FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Saturday, September 9, 2017

MUSIC DIRECTOR **ANDRIS NELSONS** LEADS THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF THE BSO’S 2017-18 SUBSCRIPTION SEASON, SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 7

FOLLOWING AN ALL-BERNSTEIN OPENING NIGHT ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, MAESTRO NELSONS AND THE ORCHESTRA KICK OFF THE SUBSCRIPTION SEASON SEPTEMBER 23 AND 26 WITH MAHLER’S SYMPHONY NO. 1 AND HAYDN’S SYMPHONY NO. 103, *DRUMROLL*


THE BSO WELCOMES **GIL SHAHAM** OCTOBER 5-7 FOR TCHAIKOVSKY’S VIOLIN CONCERTO, AND MAESTRO NELSONS LEADS THE ORCHESTRA IN RACHMANINOFF’S SYMPHONY NO. 2 AND ARLENE SIERRA’S *MOLER*

TICKETS FOR THE 2017-18 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*

Following an all-Bernstein opening night gala concert on Friday, September 22, featuring Frederica von Stade, Julia Bullock, and BSO principal flute Elizabeth Rowe, the **Boston Symphony Orchestra’s** 2017-18 subscription
season begins with three consecutive weeks of programs conducted by Music Director Andris Nelsons, September 23-October 7. First, in two concerts September 23 and 26, Mr. Nelsons leads the BSO in works by two of music history’s greatest symphonists. Opening the program is the Symphony No. 103, Drumroll, one of the seminal “London” symphonies by Haydn, a composer for whose music Mr. Nelsons has shown a particular affinity. Completing the program is Mahler’s colorful, episodic First Symphony, a youthful work that nonetheless bears all the stylistic hallmarks and quality of the composer’s later symphonies. For the second week of concerts, September 28-October 3, renowned English pianist Paul Lewis, who has released acclaimed recordings of Beethoven’s complete piano concertos and piano sonatas in recent years, joins Maestro Nelsons and the BSO for the composer’s Piano Concerto No. 4. The BSO and Andris Nelsons also continue their multi-year survey of the complete Shostakovich symphonies with his Symphony No. 11, which the BSO has never performed. Finally, frequent BSO guest Gil Shaham takes center stage October 5-7 as soloist in Tchaikovsky’s soaring Violin Concerto. Mr. Nelsons also leads the orchestra in Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 2 as well as American composer Arlene Sierra’s Moler. Sierra is one of several younger American composers represented in this season’s programming.

ANDRIS NELSONS AND THE BSO, SEPTEMBER 23 AND 26
Performances take place Saturday, September 23, and Tuesday, September 26, at 8 p.m.
In two concerts September 23 and 26, Andris Nelsons leads symphonies by Haydn and Mahler, composers who defined the symphonic genre during their respective eras—Haydn as one of its originators in the late 18th-century Classical era and Mahler as revitalizer and innovator at the end of the Romantic era. Haydn's Drumroll Symphony, not performed by the BSO since 1995, was the next-to-last symphony he wrote, in the first half of the 1790s. The second half of the program is devoted to Mahler’s at times brooding, at times vigorously energetic First Symphony, perhaps the most accessible and dramatically taut of the composer’s nine works in the genre. Though—unlike the Second, Third, and Fourth symphonies—the First does not include any sung text, it does take inspiration and incorporate melodies from Mahler’s song cycle Wayfarer Songs.

ANDRIS NELSONS, PAUL LEWIS, AND THE BSO, SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 3
Performances take place Thursday, September 28, Saturday, September 30, and Tuesday, October 3, at 8 p.m.; and Friday, September 29, at 1:30 p.m.
Renowned English pianist Paul Lewis joins Andris Nelsons and the BSO in four performances, September 28-October 3, for Beethoven’s expansive and lyrical Piano Concerto No. 4, which showcases Beethoven’s tendency to juxtapose the dramatic and the lyrical. Of his five piano concertos, it is the most chimerical, containing moments of grandeur and power as well as passages of glorious weightlessness and ephemeral brushes of color. The concerts also mark the continuation of the orchestra’s ongoing Shostakovich symphony cycle under Mr. Nelson’s direction, as he leads the BSO in the Symphony No. 11, The Year 1905, a crushing score marking the 50th anniversary of Russia’s 1905 Revolution. In keeping with its subject matter, the symphony makes extensive reference to Russian revolutionary songs.
ANDRIS NELSONS, GIL SHAHAM, AND THE BSO, OCTOBER 5-7
Performances take place Thursday, October 5, and Saturday, October 7, at 8 p.m.; and Friday, October 6, at 1:30 p.m.
Andris Nelsons and the BSO welcome American violinist Gil Shaham, who has been a frequent guest at Symphony Hall and Tanglewood since his debut with the orchestra in 1993, for three concerts October 5-7 featuring Tchaikovsky’s sweeping passionate Violin Concerto, one of the most enduringly beloved works for the instrument. Opening the program is Moler by American composer and former Tanglewood Music Center fellow Arlene Sierra. The eight-minute 2012 work is a harmonically colorful and rhythmically energetic evocation of its title, Spanish for “to grind.” Closing the concerts is Rachmaninoff’s lush Symphony No. 2. Like most of the composer’s works, the symphony balances its lush Romanticism with robust, satisfying musical architecture.

