FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: Wednesday, April 11, 2018

BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS CLOSE THEIR 2017-18 SEASON ON APRIL 22 IN JORDAN HALL WITH MUSIC BY MOZART, BRUCH, BOULANGÉR, AND STACY GARROP

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The Boston Symphony Chamber Players conclude the 2017-18 season with a fascinatingly wide-ranging program on Sunday, April 22, at 3 p.m. in Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory. Pianist David Deveau joins the ensemble for the first two works on the program: selections from Bruch’s Eight Pieces for clarinet, viola, and piano, Op. 83, and Nocturne and Cortège, for cello and piano, by Lili Boulanger, who died 100 years ago in 1918. Moving from the 20th century to the 21st, the program continues with American composer Stacy Garrop’s Bohemian Café for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and double bass, which dates from 2015. Bringing the concert and the Chamber Player’s season to a close is Mozart’s brilliant String Quartet in C, K.515.

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 22 concert features Boston Symphony Orchestra players Haldan Martinson, violin; Alexander Velinzon, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Cathy Basrak, viola; Mihail Jojatu, cello; Edwin Barker, bass; Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon; and James Sommerville, horn.

DETAILS FOR BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS APRIL 22 PROGRAM

Bruch wrote his Eight Pieces for clarinet, viola, and piano, Op. 83, in 1909, as he was approaching 70 years old. He composed this series of brief miniatures for his son, Max Felix, an accomplished clarinetist; the pieces allow
that instrument to revel in the warm lyricism and tonal richness that is but one of its diverse voices. Emerging late in the Bruch’s s life, at a time when his lush, late-Romantic style was falling by the wayside in favor of acerbic modernism, these works retain the composer’s direct, affecting idiom but refrain from overblown sentimentality.

The explosively talented French composer Lili Boulanger was a child prodigy and the first woman to win the Prix de Rome, but she was chronically ill from a very young age and died at just 24 years old, cutting short what might have been a brilliant career. The small catalog of works she left behind testify to her talent, including the Nocturne and Cortège, for cello and piano. The two works were combined only after her death but make a compelling pair, the former an exuberant and festive romp, the latter a gauzy, impressionist piece that owes much to Debussy.

Chicago-based composer Stacy Garrop wrote her Bohemian Café for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and double bass in response to a commission from James Ginsburg, president of Cedille Records, who developed an affinity for Prague’s prevalent street musicians over the course of several visits to the Czech capital. Describing her piece, Garrop wrote: “I picture myself sitting at an outdoor café in a plaza in Prague, drinking coffee, watching street musicians set up around the plaza, and listening to assorted strands of music wafting through the air.”

Mozart’s String Quintet in C, K.515, for two violins, two violas, and cello, is one of the composer’s great pieces of chamber music. In four movements, the first of which stretches to a quarter of an hour on its own, the quintet is ambitious in scale and rich in creative ideas, overflowing with both infectious melody and sophisticated compositional techniques. Composed in 1787 along with the G minor quintet, K.516, and concurrent with the start of work on Don Giovanni, the C major quintet exhibits an inimitable combination of seamless construction, dramatic intensity, engaging personality, and technical mastery.

**BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS 2017-18 SEASON**

The Boston Symphony Chamber Players opened their 2017-18 season on Sunday, October 15, 2017, with a program featuring works by living American composers: Lowell Liebermann’s Night Music, Op. 109, for flute clarinet, and piano; Kevin Puts’s Seven Seascapes, for flute, horn, viola, cello, bass, and piano; and André Previn’s Trio for oboe, bassoon, and piano. The program also included Mozart’s String Quintet in G minor, K.516. The second concert, on Sunday, January 21, featured the Chamber Players and BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès in a program of works by Reicha, Schubert, Ligeti, and Janáček. On February 11, the Gewandhaus-Quartett, made up of members of the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, joined musicians of the BSO for a special Symphony Hall performance including Haydn’s String Quartet in D, Op. 64, No. 5, The Lark, Ligeti’s Six Bagatelles for Wind Quintet, Foss’s For Aaron for chamber ensemble; and Mendelssohn’s Octet. The Chamber Players welcomed another member of the BSO family on March 11 as Artist-in-Residence Jean-Yves Thibaudet teams up with the ensemble for Saint-Saëns’s Caprice on Danish and Russian Airs, Op. 79, for flute, oboe, clarinet, and piano and Dvořák’s Piano Quintet in A, Op. 81. In between is Berwald’s Grand Septet in B-flat, for winds and strings.

In June, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players will perform two concerts in Leipzig at the Mendelssohn-Saal at the Gewandhaus as part of the Gewandhausorchester’s “Boston Week in Leipzig.” (click here for details of the BSO and Gewandhausorchester’s five-year alliance). On June 19, the Chamber Players will perform John
Harbison’s *Six American Painters* and John Williams’s *Air and Simple Gifts* during a “Boston Week” kick-off event. On June 24, the Chamber Players will join the Gewandhaus-Quartett in performance for a concert including Haydn’s String Quartet No. 5, *Lark*, Op. 64 (performed by the Gewandhaus-Quartett), Bach’s Trio Sonata in G, BWV 1038; Busoni’s Suite for Clarinet and String Quartet; Marti Epstein’s *Komorebi*, and Mendelssohn’s Octet, Op. 20 (combining Boston musicians with the Gewandhaus-Quartett).

**BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS**

One of the world’s most distinguished chamber 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 BSO. Founded in 1964 during Erich Leinsdorf’s tenure as music director, the Chamber Players can perform virtually any work within the vast chamber music literature by calling upon other BSO members and collaborating with such distinguished artists as pianists Thomas Adès, Emanuel Ax, Paul Lewis, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. The ensemble’s activities include an annual four-concert series in Boston’s Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, regular appearances at Tanglewood, and a busy touring schedule. Besides 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. Their recordings on BSO Classics include an album of Mozart chamber music for winds and strings; a disc of chamber music by American composers William Bolcom, Lukas Foss, Michael Gandolfi, and Osvaldo Golijov; “Profanes et Sacrées,” a Grammy-nominated disc of 20th-century French chamber music by Ravel, Debussy, Tomasi, Français, and Dutilleux; and, most recently, arrangements for chamber ensemble of serenades written originally for orchestra by Brahms (his Serenade No. 1 in D, Opus 11) and Dvořák (his E major string serenade, Opus 22).

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Subscriptions to the Boston Symphony Chamber Players’ 2017-18 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).

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Boston Symphony Chamber Players April 22 Program

Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m.
New England Conservatory of Music’s Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston

Boston Symphony Chamber Players
BRUCH Selection from Eight Pieces for clarinet, viola, and piano, Op. 83
   William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Steven Ansell, viola; David Deveau, piano
BOULANGER Nocturne and Cortège, for cello and piano
   Mihail Jojatu, cello; David Deveau, piano
Stacy GARROP Bohemian Café for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and double bass
   Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon;
   James Sommerville, horn; Edwin Barker, bass
MOZART String Quintet in C, K.515
   Halden Martinson, violin; Alexander Velinzon, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Cathy Basrak, viola;
   Mihail Jojatu, cello