FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Thursday, March 28, 3 p.m.

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 2019–20 SEASON  
CELEBRATING ANDRIS NELSONS’ FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AS MUSIC DIRECTOR,  
SEPTEMBER 19–MAY 2; SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING 888-266-1200 OR VISITING WWW.BSO.ORG

THE 2019–20 BSO SEASON—WITH 15 PROGRAMS LED BY ANDRIS NELSONS—SPOTLIGHTS SEVEN WORLD AND AMERICAN PREMIERES ALONGSIDE WORKS BY COMPOSERS NEW TO BSO PROGRAMMING AND AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF 14 ARTIST DEBUTS

MAJOR EVENTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. NELSONS INCLUDE A TWO-WEEK RESIDENCY BY THE GEWANDHAUSORCHESTER, INCLUDING THREE JOINT CONCERTS WITH THE BSO; A CONTINUATION OF THE BSO’S MULTIPLE GRAMMY-WINNING SHOSTAKOVICH CYCLE; ACT III OF WAGNER’S TRISTAN UND ISOLDE WITH JONAS KAUFMANN AND EMILY MAGEE; AND THE FIRST BSO/NELSONS TOUR TO SEOUL, TAIPEI, HONG KONG, AND SHANGHAI

TO VIEW ANDRIS NELSONS’ 2019–20 BSO PROGRAMS, CLICK HERE  
TO VIEW 2019–20 BSO FULL PROGRAM LISTING, CLICK HERE

ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS WORLD AND AMERICAN PREMIERES AND WORKS NEW TO BSO
WORLD PREMIERES AND BSO COMMISSIONS: ERIC NATHAN’S CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA, BETSY JOLAS’ LETTERS FROM BACHVILLE, AND ARTURS MASKATS’ “MY RIVER RUNS TO THEE...” (HOMAGE TO EMILY DICKINSON); THE AMERICAN PREMIERE OF HK GRUBER’S SHORT STORIES FROM THE VIENNA WOODS, A BSO CO-COMMISSION; AND THE BOSTON PREMIERES OF JAMES LEE III’S SUKKOT THROUGH ORION’S NEBULA AND GALINA GRIGOREVA’S ON LEAVING FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHOIR, FEATURING THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS, WHICH MARKS ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN SPRING 2020

GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA OF LEIPZIG FEATURED IN THREE PROGRAMS AS PART OF MULTIYEAR ALLIANCE  
GEWANDHAUSORCHESTER AND BSO COMBINE FORCES DURING “LEIPZIG WEEK IN BOSTON” FOR MAJOR JOINT CONCERTS THAT INCLUDE SCRIBIN’S POEM OF ECSTASY, SCHOENBERG’S VERKLÄRTE NACHT, AND WORKS BY
HAYDN AND STRAUSS; GHO ALSO FEATURED IN TWO OF ITS OWN CONCERTS: A PROGRAM OF BRAHMS’ DOUBLE CONCERTO FOR VIOLIN, CELLO, AND ORCHESTRA WITH SOLOISTS LEONIDAS KAVAKOS AND GAUTIER CAPUÇON AND SCHUBERT’S GREAT C MAJOR SYMPHONY, AS WELL AS A PROGRAM OF SCHUMANN’S CELLO CONCERTO, WITH MR. CAPUÇON AS SOLOIST, AND MENDELSSOHN’S SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ALONGSIDE WORKS OF MAHLER AND WAGNER

MAJOR ORCHESTRAL WORKS WITH THE BSO UNDER MR. NELSONS’ DIRECTION IN 2019–20
BARTÓK’S CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA, DVORÁK’S NEW WORLD SYMPHONY, MAHLER’S SYMPHONY NO. 4, RACHMANINOFF’S SYMPHONY NO. 3, STRAUSS’ SYMPHONIA DOMESTICA, RAVEL’S DAPHNIS ET CHLOÉ SUITE NO. 2, SHOSTAKOVICH’S SYMPHONIES NOS. 2 AND 12, AND MUSIC FROM SMETANA’S MÁ VLAST

LEADING ARTISTS OF OUR TIME JOIN MR. NELSONS AND BSO
PIANISTS LEIF OVE ANDSNES (GRIEG CONCERTO), YEFIM BRONFMAN IN TWO PROGRAMS (BEETHOVEN 4 AND MOZART 24), JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET (GERSHWIN CONCERTO IN F), MITSUKO UCHIDA (RAVEL CONCERTO IN G), AND YUJA WANG (SHOSTAKOVICH 1); AND VIOLINISTS AUGUSTIN HADELICH (BEETHOVEN) AND DANIEL LOZAKOVICH (TCHAIKOVSKY); AS WELL AS CELLIST BLAISE DÉJARDIN (SAINT-SAËNS 1) IN HIS FIRST APPEARANCE AS CONCERTO SOLOIST SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT AS BSO PRINCIPAL CELLO IN 2018

