FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS THREE WEEKS OF PROGRAMS, NOVEMBER 16-DECEMBER 2

DYNAMIC YOUNG PIANIST MARTIN HELMCHEN JOINS MAESTRO NELSONS AND THE ORCHESTRA NOVEMBER 16-18 FOR BEETHOVEN’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 3, ON A PROGRAM WITH MAHLER’S FIRST SYMPHONY

MR. NELSONS LEADS BSO IN BRUCKNER’S EXPANSIVE SYMPHONY NO. 4, ROMANTIC, AND BEETHOVEN’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1, FEATURING SOLOIST RUDOLF BUCHBINDER, NOVEMBER 21-25

MAESTRO NELSONS TEAMS UP WITH VIOLINIST LEONIDAS KAVAKOS FOR THE FIRST TIME, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2, IN PERFORMANCES OF PROKOFIEV’S VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 2, AND LEADS THE BSO IN STRAUSS’S AN ALPINE SYMPHONY AND DEREK BERMEL’S ELIXIR

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

On the heels of the BSO’s 2017 four-city, six-concert Japan tour, BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra return to Boston’s Symphony Hall for three weeks of concerts November 16-December 2, featuring three distinguished guest soloists. In three performances, November 16-18, young
Berlin-born pianist Martin Helmchen—who made his BSO debut in 2011 at Tanglewood with Schumann’s Piano Concerto and his subscription series debut in 2015 with Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5, Emperor—is featured in Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3. Maestro Nelsons also conducts Mahler’s Symphony No. 1, a thrilling and accessible work that was completed when the composer was in his late 20s yet already hints at the expansiveness and innovation of his later symphonies.

For the second week of performances, November 21-25, Mr. Nelsons and eminent Austrian pianist Rudolf Buchbinder pair up for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1, a robustly elegant work with which Beethoven made his name as a composer-performer of extraordinary abilities and personality in mid-1790s Vienna. The program concludes with Bruckner’s warm, majestic Fourth Symphony, which brought the composer one of his greatest successes.

Finally, in the first collaboration between two of classical music’s most prominent artists, Maestro Nelsons and Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos come together November 30-December 2 for Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 2, a melodious later work with audible influences from Russian and Spanish folk music. Maestro Nelsons also continues his exploration of the music of Richard Strauss, closing the program with the vivid tone poem An Alpine Symphony. The program begins with Derek Bermel’s 2006 Elixir, which the American composer describes as “a spectral love potion” and which calls on the distinctive and haunting theremin, one of the earliest electronic instruments.

ANDRIS NELSONS, MARTIN HELMCHEN, AND THE BSO, NOVEMBER 16-18
Performances take place Thursday, November 16, and Saturday, November 18, at 8 p.m., and Friday, November 17, at 1:30 p.m.
In three performances Thursday, November 16-Saturday, November 18, Andris Nelsons conducts the orchestra in cornerstones of the repertory by Beethoven and Mahler. On the first half of the program is Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3, featuring German soloist Martin Helmchen. The work is a dramatic, tumultuous affair, and in it Beethoven takes an audible step away from the style of Mozart, the towering forebear of the piano concerto genre. Mahler’s at times brooding, at times vigorously energetic First Symphony closes the program. Perhaps the most dramatically taut of the composer’s nine works in the genre, it was originally completed in 1888, but Mahler extensively revised it over the course of more than a decade until its first publication in 1898, including vacillating on whether to attach to it the label “Titan”—a nickname which seems fitting given its heroic-sounding nature but which the composer ultimately decided against.

ANDRIS NELSONS, RUDOLF BUCHBINDER, AND THE BSO, NOVEMBER 21-25
Performances take place Tuesday, November 21, and Saturday, November 25, at 8 p.m.; and Friday, November 24, at 1:30 p.m.
Music Director Andris Nelsons continues his survey of the complete symphonies of Bruckner with the orchestra in three concerts Tuesday, November 21-Saturday, November 25. Having previously performed the composer’s Third, Sixth, and Seventh symphonies, Maestro Nelsons and the BSO take on the Symphony No. 4, Romantic, in these concerts. Marked by the soaring grandeur and long-breathed melodies so characteristic of Bruckner, the Fourth is one of the composer’s most direct and approachable works. To open the program,
Austrian pianist Rudolf Buchbinder, a frequent collaborator with Mr. Nelsons, joins the orchestra for Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1. In form and structure, the work is fairly typical of the Classical piano concerto, but Beethoven provides surprises with some of the frequent and sudden harmonic shifts that would later become a mainstay of his style, and stretches the traditional scope of the genre (this would have been one of the longest concertos ever presented to audiences of the time and is longer than all of the composer’s other piano concertos save the Emperor).

ANDRIS NELSONS, LEONIDAS KAVAKOS, AND THE BSO, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2
Performances take place Thursday, November 30, and Saturday, December 2, at 8 p.m.; and Friday, December 1, at 1:30 p.m.
Greek-born violinist Leonidas Kavakos returns to Symphony Hall for three performances Thursday, November 30-Saturday, December 2, joins the BSO as soloist in Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2. Composed in the mid-1930s, the concerto is by turns beautifully lyrical and scintillatingly virtuosic, with a Spanish-flavored finale as a nod to Madrid, where the work was premiered in 1935. To open the concerts, Andris Nelsons leads the orchestra in American composer Derek Bermel's Elixir, which combines colorfully tranquil music for strings with exuberant, Messiaen-like exclamations from wind instruments deployed throughout the auditorium, as well as a prominent part for the theremin, a fascinating early electronic instrument. Elixir is one of several works by American composers being presented during the BSO’s 2017-18 season. Completing the program is Richard Strauss’s cinematic tone poem An Alpine Symphony, illustrating an excursion up, then down (at a faster pace!) a mountain, with a huge range of instrumental and compositional effects that call on an enormous orchestra of some 125–150 players, including offstage brass, a menagerie of alternate wind instruments, harps, celesta, organ, and a battery of percussion.

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. [Click here for more information.](#)

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
The BSO’s Symphony through “discover the Symphony under BSO.org.

Shostakovich: Festival well guest throughout patrons’ comprehensive YouTube.com/BostonSymphony.

Revenue The BSO itself—radio—orchestra Boston BSO—which has recently purchased and is the BSO’s app’s content and media offerings are consolidated to beacons. Each performance, 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’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 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 throughout the year; 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.

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 throughout the year; 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.

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

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, NOVEMBER 16-DECEMBER 2

Thursday, November 16
Friday, November 17, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 18
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Martin Helmchen, piano
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3
MAHLER Symphony No. 1

Tuesday, November 21
Friday, November 24, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 25
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Rudolf Buchbinder, piano
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4, *Romantic*

Thursday, November 30, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, November 30
Friday, December 1, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 2
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Leonidas Kavakos, violin
Derek BERMEL *Elixir*
PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto No. 2
STRAUSS *An Alpine Symphony*