FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES THE START OF ITS 138TH SEASON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, WITH THE SYMPHONY GALA

THE ELEGANT GALA EVENT AT SYMPHONY HALL, DECORATED TO ACCENTUATE ITS ORNATE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS, WILL FEATURE GOURMET CUISINE FROM RENOWNED JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING BOSTON CHEF AND RESTAURATEUR TONY MAWS, OF CRAIGIE ON MAIN AND KIRKLAND TAP AND TROTTER

GALA PARTY INCLUDES PERFORMANCES BY THE BSO’S RECENTLY APPOINTED PRINCIPAL CELLIST BLAISE DÉJARDIN AND THE BOSTON SYMPHONY CHILDREN’S CHOIR LED BY JAMES BURTON AND FEATURING WORLD-RENOWNED SOPRANO SONDRA RADVANOVSKY

THE OCTOBER 3 SYMPHONY GALA HAS ALREADY RAISED OVER $1.3 MILLION

THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA KICKS OFF ITS 2018-19 SUBSCRIPTION SEASON OCTOBER 11-13 WITH A PROGRAM SHOWCASING THE BSO’S EXTRAORDINARY STRING, WIND, AND PERCUSSION PLAYERS, INCLUDING STRAVINSKY’S SYMPHONIES OF WIND INSTRUMENTS, TCHAIKOVSKY’S SERENADE FOR STRINGS, AND BARTÓK’S CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA, LED BY FINNISH CONDUCTOR HANNU LINTU IN HIS BSO DEBUT

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 celebrates the opening of its 2018-19 season (October 11, 2018-May 4, 2019) with a Wednesday, October 3 gala celebration featuring performances by members of the BSO, the
Boston Symphony Children’s Choir conducted by James Burton, and world-renowned soprano Sondra Radvanovsky. The elegant event—which has already raised over $1.3 million—begins at 6 p.m. in Symphony Hall, decorated to accentuate its architectural elements, and featuring a menu designed by James Beard Award-winning chef Tony Maws, Chef and Owner of Craigie on Main and Kirkland Tap and Trotter. The evening will kick off with a short work for percussion. BSO Principal Cellist Blaise Déjardin will then perform a movement from one of the Bach cello suites, Debussy’s Reverie, and Chopin’s Polonaise brillante. BSO Choral Director and Conductor of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus James Burton and the Boston Symphony Children’s Choir will perform a variety of pieces including Jonathan Dove’s Fast Car, Bob Chilcott’s Can you hear me?, and “The Letter from Pluto” from Richard Rodney Bennett’s Letters to Lindberg. The Boston Symphony Children’s Choir will then be joined by soprano and Tanglewood Music Center alumna Sondra Radvanovsky for a final selection.

The 2018-19 BSO Season Opening Program, October 11-13, will showcase the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s extraordinary string, wind, and percussion players in three performances, October 11-13, conducted by Finnish maestro Hannu Lintu. Chief conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Helsinki, Mr. Lintu makes his BSO debut in these performances, which feature music showcasing the virtuosity of the orchestra’s instrumental sections, including Stravinsky’s Symphonies of Wind Instruments and Tchaikovsky’s Serenade for Strings. At the heart of the program is Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra, commissioned in 1943 by Serge Koussevitzky and given its world premiere by the BSO the following year.

BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons returns to the BSO podium October 25-30, in the first of six straight weeks, leading the orchestra in Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, Resurrection, featuring soprano Ying Fang, mezzo-soprano Bernard Fink, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. Opening the program is Lux aeterna, for unaccompanied chorus, by Maija Einfelde, one of two works featured this season by composers from Mr. Nelsons’ native Latvia, which in 2018 celebrates the centennial of its independence.

Click here for complete details of the BSO’s 2018-19 season.

Details of the BSO’s Symphony Gala Party on Wednesday, October 3

GALA DINNER DECORATIONS
The inspiration for this year’s Symphony Gala is the beauty found within Symphony Hall itself. Built in 1900 and designated as a U.S. Historic Landmark in 1999, the iconic concert hall has a wealth of ornate architectural details to highlight: the gold scroll of the balcony will be enhanced by a cream and gold scroll damask linen, the organ and statues throughout the hall will be awash in warm lighting, and the long dinner tables will reflect the Hall’s crystal chandeliers. With a nod to the late summer harvest, the coral, orange, and peach flowers—mixed with a fall bounty of pomegranates and artichokes—will adorn tables decorated to mimic entertaining in the 1900’s with candelabras, cut crystal, gold flatware, porcelain china, and hemstitch napkins.