2019–20 BSO SEASON-OPENING PROGRAM, SEPTEMBER 19–21, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANDRIS NELSONS, FEATURES BEETHOVEN’S CHORAL FANTASY AND POULENC’S GLORIA, A WORLD PREMIERE BY ERIC NATHAN, AND THE YOUNG DUTCH DUO-PIANISTS LUCAS AND ARTHUR JUSSEN IN THEIR BSO DEBUTS

ANDRIS NELSONS AND BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA EMBARK ON THEIR FIRST TOUR TOGETHER TO SEOUL, TAIPEI, HONG KONG, AND SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 6–16

THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND ANDRIS NELSONS PERFORM THREE PROGRAMS AT CARNEGIE HALL, NOVEMBER 18 AND APRIL 14 AND 15

GUEST CONDUCTOR PROGRAMS IN 2019–20
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE CONCERTS WITH SUSANNA MÄLKKI LEADING A NEW WORK BY DIETER AMMANN ALONGSIDE PIECES BY FAURÉ, DEBUSSY, AND MESSIAEN; ANDRÉ RAPHEL LEADING URI CAINÉ’S THE PASSION OF OCTAVIUS CATTO ON A PROGRAM WITH WORKS BY COLERIDGE-TAYLOR AND STILL; SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF MAKING HIS FIRST BSO APPEARANCE AS BOTH CONDUCTOR AND PIANIST PERFORMING WORKS BY BACH, BEETHOVEN, BRAHMS, AND BARTÓK; AND, TO BRING THE 2019–20 SEASON TO A CLOSE, CHRISTOPH VON DOHNÁNYI LEADING MUSIC BY HAYDN, LIGETI, AND TCHAIKOVSKY

BSO ARTISTIC PARTNER THOMAS ADÈS LEADS WORKS BY STRAVINSKY AND HIS OWN LIEUX RETROUVÉS FOR CELLO AND ORCHESTRA

THE 2019–20 SEASON SYMPHONY GALA CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE ON NOVEMBER 1, WITH 6 P.M. CONCERT FEATURING THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA OF LEIPZIG FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL DINNER IN PATRON ROOMS THROUGHOUT SYMPHONY HALL

BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS’ JORDAN HALL SERIES TO ENCOMPASS MUSIC BY BACH, BRITTEN, BRAHMS, CARTER, MARTINŮ, MENDELSSOHN, REINECKE, SCHULHOFF, SMYTH, AND STRAVINSKY, AS WELL AS WORKS OF SOFIA GUBAIDULINA, GYÖRGY KURTÁG, ERIC NATHAN, AND KEVIN PUTS, AND A BSO-COMMISSIONED WORLD PREMIERE BY MICHAEL GANDOLFI;

GUEST ARTISTS JOINING THE BSCP INCLUDE HARPSCORIDIST PAOLO BORDIGNON, PIANISTS DAVID DEVEAU AND RANDALL HODGKINSON, AND BARITONE JOHN BRANCY
BSO In Residence begins its third year of collaborations with the Jamaica Plain community in fall 2019; Community Chamber concerts featuring members of the BSO with local community music groups in church and community centers throughout greater Boston and beyond to continue in 2019–20; details of both programs to be announced in the spring.

Bso youth and family concerts series features three programs throughout the 2019–20 season, including a BSO program led by BSO youth and family concerts conductor Thomas Wilkins and two programs with the Boston youth symphony orchestras: Performances of Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf with conductor Adrian Slywotsky and a program led by conductor Marta Żurad and featuring magician Matt Roberts.

Casual Fridays continue for the sixth season, with pre- and post-concert receptions, spoken intros by BSO members, and real-time digital program notes featuring innovative app ConcertCue; BSO’s highly successful $25 tickets for people under 40, college card, high school card, and rush tickets programs—all offering significantly discounted tickets to concertgoers—to continue in 2019–20 season.

Subscriptions to the 2019–20 BSO season are available beginning at 10 a.m. on March 29, by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting www.bso.org; single tickets go on sale.

BANK OF AMERICA IS THE LEAD SPONSOR AND TAKEDA PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY LIMITED IS THE SUPPORTING SPONSOR OF THE 2019–20 BSO SEASON

To view an online press kit with complete programs, concert listings, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here.

