvaldo Golijov (Lullaby and Doina); and “Profanes et Sacrées,” a disc of 20th-century French chamber
music by Ravel, Debussy, Tomasi, Françaix, and Dutilleux recently nominated for a Grammy Award in the
category “Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance.”

TICKET INFORMATION
Subscriptions to the Boston Symphony Chamber Players’ 2016-17 series are priced at $75, $95, and $132,
and are available from the BSO’s Subscription Office by calling 617-266-7575. Single tickets for the individual
concerts are priced at $22, $29, and $38, and can be purchased through SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200,
on www.bso.org, at the Symphony Hall Box Office, or at the Jordan Hall Box Office at 30 Gainsborough Street.
On the day of the concert, tickets may only be purchased at Jordan Hall. Jordan Hall is wheelchair-accessible.

All programs are subject to change. For current program information, dial 617-CONCERT (617-266-2378).

# # #

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

Boston Symphony Chamber Players Program
Sunday, April 2, 3 p.m.
New England Conservatory of Music's Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston

with Elizabeth Fischborn, soprano
and David Deveau, piano

JOLIVET Pastorales de Noël, for flute, bassoon, and harp
  Elizabeth Rowe, flute; Richard Svoboda, bassoon; Jessica Zhou, harp
Fred LERDAHL Fire and Ice, for soprano and double bass
  Elizabeth Fischborn, soprano; Edwin Barker, bass
PROKOFIEV Quintet for oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, and double bass, Op. 39
  John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Malcolm Lowe, violin; Steven Ansell, viola;
    Edwin Barker, bass
Daniel CROZIER Masques, for oboe and string trio
  John Ferrillo, oboe; Malcolm Lowe, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Blaise Déjardin, cello
BRAHMS Quartet No. 1 in G minor for piano and strings
  David Deveau, piano; Malcolm Lowe, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Blaise Déjardin, cello