BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS THREE WEEKS OF PROGRAMS, MARCH 22-APRIL 7

MAESTRO NELSONS LEADS BERNSTEIN’S SYMPHONY NO. 2, THE AGE OF ANXIETY, AND SHOSTAKOVICH’S SYMPHONY NO. 4, MARCH 22-27

SECOND WEEK OF PROGRAMS, MARCH 29-APRIL 3, FEATURE AMERICAN PREMIERE JÖRG WIDMANN’S PARTITA, STRAUSS’S DON QUIXOTE WITH CELLIST YO-YO MA AND BSO PRINCIPAL VIOLA STEVEN ANSELL, AND MOZART’S SYMPHONY NO. 23

MR. NELSONS CONDUCTS ACT II OF WAGNER’S TRISTAN UND ISOLDE, APRIL 5 & 7, FEATURING TENOR JONAS KAUFMANN AND SOPRANO CAMILLA NYLUND IN THE TITLE ROLES

MAESTRO NELSONS AND THE BSO TO PERFORM ALL THREE PROGRAMS AT CARNEGIE HALL, APRIL 11-13

TICKETS FOR THE 2017-18 BSO SEASON, PRICED FROM $30-$145, 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 617-638-9283

Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director Andris Nelsons returns to Symphony Hall for three weeks of performances, March 22-April 7, his final appearances in Boston for the season. For the first week of programs,
March 22-27, BSO Artist-in-Residence Jean-Yves Thibaudet joins Mr. Nelsons and the orchestra at the piano to continue the season-long celebration of Leonard Bernstein’s centennial with the composer’s Symphony No. 2, *The Age of Anxiety*, which features a dynamic, jazz-influenced piano part eminently suited to Mr. Thibaudet’s style. Maestro Nelsons and the BSO also continue their ongoing Shostakovich symphony cycle in these concerts with the Symphony No. 4, one of the composer’s most original and inspired creations.

The second week of concerts, March 29-April 3, boasts another result of the new partnership between the BSO and the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester: the American premiere of *Partita* by German composer Jörg Widmann, co-commissioned by the two orchestras. The performances conclude with Strauss’s rollicking tone poem *Don Quixote*, featuring superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma and BSO principal violist Steven Ansell. Opening the program is Mozart’s rarely heard Symphony No. 23.

In what is sure to be one of the highlights of the BSO’s 2017-18 season, Andris Nelsons leads two exciting performances of a program dedicated to the music of Wagner April 5 and 7. At its heart is the complete Act II of *Tristan und Isolde*, featuring tenor Jonas Kaufmann as Tristan—making his debut in the role with these performances—and soprano Camilla Nylund as the Irish princess Isolde (in her BSO debut). The program begins with the orchestral *Siegfried Idyll*, composed for Wagner’s wife, Cosima.

Maestro Nelsons and the BSO will also bring these three programs to Carnegie Hall on Wednesday, April 11 (Bernstein/Shostakovich), Thursday, April 12 (Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde* only), and Friday, April 13 (Mozart/Widmann/Strauss). Tickets for the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 2017-18 season appearances at Carnegie Hall are priced from $24.50-$170 and available for purchase online at www.carnegiehall.org, by calling CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800, or in person at the Carnegie Hall Box Office, 154 West 57th Street, New York.

**ANDRIS NELSONS, JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET, AND THE BSO, MARCH 22-27**

**Performances take place Thursday, March 22, Saturday, March 24, and Tuesday, March 27, at 8 p.m., and Friday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m.**