In celebration of Andris Nelsons’ fifth anniversary as music director, the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 2019–20 season delves deeper into the popular programmatic themes from Mr. Nelsons’ first five years with the orchestra and offers Symphony Hall audiences an exceptional variety of music in wide-ranging styles, highlighted by 14 works—including seven world and American premieres—by contemporary composers, including Michael Gandolfi, Galina Grigorjeva, Helen Grime, HK Gruber, Betsy Jolas, Eric Nathan, and Anna Thorvaldsdottir. Mr. Nelsons’ ongoing passionate commitment to opera, the Boston Symphony Orchestra/Gewandhausorchester Alliance, and the BSO’s Grammy Award-winning Shostakovich cycle are featured front and center among the many highlights of the season, with a performance of Act III from Tristan und Isolde, with Jonas Kaufmann and Emily Magee in the title roles; performances of Shostakovich’s Symphonies Nos. 2 (To October) and 12 (The Year 1917); and a two-week residency by the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, including joint concerts with the BSO and GHO performing works by Strauss, Haydn, Schoenberg, and Scriabin. Mr. Nelsons’ dedication to the touchstones of classical music and the great solo performers of our time is represented by major works by Bartók, Dvořák, Mahler, Rachmaninoff, Ravel, and Strauss, among others, and appearances by Leif Ove Andsnes, Yefim Bronfman, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Mitsuko Uchida, Yuja Wang, Augustin Hadelich, and Daniel Lozakovich, as well as BSO principal cello Blaise Déjardin. Beyond Symphony Hall, Mr. Nelsons and the BSO embark on their first tour to Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Shanghai together, February 6–16, and they perform their annual three-concert series at Carnegie Hall on November 18, April 14, and April 15 (link to release).

Click here for the complete 2019–20 season concert listing.
Subscriptions to the 2019–20 BSO season are available beginning at 10 a.m. on March 29, by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting www.bso.org; single tickets go on sale August 5.

Audiences during the 2019–20 BSO season will be introduced to 14 artists making their BSO and/or subscription debuts, including Lucas and Arthur Jussen, the young Dutch duo-pianists who are the featured soloists in works of Poulenc and Beethoven, on a program that also includes the world premiere of Eric Nathan’s BSO-commissioned Concerto for Orchestra, under the direction of Andris Nelsons. André Raphael makes his subscription debut leading Uri Caine’s The Passion of Octavius Catto, featuring multifaceted vocalist Barbara Walker in her BSO debut and the specially formed BSO Gospel Choir on a program that also includes works by Coleridge-Taylor and Still. BSO Assistant Conductor Yu-An Chang, also making his subscription debut, leads the world premiere of a new work commissioned by the BSO from Chihchun Chi-Sun Lee, as well as works by Mozart and Tchaikovsky. In his BSO debut, Constantinos Carydis leads Periklis Koukos’ In Memorium Y. A. Papaioannu and works by Beethoven and Prokofiev.

In addition to these debuts, the BSO welcomes back Susanna Mälkki, who leads the American premiere of a new work for piano and orchestra by Dieter Ammann, with Andreas Haefliger as soloist, as well as music by Fauré, Debussy, and Messiaen; Sir András Schiff, who makes his first BSO appearances as conductor/pianist in a program of works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Bartók; former BSO assistant/associate conductor Marcelo Lehninger who, in his BSO guest conducting debut, leads a Beethoven/Tchaikovsky program with pianist Nelson Freire; and Christoph von Dohnányi who conducts works by Haydn, Ligeti, and Tchaikovsky to bring the 2019–20 season to a close. In addition, BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès returns to the BSO podium to lead works by Stravinsky and his own Lieux Retrouvés.

**BSO In Residence, Community Chamber Concerts, Youth and Family Concerts, Casual Fridays, and Discounted Tickets**

Following upon the successful launch in fall 2017 of the BSO In Residence program—a new paradigm for building wide-ranging creative collaborations between an orchestra and its surrounding communities—the initiative will continue in 2019 with a final year of new activities in Jamaica Plain beginning in fall 2019. As part of the 2019–20 BSO In Residence program, the BSO will collaborate with composers Elena Roussanova, Julius Williams, and Andrew Lists—all three of whom are members of the Jamaica Plain community and on the Berklee School of Music faculty—to commission three new works, each inspired by an aspect of Jamaica Plain, to be performed both at Symphony Hall and in Jamaica Plain by a chamber orchestra made up of members of the BSO.

