FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS AND PIANIST GILBERT KALISH CELEBRATE THE 80TH BIRTHDAY YEAR OF COMPOSER JOHN HARBISON WITH JANUARY 13 PROGRAM FEATURING FOUR OF HIS WORKS

PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES BACH’S CANTATA NO. 51, JAUCHZET GOTT IN ALLEN LANDEN, FEATURING SOPRANO AMANDA FORSYTHE

For press releases, downloadable photos, and artist bios, visit bso.org/presskit; for press tickets, email tlott@bso.org or call 617-638-9283

Pianist Gilbert Kalish and soprano Amanda Forsythe join the Boston Symphony Chamber Players on Sunday, January 13, 2019, at 3 p.m. in New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall for a concert celebrating the 80th birthday year of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Harbison. The Boston-based Harbison—who turned 80 on December 20, 2018—has a long history with the BSO, with several of his works having been commissioned by the orchestra and many more appearing in BSO performances. He also serves as a member of the composition faculty of the Tanglewood Music Center. The January 13 Chamber Players program is largely dedicated to Harbison’s music and includes four of his works, covering a variety of instrumental combinations: the composer’s Duo, for flute and piano; Deep Dances, for cello and double bass; Piano Quintet; and Wind Quintet. Closing out the program is J.S. Bach’s Cantata No. 51, Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen. Bach has been the central historical figure in Harbison’s musical life, and the focus of much of his performing and teaching activities at Emmanuel Music, Tanglewood, and elsewhere.

At 2 p.m. in Jordan Hall, there will be a pre-concert discussion between composer John Harbison and the BSO’s Robert Kirzinger, free to all ticketholders.
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 January 13 concert features Boston Symphony Orchestra players Haldan Martinson, violin; Alexander Velinon, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Blaise Déjardin, cello; Edwin Barker, bass; Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon; and James Sommerville, horn; Thomas Rolfs, trumpet.

**DETAILS FOR BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS JANUARY 13 PROGRAM**

The four Harbison works on the program span some 45 years. The first selection is also the earliest: The Duo, for flute and piano, was composed in 1961 when Harbison was studying in Berlin. Its four movements traverse a range of expression from agitated and violent to quietly contemplative, allowing each instrument to contribute equally rather than placing the piano in an accompanying role. The following, fun-loving work, Deep Dances, for cello and double bass, is the newest of the four works. Its title reveals its essential attributes; it was written in 2006 for the modern dance company Rebecca Rice Dance. Of the Piano Quintet (1981), dedicated to artist Georgia O’Keeffe, Harbison wrote that he hoped to “strike a balance between the hermetic and the easily reachable, and make clear form of inherently complex emotion,” and that he was inspired the open spaces in O’Keeffe's paintings and “the pleasure of leaving something out.” The Wind Quintet, one of Harbison’s earliest celebrated works, remains one of his most frequently performed. The composer writes that he wanted to “deal in mixtures rather than counterpoints, and to strive for a classical simplicity of surface—to maximize what I felt to be the great strength of the combination, the ability to present things clearly.”

Bach’s celebratory Cantata No. 51, Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, first performed in Leipzig in September 1730, is his only cantata featuring soprano with solo trumpet along with strings and continuo. Brilliant virtuosity from both soloists is called for in the opening and closing movements, whose prevailing joyous mood is offset by the poignant loveliness of the soprano’s two central arias.

**BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS 2018-19 SEASON AND SPRING 2019 EUROPEAN TOUR**

On Sunday, March 3, 2019, the Chamber Players will present the world premiere of a new work by Elena Langer (a Boston Symphony Chamber Players commission). The program also includes Barber’s Summer Music, for wind quintet; Rossini’s Duo in D for cello and double bass; and Michael Gandolfi’s Plain Song, Fantastic Dances, for strings and winds, a work commissioned for the Chamber Players and premiered in 2005. To close the Boston Symphony Chamber Players 2018-19 season on April 14, 2019, the ensemble will perform Mozart’s Quartet in F for oboe and strings, K.370, Françaix’s Dixtuor, for winds and strings, and Beethoven’s Septet in E-flat for strings and winds, Op. 20. The Boston Symphony Chamber Players opened their 2018-19 season on Sunday, October 21, 2018, with guest pianist Garrick Ohlsson performing in Haydn’s Piano Trio No. 43 in C, Hob. XV:27, and Brahms’s Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34. The program also included Tom Johnson’s Failing: A Very Difficult Piece for Solo String Bass and Hindemith’s Kleine Kammermusik, Op. 24, No. 2, for wind quintet.

**Chamber Players on Tour:** The Boston Symphony Chamber Players will return to Europe for the first time since 2001, performing in 8 cities, May 9-21, 2019. The tour includes performances in Istanbul, Turkey (5/9); Berlin, Germany (5/11); Munich, Germany (5/12); Warsaw, Poland (5/14); Luxembourg
(5/15); Staré Město, Czechia (5/16); Aarhus, Denmark (5/19); and Dublin, Ireland (5/21). Further details about the Chamber Players’ 2019 European tour will be announced at a later date.

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 Thomas Adès and pianists 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, Françaix, 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 minor string serenade, Opus 22).

TICKET INFORMATION
Subscriptions to the Boston Symphony Chamber Players’ 2018-19 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 Program, January 13
New England Conservatory of Music’s Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston

Sunday, January 13, 2 p.m.
Free pre-concert discussion between John Harbison and BSO Associate Director of Program
Publications Robert Kirzinger.
**Sunday, January 13, 3 p.m.**

**Boston Symphony Chamber Players**

with Gilbert Kalish, piano

and Amanda Forsythe, soprano

_Celebrating John Harbison’s 80th Birthday_

John HARBISON Duo, for flute and piano (1961)

*Elizabeth Rowe, flute; Gilbert Kalish, piano*

HARBISON *Deep Dances*, for cello and double bass (2006)

*Blaise Déjardin, cello; Edwin Barker, bass*

HARBISON Piano Quintet (1981)

*Gilbert Kalish, piano; Haldan Martinson, violin; Alexander Velinzon, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Blaise Déjardin, cello*

HARBISON Wind Quintet (1979)

*Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon; James Sommerville, horn*

J.S. BACH Cantata No. 51, *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*

*Amanda Forsythe, soprano; Thomas Rolfs, trumpet*

*Gilbert Kalish, piano; Haldan Martinson, violin; Alexander Velinzon, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Blaise Déjardin, cello;*