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

Ticket Information
Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2017-18 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 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.

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, cash only, 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 for most performances. 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 has sold over 100,000 “$20 under 40” tickets since the program was created in 2008.

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. The orchestra has distributed over 135,000 College Cards since the program’s inception.
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 2017-18 season.

This season will continue the popular “Casual Fridays” program, which encourages both patrons and the orchestra to come dressed in comfortable clothing. The four evening “Casual Friday” concerts in on October 20, January 5, February 9, and April 6 will feature both a pre-concert reception and post-concert reception with live music until midnight. Each evening also features special Conductor Cam seating, which allows patrons to watch the conductor from the orchestra’s perspective on high definition screens.

BSO 101 returns in 2017-18, 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. These sessions take place from 5:30-7 p.m. at Symphony Hall; in addition, each session is followed by a free 1/2 hour tour of Symphony Hall. Dates and more information will be provided in patron subscription packages and at bso.org in the fall. RSVPs for the BSO 101 sessions will not be accepted until the fall. Full details of the 2017-18 “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 Publications Marc Mandel, Associate 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 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 $128 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 Instagram at instagram.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 media options. Offerings include WGBH radio broadcast streams of select BSO, Boston Pops, and Tanglewood performances (via www.bso.org/broadcast); free music streams for select seasonal offerings including the upcoming Spring Pops music stream (May 2017); 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. The BSO’s recent Grammy-winning albums from the Shostakovich: Under Stalin’s Shadow series are also available at www.bso.org.

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. BSO.org also features 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.

The BSO’s recently released tablet app—available on the iPad and Android tablets—offers users an array of concert-enhancing content, including program notes, audio podcasts and interviews with the musicians, and videos. The tablet app’s enhanced reality feature allows patrons to access additional content through image recognition software and beacons. Using the “discover what my camera sees” feature, patrons can point their tablet’s camera at certain landmarks around Symphony Hall to unlock audio and video content about the orchestra including biographical information about the BSO’s musicians and conductors. By using the “discover what is near me” feature, the tablet leverages beacons and push notifications to connect patrons’ tablet devices with content relevant specifically to different areas of Symphony Hall. The app also features an integrated social media experience, as well as a meme generator, allowing users to take a photo at Symphony Hall and post it as a meme to social media. Users can purchase single tickets or new subscriptions through the tablet app, save content to “my music,” and search for parking, dining, and lodging near Symphony Hall. The My Wallet feature keeps track of patrons’ ticket and purchase history, and allows users who’ve selected the “print at home” option to scan their tickets digitally when they arrive for a concert. The BSO’s tablet app is free and available for download and installation on iPad devices via the iTunes App Store. The BSO also offers an iPhone and Android app, 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, with encore broadcasts on Monday evenings. These broadcasts are also streamed live online at www.classicalwcrb.org.

**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 & Prelude Restaurant. Patrons enjoy the convenience of pre-concert dining at the Café and
Prelude in the unique ambiance of historic Symphony Hall. Symphony Café offers buffet-style dinner from 5:30 p.m. until concert time for all evening Boston Symphony concerts. In addition, Symphony Café will be open for lunch at 11 a.m. prior to Friday-afternoon concerts. Prelude, the BSO’s newest dining experience, offers a delicious 3-course Prix Fixe Menu with elegant entrees and sensational flavors. Tables are available by reservation only, exclusively during Symphony season. The Café and Prelude are both located in Higginson Hall; near 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. On the night of the concert, all pre-orders can be picked up at the Cabot-Cahners Room during.

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 a.m., with sandwiches available until concert time. Drink coupons may be purchased in advance online or through SymphonyCharge 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 Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited is the Supporting Sponsor of the 2017-18 BSO Season. 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 returns for the 16th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and Delta Air Lines returns as the Official Airline of the BSO. Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation returns for its 15th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation of the BSO.

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**PRESS CONTACT:**
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**BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 7**

Saturday, September 23
Tuesday, September 26

Andris Nelsons, conductor

HAYDN Symphony No. 103, *Drumroll*
MAHLER Symphony No. 1

Thursday, September 28
Friday, September 29, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 30

Tuesday, October 3

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Paul Lewis, piano

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 11, *The Year 1905*

Thursday, October 5, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, October 5
Friday, October 6, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 7

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Gil Shaham, violin

Arlene SIERRA Molier
TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto
RACHMANINOFF Symphony No. 2