The BSO is also pleased to present another season of Community Chamber Concerts featuring members of the BSO performing in various community venues throughout Greater Boston and beyond, also including the participation of young local musicians. In addition, “Trading Stages,” introduced this past season and continuing in 2019–20, invites student groups from host communities to perform at BSO events at Symphony Hall and Tanglewood throughout the year (details of both programs will be announced at a later date). The BSO will also present its annual Youth and Family Concert Series, featuring three programs throughout the 2019–20 BSO season, including a program led by BSO Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins and two programs with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras: Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf with conductor Adrian Slywotsky and a program led by conductor Marta Żurad and featuring magician Matt Roberts.

“Casual Fridays” will continue in 2019–20 with Friday-evening programs designed to make concerts more affordable and accessible, including free pre- and post-concert receptions for all concertgoers, and an
opportunity for audience members to hear from BSO musicians who introduce the program from the Symphony Hall stage. This popular series also features a special section for Conductor-Cam seating, as well as ConcertCue, an innovative app introduced in the 2017–18 season, which presents contextual program notes and images on concertgoers’ mobile devices in real-time during the musical performance. In addition, the BSO’s highly successful $25 tickets for patrons under the age of 40, College Card, High School Card, and Rush Ticket programs—all offering significantly discounted tickets for concertgoers—will continue in the 2019–20 season.

The BSO at Home at Symphony Hall in Boston and at Tanglewood in Lenox and Stockbridge, MA
The Boston Symphony Orchestra, founded by Henry Lee Higginson in 1881, performs late September through early May in internationally acclaimed Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA), which opened in 1900 and is widely regarded as one of the top three concert halls in the world. The orchestra’s summer season takes place at Tanglewood—this country’s preeminent music festival and the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1937—located in the Berkshire Hills between Stockbridge and Lenox, MA. Details of the 2019 Tanglewood season are available at www.tanglewood.org; details about the first season of the Tanglewood Learning Institute and the opening of the Linde Center for Music and Learning are available at www.tli.org.


OVERVIEW OF BSO 2019–20 SEASON:
FURTHER DETAILS ON BOSTON SYMPHONY CONCERTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019–20 BSO SEASON UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANDRIS NELSONS
Marking his fifth anniversary as the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Ray and Maria Stata Music Director, Andris Nelsons presides over 15 programs during 2019–20, encompassing the BSO’s ongoing, award-winning Shostakovich project, the innovative alliance with the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, and opera in concert on the Symphony Hall stage, as well as world and American premieres and works by composers new to the orchestra’s repertoire.

Boston Symphony Orchestra/Gewandhausorchester Alliance Activities in 2019–20
The Boston Symphony Orchestra/Gewandhausorchester Alliance, curated by Andris Nelsons, breaks new ground this year with the first-ever joint BSO/GHO concerts, taking place at Symphony Hall during the third “Leipzig Week in Boston.” In this third year of the BSO/GHO Alliance, the Gewandhausorchester itself comes to Boston in late October and early November for two programs of its own, as well as two joint concerts with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, all under the direction of Andris Nelsons. These joint concerts bring together the BSO and GHO feature Olivier Latry in performances of Richard Strauss’ Festive Prelude for organ and orchestra, and BSO wind principals John Ferrillo and Richard Svoboda and GHO string principals Frank-Michael Erben and Christian Giger in Haydn’s Sinfonia concertante in B-flat for oboe, bassoon, violin, and cello; these concerts will also include Schoenberg’s Verklärte Nacht and Scriabin’s Poem of Ecstasy. This program will also be performed on November 1 at 6 p.m., minus the Schoenberg, for the 2019–20 BSO season gala, followed by a festive dinner celebration throughout Symphony Hall.

In addition, during “Leipzig Week,” Maestro Nelsons, who also serves as artistic leader of the GHO, conducts two performances with that ensemble: a non-subscription concert on October 27 at 3 p.m. in
collaboration with Boston’s Celebrity Series, featuring Brahms’ Double Concerto with violinist Leonidas Kavakos and cellist Gautier Capuçon and Schubert’s Great Symphony in C; and a subscription concert on October 29 featuring Mr. Capuçon in Schumann’s Cello Concerto on a Leipzig-themed program also including Mendelssohn’s Scottish Symphony and music of Mahler and Wagner.

Unprecedented in the classical music world, the BSO/GHO Alliance is a five-year multidimensional collaboration (2018–22) designed to explore each ensemble’s unique world of music-making and the great traditions and historic accomplishments that have influenced their reputations as two of the world’s great orchestras; this special alliance was launched with the first “Leipzig Week in Boston” in February 2018. As the central figure in bringing the BSO and GHO together, Andris Nelsons—who also serves as Kapellmeister of the Gewandhausorchester—is intricately involved in the planning and implementation of all the programming initiatives of the BSO/GHO Alliance, which was announced in September 2015.

