FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH TAKES THE PODIUM FOR TWO WEEKS OF BSO PROGRAMS JANUARY 4-13

DAZZLING YOUNG VIRTUOSO PIANIST BENJAMIN GROSVENOR JOINS MR. ROTH AND THE ORCHESTRA JANUARY 4-9 FOR MOZART’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 21 ON A PROGRAM THAT ALSO INCLUDES BEETHOVEN’S SYMPHONY NO. 5 AND MÉHUL’S OVERTURE TO THE AMAZONS, OR THE FOUNDING OF THEBES

MAESTRO ROTH LEADS THE BSO IN THE COMPLETE Music FROM STRAVINSKY’S THE FIREBIRD, WEBERN’S PASSACAGLIA, OP. 1, AND BARTÓK’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1, FEATURING BRILLIANT SOLOIST PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD, JANUARY 11-13

BSO HOSTS LE DÎNER DES AMAZONES, A FOUR-COURSE FOOD OPERA, BASED ON MEHUL’S THE AMAZONS, AT SYMPHONY HALL PRIOR TO JANUARY 6 & 9 PERFORMANCES

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 nbanks@bso.org or call 617-638-9286

French conductor François-Xavier Roth leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra in two weeks of concerts to kick off the new year. For the first program, Thursday, January 4-Tuesday, January 9, sensational young English pianist Benjamin Grosvenor joins the orchestra for four performances, making his BSO debut as soloist in Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21 in C, K.467. Mr. Roth opens the concerts with the overture to the
Beethoven’s French contemporary Étienne-Nicolas Méhul’s 1811 opera *The Amazons, or the Founding of Thebes*, and closes with one of history’s best-known works, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5. Maestro Roth’s second week of BSO programs, Thursday, January 11-Saturday, January 13, also features an outstanding virtuoso pianist—the French pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, who plays the tremendously difficult solo part in Bartók’s brilliant Piano Concerto No. 1, composed in 1926. The program, which focuses on music from the early 20th century, also includes Webern’s warm, expressive 1908 Passacaglia, his very first published work, and Stravinsky’s complete music for the seminal ballet *The Firebird*, written in 1910, which rocketed the young composer to stardom.

**FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH, BENJAMIN GROSVENOR, AND THE BSO, JANUARY 4-9**

Performances take place Thursday, January 4, Friday, January 5, Saturday, January 6, and Tuesday, January 9, at 8 p.m.

Two cornerstones of the repertoire anchor François-Xavier Roth’s first week of BSO program. The young English pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** is soloist in one of Mozart’s most familiar concertos, No. 21 in C, K.467, an elegant, good-natured work written and premiered in Vienna in spring 1785. Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5 is the concerto’s polar opposite in mood, a stormy struggle against destiny with a well-earned victory at the close. One of music’s most acclaimed and popular works, its ubiquity is well-earned: From the first note to the last, the tension is unflagging, the sense of forward motion irresistible, and this exhilarating music has become a definitive example of the expressive power of the symphonic form. Opening the program is a rarity: the overture to the 1811 opera *The Amazons* by the highly successful and prolific opera composer Étienne-Nicolas Méhul, a contemporary of Mozart and Beethoven and one of the most important Parisian composers of his day.

**FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH, PIERRE-LAURENT AYMARD, AND THE BSO, JANUARY 11-13**

Performances take place Thursday, January 11, and Saturday, January 13, at 8 p.m., and Friday, January 12, at 1:30 p.m.

In his second week of concerts, Maestro Roth collaborates with outstanding French pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** in Bartók’s percussive, glittering Piano Concerto No. 1, in which the composer’s love for Central European folk music merges imaginatively with early 20th-century modernism. Music by two close Bartók contemporaries fills out the program. Anton Webern’s lush, 12-minute, single-movement Passacaglia from 1908, a sweepingly expressive and Romantic work, predates the crystalline miniatures for which he is best-known but nevertheless demonstrates his brilliant musical craftsmanship. Composed the following year, Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*, the breathtakingly magical score for legendary impresario Sergei Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes, concludes the program. More than a century later, the groundbreaking work that catapulted the 27-year-old composer to fame remains one of his most beloved pieces.

**Le Dîner des Amazones at Symphony Hall—Saturday, January 6 & Tuesday, January 9, 2018**

On Saturday January 6, and Tuesday January 9, at 5:30 p.m., the Boston Symphony Orchestra is hosting *Le Dîner des Amazones*, an exclusive four-course pre-concert dinner with customized music pairings, at Symphony Hall. Conceived of by **Ben Hogue** and **Jutta Friedrichs**, the food opera is based on the overture to Méhul’s opera *The Amazons, or The Founding of Thebes*, which is part of the BSO’s program both evenings. Diners will be immersed in a multisensory environment, including audio from an array of custom speakers and a
choir of over fifty iPads distributed throughout the room. The four-course meal from Gourmet Caterer’s Executive Chef David Verdo will help introduce elements of Méhul’s life and work, such as his love of flowers and botany, his family’s ties to the wine trade, and the aim of his opera Les Amazones to celebrate peace between nations.

Tickets for the food operas on January 6 and 8 are $127-156 and include dinner and a choice of a standard or premium priced concert ticket. For more information, click here.

**BSO Debuts ConcertCue—Digital Program Notes Available Via a Smartphone—During January 5 “Casual Fridays” Concert**

During the Friday, January 5, “Casual Fridays” concert, the BSO is debuting a “real-time program notes” app, ConcertCue, in collaboration with colleagues at MIT. ConcertCue allows participating audience members the ability to access digital program notes from their smartphones for Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21 in C, K.467. Patrons sitting in the “Conductor Cam” seats in the read orchestra and second balcony levels will be able to use ConcertCue during the performance. Patrons in these seats can also watch the conductor from the orchestra’s perspective via monitors placed in front of these sections.

In addition to the concert on Friday, January 5, “Casual Fridays,” a young audience initiative designed to make concerts more affordable for and accessible to the next generation of attendees, takes place on two more Friday evenings during the 2017-18 season: February 9 and April 6, both with Andris Nelsons conducting. This lower-priced series includes a free pre-concert reception for all concert-goers and an opportunity for audience members to hear directly from conductors and musicians from the Symphony Hall stage. This series also encourages both concert-goers and orchestra members to wear their favorite casual attire to Symphony Hall. Ticket-holders are invited to attend a post-concert gathering in Higginson Hall to mingle and share their concert experiences in a relaxed setting with live music, snacks, and a cash bar.

“Casual Friday” tickets, $25-$45, are available through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston), or online through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org).

For further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra, visit [www.bso.org](http://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](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 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 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.

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](http://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](http://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](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](http://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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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, JANUARY 4-13

Thursday, January 4
Friday, January 5
Saturday, January 6
Tuesday, January 9
François-Xavier Roth, conductor
Benjamin Grosvenor, piano*
MÉHUL Overture to The Amazons, or The Founding of Thebes (January 4, 6, 9)
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 21 in C, K.467
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5

Thursday, January 11
Friday, January 12, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 13
François-Xavier Roth, conductor
Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano
WEBERN Passacaglia, Op. 1
BARTÓK Piano Concerto No. 1
STRAVINSKY The Firebird (complete)