In four performances Thursday, March 22-Tuesday, March 27, Music Director Andris Nelsons and the BSO continue both their season-long celebration of Leonard Bernstein and their ongoing, multi-season complete transversal of Shostakovich’s symphony cycle. The program begins with Bernstein’s Symphony No. 2, *Age of Anxiety*, a piece based on W.H. Auden’s 1947 Pulitzer Prize-winning poem of the same name, which Bernstein called “one of the most shattering examples of pure virtuosity in the history of English poetry.” Serge Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony Orchestra gave the world premiere performances of the piece, with Bernstein on piano, in 1949. Following intermission comes Dmitri Shostakovich’s dark but powerfully majestic Symphony No. 4. In one of the most harrowing episodes of his career, Shostakovich withdrew this 1936 symphony prior to its first performance as a response to withering official criticism of his opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, replacing it with the now-beloved Symphony No. 5. The Fourth ultimately had to wait 25 years for its premiere in 1961. In addition to the performances March 22-27, Andris Nelsons and the BSO will perform Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 4 on Friday, April 6.
ANDRIS NELSONS, YO-YO MA, AND THE BSO, MARCH 29-APRIL 3
Performances take place Thursday, March 29, Saturday, March 31, and Tuesday, April 3, at 8 p.m.; and Friday, March 30, at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Nelsons and the BSO bring exciting new music to Symphony Hall in four performances Friday, March 30-Tuesday, April 3 with the American premiere of Partita, a new work co-commissioned by the BSO and the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig from esteemed German composer Jörg Widmann, whose powerful Trauermarsch for piano and orchestra was performed by Maestro Nelsons and the BSO with Yefim Bronfman in fall 2016. To conclude this program, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and BSO principal violist Steven Ansell take the spotlight in Richard Strauss’s picaresque tour-de-force Don Quixote, a tone poem whose episodes illustrate scenes from Cervantes’ famous novel. Opening the concerts is Mozart’s brief, rarely performed Symphony No. 23, written in 1773 when he was just seventeen. A fascinating piece, it is structured in three contrasting movements played without pause in the manner of an opera overture, and the slow movement features a solo oboe passage akin to the “Dulcinea” theme in Strauss’s score.

ANDRIS NELSONS, CAMILLA NYLUND, JONAS KAUFMANN, AND THE BSO, APRIL 5 AND 7
Performances take place Thursday, April 5, and Saturday, April 7, at 8 p.m.

Maestro Nelsons takes the podium for two performances Thursday, April 5, and Saturday, April 7, leading the orchestra and an outstanding cast of vocal soloists in some of Wagner’s greatest music. Comprising the bulk of the concerts is the complete Act II from his opera Tristan und Isolde, a hymn to the intense spirituality that accompanies transcendent earthly love. Musically and dramatically innovative, it remains a watershed in the history of music; to hear its music live is an unforgettable experience. Act II includes the title characters’ great love duet, some of the most mesmerizing music ever written, and the heartbreaking confrontation between the bewitched Tristan and King Marke, the father figure he has betrayed. In addition to tenor Jonas Kaufmann and soprano Camilla Nylund in the title roles, the principal cast includes mezzo-soprano Mihoko Fujimura (BSO debut) as Brangäne, tenor Andrew Rees (BSO debut) as Melot, baritone David Kravitz as Kurwenal, and bass Georg Zeppenfeld (BSO debut) as King Marke. The concert opens with one of Wagner’s few purely instrumental works still heard today, the Siegfried Idyll, which he composed in 1869 and had performed as a surprise birthday and Christmas gift for his wife Cosima. The Siegfried of the title is the couple’s son, born the previous June, though Wagner later incorporated some of the Idyll’s music into the third of his Ring operas, Siegfried.

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 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).

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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**PRESS CONTACT:**
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**BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, MARCH 22-APRIL 7**

Thursday, March 22  
Friday, March 23, 1:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 24  
Tuesday, March 27  
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**  
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano  
BERNSTEIN Symphony No. 2, *The Age of Anxiety*  
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 4

Thursday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)  
Thursday, March 29  
Friday, March 30, 1:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 31  
Tuesday, April 3  
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**  
Yo-Yo Ma, cello  
Steven Ansell, viola  
MOZART Symphony No. 23  
Jörg WIDMAN Partita  
(American premiere; BSO co-commission)  
STRAUSS *Don Quixote*

Thursday, April 5  
Saturday, April 7  
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**  
Camilla Nylund, soprano* (Isolde)  
Jonas Kaufmann, tenor (Tristan)  
Mihoko Fujimura, mezzo-soprano* (Brangäne)  
Georg Zeppenfeld, bass* (Marke)  
Andrew Rees, tenor* (Melot)  
David Kravitz, baritone (Kurwenal)  
**ALL-WAGNER PROGRAM**  
*Sung in German with English supertitles*
Friday, April 6
Andris Nelsons, conductor
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 4