THE BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS PRESENT THE WORLD PREMIERE OF ELENA LANGER’S FIVE REFLECTIONS ON WATER, A NEW WORK COMMISSIONED FOR THE ENSEMBLE, ON MARCH 3

PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES WORKS BY BARBER, ROSSINI, AND MICHAEL GANDOLFI

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On Sunday, March 3, at 3 p.m. in New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players will present the world premiere of Five Reflections on Water, a Boston Symphony Chamber Players commission by Russian-born British composer Elena Langer. The program also includes Barber’s relaxed, good-humored Summer Music, for wind quintet; Rossini’s Duo in D for cello and double bass, allowing a rare opportunity to hear a slice of the operatic master’s chamber music; and American composer Michael Gandolfi’s Plain Song, Fantastic Dances, for strings and winds, a work commissioned for the Chamber Players and premiered in 2005.

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 March 3 concert features Boston Symphony Orchestra players Haldan Martinson, violin; Alexander Velinzon, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Blaise Déjardin, cello; Edwin Barker, bass; Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon; James Sommerville, horn; and Richard Sebring, horn.
DETAILS FOR BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS MARCH 3 PROGRAM

Elena Langer was born in Moscow in 1974 and studied at the Moscow Conservatory before moving to London in 1999, where she studied at both the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music, and where she still lives. Commissioned for the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, her Five Reflections on Water was composed for the full, ten-player ensemble of wind quintet plus string quintet. The piece’s five distinctly characterized movements, played without pause, present the ensemble in a variety of combinations and vibrant textures.

The other contemporary piece on the program, Michael Gandolfi’s Plain Song, Fantastic Dances, was commissioned by the St. Botolph Club for the Boston Symphony Chamber Players in celebration of the club’s 125th anniversary, and was premiered by the ensemble in 2005. The composer has explained that the music was inspired by Stravinsky’s Apollon Musagète, the visual art of David Hockney, and the literature of Boris Vian. It also incorporates Gregorian chant (plainsong), in tribute to St. Botolph, a seventh-century English monk.

The program opens with Samuel Barber’s Summer Music, a charming work for woodwind quintet that was written around the same time as the composer’s Pulitzer Prize-winning opera Vanessa and completed in 1956. As the title suggests, the music is intended to capture a sunny, leisurely mood. As the composer wrote, “It’s supposed to be evocative of summer—summer meaning languid, not killing mosquitoes.” An outstanding work in the wind-quintet repertoire, and in chamber music in general, its largely upbeat disposition masks considerable technical difficulty for the performers, as well as some more wistful undertones.

Though Rossini is remembered today almost entirely for his operas and other vocal works, he also wrote a number of pieces of piano and chamber music—some after he retired from the theater in just his mid-30s, but also several works while he was still active as an opera composer. The three-movement Duo in D for cello and double bass was written in 1824 and makes fascinating use of its unusual instrumental combination, exploring the variety of timbres and textures that can be conjured by the two lowest-pitched members of the string family. From lyrical, legato melody to dramatic passagework to jaunty, dancing rhythms, it displays all the ingenuity and verve of Rossini’s theater music, on a much more intimate scale.

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

To close the Boston Symphony Chamber Players 2018-19 season in Boston on April 14, 2019, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players 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. Pianist Gilbert Kalish and soprano Amanda Forsythe joined the Chamber Players on Sunday, January 13, 2019, for a program almost entirely dedicated to the music of composer John Harbison, in celebration of his 80th birthday. The ensemble performed the composer’s Duo, for flute and piano; Deep Dances, for cello and double bass; Piano Quintet; and Wind Quintet. J.S. Bach’s Cantata No. 51, Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen closed the program.
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, Françai, 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 major 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, March 3, 3 p.m.
New England Conservatory of Music’s Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston

Boston Symphony Chamber Players
BARBER Summer Music, for wind quintet
   Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon;
   James Sommerville, horn
Elena LANGER Five Reflections on Water (world premiere; BSCP commission)
   Elizabeth Rowe, flute; John Ferrillo, oboe; William R. Hudgins, clarinet; Richard Svoboda, bassoon;
   Richard Sebring, horn; Haldan Martinson, violin; Alexander Velinzon, violin; Steven Ansell, viola;
   Blaise Déjardin, cello; Edwin Barker, bass
ROSSINI Duo in D for cello and double bass
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Michael GANDOLFI Plain Song, Fantastic Dances, for strings and winds
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