FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2018

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, OFFERS CONCERTCUE, AN INNOVATIVE REAL-TIME PROGRAM NOTE APP DURING THE “CASUAL FRIDAYS” PERFORMANCE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

CONCERT IS PART OF “LEIPZIG WEEK IN BOSTON,” THE FIRST EVENTS OF A FIVE-YEAR ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND LEIPZIG’S GEWANDHAUSORCHESTER—AN UNPRECEDENTED PARTNERSHIP IN THE WORLD OF ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

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 617-638-9283

The Boston Symphony Orchestra, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will offer ConcertCue, an innovative real-time program note app during the orchestra’s “Casual Fridays” program on Friday, February 9. ConcertCue presents contextual program notes and images on concert-goers’ mobile devices in real-time during the musical performance. ConcertCue will run during the second half of the BSO concert, when the orchestra performs the world premiere of American composer Sean Shepherd’s Express Abstractionism, a co-commission of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Gewandhaus Orchestra. In addition to insightful program notes, the app will include work by such abstract
artists as Alexander Calder, Gerhard Richter, Wassily Kandinsky, and Piet Modrian whose work inspired Shepherd’s new piece of music. The ConcertCue app was developed by Eran Egozy, the founder of Harmonix Music Systems, which is best-known for the wildly popular video games “Guitar Hero” and “Rock Band.” Eran is a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Media and Technology Committee, which is headed by former MIT president Susan Hockfield.

The February 9 “Casual Fridays” performance is also part of “Leipzig Week in Boston,” the first stage of a five-year multi-dimensional collaboration between the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Gewandhaus Orchestra (GHO)—both of which have Andris Nelsons as Music Director. Please find additional information about “Leipzig Week in Boston” in this press release, on the BSO website, and in the description below. Please refer to this release for more complete information about the BSO/GHO alliance.

In addition to the February 9 performance, “Casual Fridays”—a young-audience initiative designed to make concerts more affordable for and accessible to the next generation of attendees—will take place on April 6, with Andris Nelsons conducting. The 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 Fridays” are among the lowest-priced performances each season, with tickets ranging from $25 to $45.

Description of "Leipzig Week in Boston"
The Boston Symphony Orchestra is pleased to launch the BSO/GHO Alliance with "Leipzig Week in Boston," February 5-11. Following a gala celebration kickoff event at the Boston Public Library on Monday, February 5, 6-8 p.m., Andris Nelsons will lead the Boston Symphony Orchestra, February 8, 9, and 10, in music by composers closely associated with the great legacy of the Gewandhaus Orchestra, founded in 1743. The program will open with Bach's Concerto in D minor for Three Keyboards, with Thomas Adès (BSO Artistic Partner), Jean-Yves Thibaudet (BSO's 2018 Artist in Residence), and Kirill Gerstein (Tanglewood’s 2018 Koussevitzky Artist), followed by Schumann's Nachtlied, Op. 108, and Neujahrslied, Op. 144. The second half of the program will open with the world premiere performance of American composer Sean Shepherd’s Express Abstractionism—the first BSO/GHO co-commission—and close with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, Scottish, in honor of the famed composer who served as Gewandhauskapellmeister from 1835-1847. Details about additional “Leipzig Week in Boston” and “Boston Week in Leipzig” events are outlined at the end of this press release. 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).

**Brief Description of BSO/GHO Alliance**
Unprecedented in the classical music world, the BSO/GHO Alliance is a new five-year multidimensional collaboration designed to explore each ensemble’s unique world of music-making and the great traditions and historic accomplishments that have influenced their reputations as two of the world's great orchestras, bringing a fascinating new perspective to their respective audiences. The programs of the BSO/GHO Alliance will also celebrate the mutual heritage of these two orchestras, will create opportunities for their respective academies of advanced music studies, and will shed light on their overall cultures and the cities they are proud to call home, by way of lecture series, archival exhibits, and residencies and tour stops by the BSO in Leipzig and GHO in Boston.

In addition to his long-term commitment as Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director through 2022 and beyond, Mr. Nelsons takes on his new title as Gewandhauskapellmeister as of February 22, 2018. As the central figure in bringing the BSO and GHO together, Andris Nelsons is intricately involved in the planning and implementation of all the programming initiatives of the BSO/GHO Alliance, which was announced in September 2015. Though many music directors take on more than one leadership post at the same time, it is rare, or perhaps unprecedented, for a conductor to go beyond the traditional model of keeping the positions separate from each other. Along with the management teams at the BSO and GHO, Mr. Nelsons is bringing his two orchestras together and creating a unique approach to programming with the goal of enriching the lives of both the musicians involved in the alliance and the audiences who so deeply cherish their home orchestras.

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](http://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.

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.

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 Executive Transportation returns for its 15th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation of the BSO.

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PRESS CONTACT:
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BSO “Casual Fridays” Program Listing

Friday, February 9
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Thomas Adès, piano** (debut as soloist)
Kirill Gerstein, piano
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano
David Kravitz, baritone (February 8, 10)
Tanglewood Festival Chorus,
   James Burton, conductor
J.S. BACH Concerto in D minor for three pianos, BWV 1063
SCHUMANN Nachtlied and Neujahrslied, for chorus
   and orchestra (February 8, 10)
Sean SHEPHERD Express Abstractionism
   (world premiere; BSO co-commission)

Friday, April 6
Andris Nelsons, conductor
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 4