Act III of Wagner’s Tristan und Isolde on April 9 and 11, with Emily Magee and Jonas Kaufmann

Furthering his personal commitment to the operatic repertoire and to featuring a major opera presentation in each BSO subscription season, Andris Nelsons leads concert performances of Act III of Wagner’s Tristan und Isolde on April 9 and 11, following upon the notable success of performances of Act II in 2018. Emily Magee, making her BSO debut as Isolde, and Jonas Kaufmann, returning as Tristan, head a distinguished cast that also includes Michelle DeYoung (Brangäne), Kostas Smoriginas (Kurwenal), and Günther Groissböck (King Marke).

Three BSO/GHO Alliance Co-Commissions—by Betsy Jolas, Arturs Maskats, and HK Gruber—and a World Premiere by Eric Nathan, as well as two works new to the BSO by Galina Grigorjeva and James Lee III

Highlighting the season are premières of three BSO/GHO Alliance co-commissions, all to be led by Andris Nelsons. The first, Betsy Jolas’ Letters from Bachville, receives its world premiere performances in the concerts of November 7–12, in a concert also featuring Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G with Mitsuko Uchida as soloist and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 12, The Year 1917, to be recorded live for the BSO’s ongoing Shostakovich cycle (also marking the first BSO subscription performances of this work). The world premiere of Latvian composer Arturs Maskats’ “My River runs to thee...” (Homage to Emily Dickinson), the second of the three BSO/GHO Alliance co-commissions, is part of the subscription program of November 21–26, which also includes Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto with Daniel Lozakovich making his subscription series debut, and Galina Grigorjeva’s On Leaving for unaccompanied choir featuring the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, which also participates in Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 2, To October, to be recorded live for the orchestra’s ongoing project for Deutsche Grammophon. The final BSO/GHO Alliance co-commission to be presented in 2019–20 is the American premiere of HK Gruber’s Short Stories from the Vienna Woods, which is part of the subscription program of April 2–4, also featuring Gershwin’s Piano Concerto in F with soloist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 3. On October 3–5, Mr. Nelsons leads James Lee III’s Sukkot Through Orion’s Nebula, the first work by this American composer to be performed by the BSO. Also on that program are Shostakovich’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with pianist Yuja Wang as soloist, and music from Smetana’s patriotic salute to his Bohemian homeland, Má Vlast.

The opening subscription concerts, September 19–21, initiate the season’s presentation of new works with the world premiere of Eric Nathan’s Concerto for Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Nelsons on a program also including Poulenc’s Concerto for Two Pianos with Dutch duo-pianists Lucas and Arthur Jussen in their BSO debut, as well as Beethoven’s Choral Fantasy featuring Arthur Jussen, Vocal Fellows of the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus; the TFC also sings in Poulenc’s Gloria (premiered by the BSO in 1961) alongside soprano Nicole Cabell.
Major Soloists of Our Time Performing Signature Repertoire Join BSO and Andris Nelsons

Throughout the season Maestro Nelsons collaborates with notable instrumental and vocal soloists. Violinist Augustin Hadelich returns to Symphony Hall September 26–October 1 for Beethoven’s Violin Concerto on a program with Strauss’ *Symphonia domestica*, the latter work to be recorded as part of the BSO’s ongoing series of Strauss recordings. On November 14, 15, and 16, returning pianist Leif Ove Andsnes performs Grieg’s Piano Concerto and Austrian soprano Genia Kühmeier, in her BSO debut, is featured in Mahler’s Symphony No. 4. Yefim Bronfman returns for three subscription concerts in January, performing Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 4 on January 28 on a program with Shostakovich’s Chamber Symphony arranged by Rudolf Barshai (a work new to the BSO repertoire) and Dvořák’s *New World* Symphony; the Shostakovich and Dvořák works can also be heard in an all-orchestral concert, January 23–25, with Barber’s *Medea’s Meditation and Dance of Vengeance* filling out the program. On January 30 and 31, Mr. Bronfman is soloist in Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 24 on a program with two BSO signature works: Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra and Ravel’s *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2. In his final subscription concerts of the season on April 17, Andris Nelsons leads Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra, on a program with Saint-Saëns’s Cello Concerto, featuring BSO principal cello Blaise Déjardin—who was appointed BSO principal cello in spring 2018—in his first concerto appearance with the orchestra; these two works plus Ravel’s *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2 will make up the program for a concert on April 18.

