BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR **ANDRIS NELSONS** LEADS TWO WEEKS OF PROGRAMS
FEBRUARY 21-MARCH 2 FOCUSING ON VOCAL MUSIC


BSO PERFORMS DVOŘÁK’S **STABAT MATER** FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1980, WITH QUARTET OF VOCAL SOLOISTS AND TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS, FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2

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

Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director **Andris Nelsons** continues his four-week series of Symphony Hall performances in February with two weeks of concerts February 21-March 2 that focus on vocal music. In the first program, February 21-23, Maestro Nelsons and the BSO add another entry to their growing catalogue of operas in concert with complete performances of Puccini’s tragic, musically gorgeous one-act opera *Suor Angelica*, featuring soprano **Kristine Opolais** in the title role. Mezzo-soprano **Violeta Urmana** sings the role of
the Princess, and the opera also features additional soloists, the Lorelei Ensemble, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and the Boston Symphony Children’s Choir. Opening the program is a work almost contemporary with Puccini’s, Lili Boulanger’s short tone poem D’un Soir triste (“A somber evening”), followed by Debussy’s immensely colorful Nocturnes, an 1899 masterpiece of musical impressionism.

The February 28-March 2 performances are dedicated to Dvořák’s Stabat Mater, a work last performed by the BSO in 1980. In addition to Mr. Nelsons and the orchestra, the piece features soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen, mezzo-soprano Violeta Urmana, tenor Dmytro Popov, and bass Ain Anger.

**SOPRANO KRISTINE OPOLAIS STARS IN PUCCINI’S SUOR ANGELICA, CONDUCTED BY ANDRIS NELSONS, FEBRUARY 21-23**

**Performances take place Thursday, February 21, Friday, February 22, and Saturday, February 23, at 8 p.m.**

On Thursday, February 21, and Saturday, February 23, Andris Nelsons and the BSO continue their recent tradition of performing opera in concert with Puccini’s Suor Angelica (“Sister Angelica”), one of the three short operas composed in the 1910s and known collectively as Il trittico (“The Triptych”). The story centers on the title character—sung by acclaimed soprano Kristine Opolaiss—who is living in a convent to repent a past sin, having a son out of wedlock. Mezzo-soprano Violeta Urmana sings the role of the Princess, soprano Fatma Said is Sister Genovieffa, mezzo-soprano Dana Beth Miller is The Abbess, and MaryAnn McCormick is The Monitress, with additional contributions from the Lorelai Ensemble, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and the Boston Symphony Children’s Choir. Before the opera, Mr. Nelsons conducts the orchestra in Lili Boulanger’s D’un Soir triste, a mournful work written shortly before the visionary young composer’s death in 1918, and Debussy’s Nocturnes, inspired in part by American artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler’s “nocturnes” paintings.

For the Casual Friday performance on Friday, February 22, Suor Angelica is replaced on the program by Britten’s Friday Afternoons, for children’s chorus and orchestra, a collection of twelve charming songs on childhood.

**BSO PERFORMS DVOŘÁK’S STABAT MATER FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1980, FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2**

**Performances take place Thursday, February 28, and Saturday, March 2, at 8 p.m., and Friday, March 1, at 1:30 p.m.**

The BSO and Mr. Nelsons are joined by distinguished vocal soloists and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus Thursday, February 28-Saturday, March 2 for three performances of Dvořák’s Stabat Mater, the first major religious work by the great Czech composer, who was a pious Catholic. The four solo vocal parts are sung by soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen (in her BSO subscription series debut), mezzo-soprano Violeta Urmana, and tenor Dmytro Popov and bass Ain Anger (both in their BSO subscription series debuts). Completed in 1877, the work was begun as Dvořák’s artistic response to the death of his daughter, Josefa, and by the time he finished it, he had lost his remaining two children, as well. Using the traditional Medieval Latin poem on the subject of Mary’s sorrow over Christ’s death, the Stabat Mater is divided into 10 movements and stretches to approximately 90 minutes, making it one of the composer’s most ambitious non-operatic works. The BSO has only performed this work in its entirety on two previous occasions: under Seiji Ozawa in 1980, and in a single performance in Louisville, Kentucky, led by Arthur Nikisch in 1891.
Andris Nelsons returns to the BSO podium Thursday, March 14-Saturday, March 16, with Renée Fleming as soloist:

Thursday, March 14
Friday, March 15
Saturday, March 16
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**
**Renée Fleming, soprano**

**ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM**
Sextet, Moonlight Music, and Final Scene from *Capriccio*
*Also sprach Zarathustra*

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 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](http://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](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 $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](mailto: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 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](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/tours](http://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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Taryn Lott, Assistant Director of Public Relations (tlott@bso.org) 617-638-9283
Thursday, February 21
Saturday, February 23
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Kristine Opolais, soprano (Sister Angelica)
Violeta Urmana, mezzo-soprano (The Princess)**
Fatma Said, soprano (Sister Genovieffa)*
Dana Beth Miller, mezzo-soprano (The Abbess)*
MaryAnn McCormick, mezzo-soprano (The Monitress)*
Lorelei Ensemble,
   Beth Willer, Artistic Director
Tanglewood Festival Chorus,
   James Burton, conductor
Boston Symphony Children's Choir**
BOULANGER D'un Soir triste
DEBUSSY Nocturnes
PUCCINI Suor Angelica^

^Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Friday, February 22 (Casual Friday)
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Lorelei Ensemble,
   Beth Willer, Artistic Director
Boston Symphony Children's Choir
BOULANGER D’un Soir triste
DEBUSSY Nocturnes

Thursday, February 28
Friday, March 1, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 2
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Rachel Willis-Sørensen, soprano**
Violeta Urmana, mezzo-soprano
Dmytro Popov, tenor**
Ain Anger, bass**
Tanglewood Festival Chorus,
   James Burton, conductor
DVOŘÁK Stabat Mater