FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: Wednesday, December 19, 2018

SIR ANDREW DAVIS CONDUCTS THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN VAUGHAN WILLIAMS’S FIFTH SYMPHONY AND MUSIC BY MOZART AND JOHN HARBISON, JANUARY 10-12

ALESSIO BAX JOINS THE ORCHESTRA FOR HIS BSO DEBUT, PERFORMING MOZART’S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 24; PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES HARBISON’S SYMPHONY NO. 2 IN CELEBRATION OF THE COMPOSER’S 80TH-BIRTHDAY YEAR (1/10 & 12 ONLY)

FOLLOWING THE BSO’S “CASUAL FRIDAY” PERFORMANCE ON JANUARY 11, CONDUCTOR JAMES BURTON AND THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS PERFORM PIZZETTI’S REQUIEM, FOR MIXED CHORUS, ON THE SYMPHONY HALL STAGE

Performances take place Thursday, January 10, Friday, January 11, and Saturday, January 12, at 8 p.m.

TICKETS FOR THE 2018-19 BSO SEASON, PRICED FROM $30-$147, 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 tlott@bso.org or call 617-638-9283

English conductor Sir Andrew Davis—music director of Lyric Opera of Chicago and chief conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra—returns to the BSO for the first time in five seasons to lead the orchestra in three performances, Thursday, January 10—Saturday, January 12. On Thursday and Saturday, the program features the subtle, refined Fifth Symphony of Ralph Vaughan Williams, a composer whose music Sir Andrew
champions, along with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Harbison’s Symphony No. 2, a layered and sophisticated work composed in 1987, one of several of Harbison’s works programmed this season to celebrate the 80th-birthday year of a composer closely associated with the BSO. Between the two symphonies, Italian pianist Alessio Bax, making his BSO debut, plays Mozart’s intense and innovative Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491.

The “Casual Friday” performance on January 11 features a shorter program with performances of the Mozart and Vaughan Williams works. In a special one-night-only performance, following Friday’s concert, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, led by conductor James Burton, will perform Pizzetti’s Requiem, for a cappella mixed chorus, on the Symphony Hall stage following a short break. Further information on the “Casual Fridays” series appears below.

PROGRAM DETAILS
Harbison’s Symphony No. 2 is divided into four sections, dubbed Dawn, Daylight, Dusk, and Darkness, the naming of which the composer called the “first useful organizing thought about the piece” and which describe its evocative and atmospheric nature. As with all of his work, Harbison’s music in the Second Symphony is both subtle and dense, requiring dedication and intellectual investment from the performers. “I don’t edit the piece for performers,” Harbison said. “Of course I’m not trying to be obtuse either, but you get a more dynamic performance if the performers have to work it out. This is definitely not music for conductors who are through with rehearsals when it’s ‘together.’”

One of the unsurpassed series of piano concertos from the height of Mozart’s popularity in Vienna, the Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491, is also the composer’s most generously scored work in the genre and one of only two in a minor key. Stormy and symphonic, it exhibits daring chromaticism and a dramatic, extroverted style that looks forward to the Romanticism of the next generation. Likely for that reason, it was particularly admired among Mozart’s concertos by Beethoven and Brahms.

Steeped in the musical tradition of England, Ralph Vaughan Williams’s Fifth Symphony was composed at the beginning of World War II but maintains an optimistic and affirmative outlook. Dedicated “with the sincerest flattery to Jean Sibelius, whose great example is worthy of all imitation,” the symphony does indeed call to mind the openness, mystery, and wintry beauty of the Finnish composer’s style, though it remains subdued. Vaughan Williams also drew for this piece on ideas and melodies from his then-unfinished opera The Pilgrim’s Progress, which he seems to have thought he would never complete.

“CASUAL FRIDAYS” CONCERT ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
On Friday, January 11, guest conductor Sir Andrew Davis leads the BSO in one of this season’s four “Casual Fridays” concerts. The program features Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491, with Alessio Bax as soloist. Sir Andrew also conducts Vaughan Williams’s Symphony No. 5, and BSO violinist Wendy Putnam gives the pre-concert remarks from the stage. In a special one-night-only performance, following Friday’s concert, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, led by conductor James Burton, will perform Pizzetti’s Requiem, for a cappella mixed chorus, on the Symphony Hall stage following a short break.
The “Casual Fridays” series offers shorter programs that encourage an informal, relaxed atmosphere and feature comments about the program by BSO musicians. These lower-priced concerts take place on four Friday evenings during the 2018-19 season, November 2, January 11, February 22, and April 12. Ticketholders are welcome to attend a free pre-concert reception at Symphony Hall, and patrons who choose to sit in “Conductor Cam” seats—located in the rear orchestra and second balcony levels—can watch the conductor from the orchestra’s perspective via monitors placed in front of these sections. Select BSO players will also speak to concertgoers from the stage about the evening’s works, and “Casual Fridays” also encourage both patrons and orchestra members to wear 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 and a cash bar. “Casual Fridays” launched during the 2015-16 season and builds on the success of the “Underscore Fridays” concerts offered in previous years.

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 AND OTHER PATRON INFORMATION**

**Ticket Information**
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 (www.bso.org/subscriptions). Single tickets, priced $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), 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 $10 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 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. [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 $134 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is on Facebook at [facebook.com/bostonsymphony](http://facebook.com/bostonsymphony) on Twitter at [twitter.com/bostonsymphony](http://twitter.com/bostonsymphony), and on Instagram at [instagram.com/bostonsymphony](http://instagram.com/bostonsymphony). Video content from the BSO is also available at [youtube.com/bostonsymphony](http://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 ambience 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 feature 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. The BSO welcomes Audi of America as the Official Luxury Vehicle of the BSO. 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 Executive 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
Thursday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, January 10
Friday, January 11 (Casual Friday)
Saturday, January 12
Sir Andrew Davis, conductor
Alessio Bax, piano*
John HARBISON Symphony No. 2 (January 10, 12)
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Symphony No. 5

Friday, January 11, following the BSO concert:
Tanglewood Festival Chorus,
James Burton, conductor
PIZZETTI Requiem, for mixed chorus