GALA DINNER MENU CREATED BY JAMES BEARD AWARD-WINNING CHEF TONY MAWS
The evening will begin at with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception in Higginson Hall. Guests will then make their way into Symphony Hall’s auditorium for a three-course gala dinner created by James Beard Award-
winning chef **Tony Maws**, Chef and Owner of Craigie on Main and Kirkland Tap and Trotter, accompanied by musical performances by members of the BSO and the Boston Symphony Children’s Choir. The gala dinner menu will feature a first course of salad of house-cured salmon gravlax with leeks, fennel pollen, pickled hon shimeji mushrooms, labneh, and green tomato chutney; a main course of plum-braised beef short ribs with braised red cabbage, shallots, and pink peppercorns (a vegetarian alternative will be available on request); and for dessert, dark chocolate parfait with pears, almonds, and cajeta. Wines served throughout the evening include Wheeler Farms Sauvignon Blanc from Napa Valley, Kunde Chardonnay Sonoma Estate from Sonoma Valley and Girard Artistry from Napa Valley.

Following the dinner, there will be an after-party in Higginson Hall with a dessert buffet and live music by musicians from New England Conservatory’s Jazz Program.

The Symphony Gala will feature flower arrangements by **Winston Flowers**. Rentals will be provided by **Be Our Guest**.

**TICKET INFORMATION IN BRIEF**

Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2018-19 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, priced from $30-$147, 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.

The BSO’s **<40=$20** program allows patrons under the age of 40 to purchase tickets for $20. 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. A limited number of **Rush Tickets** ($10) 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. The Boston Symphony Orchestra offers **groups** advanced ticket reservations and flexible payment options for BSO concerts at Symphony Hall.

**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 2018-19 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 on November 2, February 22, January 11, and April 12 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. During the 2018-19 season, the BSO will continue to collaborate with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to offer concert attendees sitting in the Conductor Cam seats access to ConcertCue, an innovative app that presents contextual program notes and images on concert-goers’ mobile devices in real-time during the musical performance.

BSO 101 returns in 2018-19, again offering the opportunity to increase your enjoyment of BSO concerts. These free Wednesday sessions with BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel and Associate Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger, joined by members of the BSO, are designed to enhance
the audiences 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 half-hour tour of Symphony Hall. Dates and more information will be provided in patron subscription packages and at bso.org in the fall. RSVPs for the BSO 101 sessions will not be accepted until the fall. Full details of the 2018-19 “BSO 101” schedule will be announced at a later date.

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 $134 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 for select seasonal offerings; 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 offers a free **tablet app**, available for the iPad and Android tablets, and a free **iPhone and Android app**, which provide 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 and 88.7 in Providence, on HD radio at 89.7 HD2 in Boston, and online at www.classicalwcrb.org. In addition, BSO concerts are now heard throughout New England and upstate New York, on a network of stations including WAMC in Albany, NY, WMNR in Monroe, CT, Vermont Public Radio, New Hampshire Public Radio, Maine Public Broadcasting Network, and New England Public Radio. BSO broadcasts on 99.5 WCRB begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday nights, and are repeated at 8 p.m. on Monday evenings.

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 three-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.

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 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/tours. You may also email bsav@bso.org, or call 617-638-9390 to confirm specific dates and times. Schedules are subject to change.

SPONSORSHIPS
Longstanding major corporate partner Bank of America returns as the BSO Season Lead Sponsor for the 2018-19 Season. Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited is returning for their 2nd season as the BSO Season Supporting Sponsor and the BSO Community Chamber Concerts sponsor for the 2018-2019 BSO Season. The Arbella Insurance Foundation is the sponsor of the BSO College Card, Youth & Family
Concerts, the BSO’s popular Casual Fridays series and the BSO Young Professionals (YoPro) program. Delta Air Lines returns as the Official Airline of the BSO. Fairmont Copley Plaza returns for its 17th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation returns for its 16th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation of the BSO.

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PRESS CONTACT:
Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285
Taryn Lott, Assistant Director of Public Relations (tlott@bso.org) 617-638-9283