STATEMENT FROM ANDRIS NELSONS, THE BSO’S RAY AND MARIA STATA MUSIC DIRECTOR

“My first five seasons as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra have been among the most fulfilling years of my musical life, providing both the orchestra and me with immeasurable musical rewards as we continue our commitment to share our best music-making with our dear loyal audiences in the 2019–20 season.

“An absolute dream come true is the chance to bring my two orchestras together for joint performances as part of the Boston Symphony Orchestra/Gewandhausorchester Alliance. In addition to sharing a deep musical heritage and co-commissioning several new works that speak to the future of our field, next season both orchestras are collaborating on stage for three performances, representing an absolutely unique event in the classical music world. I am so grateful to my colleagues at each orchestra for finding a way through the many challenges to make these performances a reality.

“I could not be prouder of my beautiful BSO and the talented engineering team who have received four Grammys in the last four years since the start of our Shostakovich cycle on the Deutsche Grammophon label. We’re thrilled to continue that cycle in the coming season with Symphonies Nos. 2 and 12. For another season highlight, we are especially fortunate to have Jonas Kaufmann with us again, and Emily Magee in her BSO debut, for concert performances of Act III from Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*.

“The list of composers, soloists, and guest conductors for 2019–20 is so impressive and extensive that I could never acknowledge them all adequately in this short message. We are very happy with the balance we have achieved between presenting many artists in their first appearances with the BSO—the Jussen brothers, Daniel Lozakovich, Seong-Jin Cho, and Constantinos Carydis—and honoring some of our most beloved relationships with return appearances by Christoph von Dohnányi, Mitsuko Uchida, Sir András Schiff, and Midori. We are also excited to present an exceptional number of new works, reflecting the depth and breadth of the craft of composition, by such respected musicians as Betsy Jolas, Helen Grime, Eric Nathan, and HK Gruber.”
“One of the great treasures of my time as music director has been the realization of how much the Boston music community loves and supports its orchestra. As I have said since my first year as music director, music is food for our souls. We hope our musical offerings nourish the spirits and hearts of our dedicated musicians and devoted audience members throughout the year.”

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019–20 BSO SEASON UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GUEST CONDUCTORS AND BSO ARTISTIC PARTNER THOMAS ADÈS

Sir András Schiff, Susanna Mälkki, and Christoph von Dohnányi Make Much-Anticipated Returns to BSO Podium; in addition, BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès Conducts Stravinsky and His Own Lieux Retrouvés
Returning to the BSO stage after too-long absences are Sir András Schiff, making his first BSO appearances in the dual role of conductor-soloist with a program of Bach’s Piano Concerto in F minor (BWV 1056), Beethoven’s First Piano Concerto, Brahms’ Haydn Variations, and Bartók’s Dance Suite, October 17–19; Finnish conductor Susanna Mälkki with a program of Fauré’s Pavane, Debussy’s La Mer, Messiaen’s “Alleluia on the trumpet, alleluia on the cymbal” from L’Ascension, and the American premiere of a BSO-commissioned work for piano and orchestra by Swiss composer Dieter Ammann, featuring Andreas Haefliger as soloist, October 24–26; and the long-awaited return of Christoph von Dohnányi, who closes the season (April 30–May 2) with Haydn’s Symphony No. 12, Tchaikovsky’s Pathétique Symphony, and Ligeti’s Double Concerto for Flute and Oboe with BSO principals Elizabeth Rowe and John Ferrillo as soloists.

Christian Zacharias returns as conductor and pianist for a program of Brahms’ Serenade No. 2 and Schumann’s Introduction and Allegro appassionato for piano and orchestra and Symphony No. 4 on November 29 and 30. The Brazilian-born, former BSO assistant/associate conductor (2010–15) Marcelo Lehninger returns with a program featuring renowned Brazilian pianist Nelson Freire in Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto and closing with Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5, January 2–4. French conductor Alain Altinoglu returns for a January 9–14 program featuring the BSO debut of French organist Thierry Escaich as soloist in Poulenc’s Concerto for Organ, String Orchestra, and Timpani and Saint-Saëns’ Organ Symphony. And in his first BSO appearance since the 2016 Tanglewood season, Pinchas Zukerman is conductor and violin soloist for a February 21–25 program that includes Strauss’ Serenade for Winds, Haydn’s Symphony No. 49 (La passione), and Mozart’s Violin Concerto No. 3 in G, K.216.

In addition, Giancarlo Guerrero is back to lead Helen Grime’s BSO-commissioned Limina, Walton’s Cello Concerto with soloist Johannes Moser, and Duruflé’s Requiem with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, February 27–29. From March 5–7, Finnish conductor Hannu Lintu leads music by Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with 2015 International Chopin Piano Competition winner Seong-Jin Cho in his BSO debut, and Sibelius’ Symphony No. 2.

Thomas Adès, who has recently extended his role as the BSO’s Deborah and Philip Edmundson Artistic Partner through August 2021, returns to the BSO podium March 26–28 for a program bookended by music of Stravinsky—the Pulcinella Suite and Perséphone for speaker, tenor, chorus—and plus Adès’ own Lieux retrouvés for cello and orchestra with soloist Steven Isserlis, who premiered the work in 2009. For this program, Adès and the orchestra are also joined by tenor Edgardas Montvidas and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus for the seldom-performed Perséphone, Stravinsky’s 1935 mélodrame telling the story of the Greek goddess of spring.
On April 17, following that night’s Casual Friday BSO concert, to celebrate the Tanglewood Festival Chorus’ 50th anniversary, TFC conductor James Burton leads selections from Rachmaninoff’s *a cappella* choral work *All-Night Vigil.*

**Guest Conductors Take Center Stage in BSO Debuts**
Making his subscription series debut, BSO Assistant Conductor Yu-An Chang leads the world premiere of a BSO-commissioned work from Taiwanese-American composer Chihchun Chi-sun Lee, Mozart’s C major piano concerto, K.503, with Austrian pianist Till Fellner, and Tchaikovsky’s rarely performed Symphony No. 3, *Polish,* January 16–21. From March 19–21, acclaimed conductor André Raphel makes his subscription series debut with a program of Coleridge-Taylor, Still, and Uri Caine featuring the BSO debuts of the Uri Caine Trio and vocalist Barbara Walker, along with the BSO Gospel Chorus. Being performed for the first time by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in this program, Caine’s *Passion of Octavius Catto* (2014) is an oratorio about the Reconstruction-era civil rights leader and African-American educator who was murdered in Philadelphia on Election Day, 1871.

Elsewhere in the season, Russian-born conductor Dima Slobodeniou makes his subscription series debut in an October 10–12 program presenting Nielsen’s Fifth Symphony and Norwegian cellist Truls Mørk in Elgar’s Cello Concerto. The young Greek conductor Constantinos Carydis makes his BSO debut in an April 23–28 program featuring the welcome return of soloist Midori in Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 1, closing with Beethoven’s Symphony No. 7, and including Kodály’s *Dances of Galánta* and Greek composer Periklis Koukos’ *In Memoriam Y.A. Papaioannu.*

**The Boston Symphony Performs Three Programs at Carnegie Hall, November 18, 2019, and April 14 and 15, 2020, Under the Direction of Andris Nelsons**
The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Andris Nelsons perform a single concert at Carnegie Hall on Monday, November 18, 2019: Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes is soloist in Grieg’s Piano Concerto, which is paired with Mahler’s Symphony No. 4, featuring Austrian soprano Genia Kühmeier. On Tuesday, April 14, 2020, Nelsons leads the orchestra in the New York premiere of HK Gruber’s *Short Stories from the Vienna Woods* (a BSO co-commission), Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 3, and Gershwin’s Concerto in F with French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. On Wednesday, April 15, Nelsons closes the BSO’s two-night residency at Carnegie Hall with a concert performance of Act III of Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde,* starring tenor Jonas Kaufmann and soprano Emily Magee in the title roles. Also featured in the cast are Michelle DeYoung as Brangäne, Kostas Smoriginas as Kurwenal, and Günther Groissböck as King Marke. [Click here for the BSO’s 2019–20 season Carnegie Hall concerts press release.](https://www.bso.org/)

**Boston Symphony Chamber Players 2019–20 Season**
The Boston Symphony Chamber Players open their 2019–20 season of four Sunday afternoon concerts at New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall on October 20 with guest harpsichordist Paolo Bordignon performing in Elliott Carter’s Sonata for flute, oboe, cello, and harpsichord and Falla’s Concerto for harpsichord, flute, oboe, clarinet, violin, and cello. The program also includes Stravinsky’s Octet for Winds; Virgil Thomson’s *Sonata da Chiesa* for clarinet, horn, trumpet, and viola; and Sofia Gubaidulina’s Etudes for double bass. Pianist David Deveau joins the Chamber Players on January 19 for a Czech and Viennese program of Schulhoff’s Concertino for flute, viola, and double bass; selections from György Kurtag’s *Signs, Games, and Messages* for two violins; Martinů’s Nonet for winds and strings; Reinecke’s Trio in A minor for oboe, horn, and piano; and Brahms’ Trio in A minor for clarinet, cello, and piano. On March 22, the Chamber Players and guest pianist Randall Hodgkinson present works by contemporary composers Kevin Puts (*Seven Seascapes* for flute, horn, violin, viola, cello, double bass, and piano) and Eric Nathan (*Why Old Places Matter* for oboe, horn, and piano). The program also includes Smyth’s Variations on “Bonny
Sweet Robin” (Ophelia’s Song) for flute, oboe, and piano and Mendelssohn’s String Quartet No. 2 in B-flat, Op 87. To close the Boston Symphony Chamber Players 2019–20 season on April 26, the ensemble performs the world premiere of a new BSO-commissioned work for voices and ensemble by Michael Gandolfi (featuring baritone John Brancy), as well as Britten’s Sinfonietta, Op. 1, Dahl’s Allegro and Arioso for wind quintet, and Mozart’s arrangement for string trio of selected Bach preludes and fugues.

Sponsorships

Longstanding major corporate partner Bank of America returns as the BSO Season Lead Sponsor for the 2019–20 season. Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited is returning for its third season as the BSO Season Supporting Sponsor and the BSO Community Chamber Concerts sponsor for the 2019–20 BSO season.

Bank of America believes that arts have a unique capability to connect people, communities, and cultures and help economies thrive. “Our support of the arts engages individuals, organizations, and cultures in creative ways to help build mutual respect and insight,” said Miceal Chamberlain, Massachusetts President, Bank of America. “Investing in the arts, we help create experiences that challenge, educate, inspire, and motivate. We hope audiences at Symphony Hall share in our passion and enthusiasm for the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 2019–20 season.”

The BSO is proud to announce that the Arbella Insurance Foundation, a longtime sponsor, is continuing its major sponsorship for the 14th season, continuing its support of new audience development initiatives. Arbella Insurance Foundation will once again sponsor the BSO College Card, Youth & Family Concerts, the BSO’s popular Casual Fridays series, and the BSO Young Professionals (YoPro) program.

Delta Air Lines has returned as the Official Airline of the BSO. Fairmont Copley Plaza begins its 18th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and Commonwealth Worldwide Executive Transportation begins its 17th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation of the BSO.

TICKET AND OTHER PATRON INFORMATION

Ticket Information

Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2019–20 season will be available on Friday, March 29 at 10 a.m., by calling the BSO Subscription Office at 888-266-7575 or online through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org/subscriptions). Single tickets, ranging from $30 to $148, go on sale Monday, August 5, at 10 a.m. Tickets 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 “$25 under 40” program allows patrons under the age of 40 to purchase tickets for $25 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 107,000 discounted tickets to patrons under 40
since the program was created in 2008. (Please note that blackout dates apply for this program, and "$25<40" can end at any time for individual concerts, based on availability.)

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 $30 (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 145,000 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.

**Adult Educational Initiatives at Symphony Hall**
Beginning in fall 2019, the Boston Symphony will increase its commitment to adult learning and engagement at Symphony Hall and the new Linde Center for Music and Learning on the Tanglewood campus through existing programs and expansion of the Tanglewood Learning Institute to Boston. Full details of TLI programming will be announced at a later date at www.tli.org.

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 22, February 21, March 20, and April 17 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 2019–20 season, the BSO will continue 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 2019–20, 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 audience’s 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 2019–20 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 from 9:30-10 a.m. before each of the season’s four Thursday-morning Open Rehearsals at Symphony Hall. 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 including the upcoming spring Pops music stream (May 2019); 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 cycle are also available at www.bso.org. Special thanks go to Lloyd Axelrod, M.D. for his support of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Shostakovich recording project.

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, which was introduced during the 2017–18 BSO season and offers users an array of concert-enhancing content, including program notes, audio podcasts and interviews with the musicians, and videos. The BSO also offers an iPhone and Android app, which provides 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 at Symphony Hall 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 classicalwcrb.org, and are repeated at 8 p.m. on Monday evenings. In addition, BSO concerts from Tanglewood are heard on WCRB, as well as WAMC in Albany, NY; WMNR in Monroe, CT; and New England Public Radio.

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 and 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. 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.

Symphony Hall Shop and Tours
The Symphony Shop, located in the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue, is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 3 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 season, on select weekdays at 4 p.m. and some Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. For more information on taking an Irving W. and Charlotte F. Rabb Symphony Hall tour, please visit us at www.bso.org/tours.

PRESS CONTACT:
Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285
Matt Erikson, Senior Publicist (merikson@bso.org) 617-638-9284