PRESS CONTACT:
Bernadette Horgan, bhorgan@bso.org
Matthew Erikson, merikson@bso.org
617-638-9280

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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OFFERS A VARIETY OF
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONCERTGOERS OF ALL AGES
DURING 2019-20 SEASON

● Four BSO Casual Friday Concerts (11/22, 2/21, 3/20, & 4/17) offer patrons specially priced
tickets; a chance to hear BSO musicians speak from the stage; a “Conductor Cam” for patrons
sitting in a designated section, allowing them to see the orchestra’s point of view; and a relaxed
atmosphere where casual attire and mingling with fellow concertgoers at pre- and post-concert
gatherings is encouraged

● Two programs free and open to the general public—BSO 101 and “What I Hear”—offer insights
into music being performed throughout the season

● BSO musicians perform free Community Chamber Concerts in nine Massachusetts communities
during the 2019-20 season

● Informative half-hour Friday Preview Talks incorporate recorded examples from the music to be
performed in that afternoon’s concert and are free to concertgoers

Tickets, priced from $30-$148, may be purchased through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org), by phone
through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), or in person at the Symphony Hall Box
Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston).

For press releases, downloadable photos, and artist bios, visit bso.org/presskit;
for press tickets, email ecotten@bso.org or call 617-638-9280
As part of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s ongoing initiative to offer a variety of programs for audience members looking to learn more about classical music, the BSO is offering several adult educational initiatives for the 2019-20 BSO season.

**CASUAL FRIDAYS**
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 2019-20 season, November 22, February 21, March 20, and April 17. Ticket-holders 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.

Concert attendees sitting in the “Conductor Cam” seats can use ConcertCue during the Casual Fridays performances again this season. ConcertCue is a mobile web application that streams synchronized program notes—including images, text, and other rich media—during select performances to help audience members better appreciate and understand the music they hear.

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. Ticketholders 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, snacks, 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.

**2019-20 Casual Fridays concerts:**

**November 22, 8 p.m.:** BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons leads the orchestra in Latvian composer Arturs Maskats’ “My river runs to thee…“ (*Homage to Emily Dickinson*), a BSO co-commission that receives its world premiere on Thursday, November 21. The program also features 18-year-old violin prodigy Daniel Lozakovich in Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 2, *To October*, to be recorded live for the orchestra’s ongoing project for Deutsche Grammophon.

**February 21, 8 p.m.:** Pinchas Zukerman is conductor and violin soloist for a program of Strauss’s Serenade for Winds; Haydn’s Symphony No. 49, *La passione*, and Mozart’s Violin Concerto No. 3 in G, K.216.

**March 20, 8 p.m.:** Acclaimed conductor André Raphel makes his BSO subscription series debut with Still’s Symphony No. 1, *Afro-American*, and the BSO’s first performances of Uri Caine’s *The Passion of Octavius Catto* (2014), an oratorio about the Reconstruction-era civil rights leader and African-American educator who was murdered in Philadelphia on Election Day, 1871. The performance features the Uri Caine Trio and vocalist Barbara Walker, along with the BSO Gospel Choir.

**April 17, 8 p.m.:** In Andris Nelsons’ final week subscription concerts this season, he 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. As part of the “Casual Friday” activities following the BSO concert, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, led by James Burton, marks the TFC’s 50th anniversary with a special performance from
the Symphony Hall stage of selected movements of Rachmaninoff’s *All-Night Vigil*, a beautifully solemn work rooted in Russian Orthodox sacred music.

Casual Friday tickets, $35-59, are available through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston), or online through the BSO’s website ([www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)).

**BSO 101**

*Four Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. at Symphony Hall*

**BSO 101** returns during the 2019-20 BSO season with four sessions with **BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel** and **Associate Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger**, joined by members of the BSO, designed to enhance patrons’ listening abilities and appreciation of music. Each session focuses on upcoming BSO repertoire, examining and illuminating aspects of musical shape and form, and of the composers’ individual musical styles. These sessions include recorded musical examples, and each is self-contained, so no prior musical training, or attendance at any previous session, is required. Each BSO 101 session is followed by a free tour of Symphony Hall. Admission to the BSO 101 sessions is free, but reservations are encouraged and can be made at [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org).

**Wednesday, October 16: Sharing Traditions—The BSO and Gewandhausorchester (GHO) Leipzig**

**Marc Mandel** with BSO violist **Danny Kim**, who participated in the BSO/GHO Musician Exchange program last season playing with the GHO in Leipzig, and GHO flutist **Manfred Ludwig**, who is playing with the BSO this fall.

Repertoire to be discussed:

WAGNER Overture to *The Flying Dutchman* (GHO concert of October 29, 2019)
MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 3, *Scottish* (GHO concert of October 29, 2019)
SCHOENBERG *Verklärte Nacht* (*Transfigured Night*) (BSO/GHO concerts of October 31 & November 2, 2019)
SCRIABIN *Poem of Ecstasy* (BSO/GHO concerts of October 31 & November 1 & 2, 2019)

**Wednesday, November 13: Exploring the New**

with **Robert Kirzinger** and a BSO musician.

**Wednesday, January 15: Great Concertos**

with **Mark Mandel** and a BSO musician.

**Wednesday, April 1: Musical Worlds**

with **Robert Kirzinger** and a BSO musician.

**“WHAT I HEAR”**

The BSO continues its “**What I Hear**” series in collaboration with New England Conservatory during the 2019-20 season. This series introduces audiences to composers working with the BSO via composer-curated chamber music programs and onstage talks moderated by **BSO Assistant Artistic Administrator Eric Valliere**. Performed by NEC students with coaching by NEC faculty and the composers themselves, these hour-long concerts start at 6 p.m. and take place around the time of the first BSO performance of the composer’s new piece in Williams Hall, located within the New England Conservatory’s main building at 30 Gainsborough Street, two blocks from Symphony Hall.
Thursday, November 7, at 6 p.m. American composer Betsy Jolas curates a program of chamber music in connection with the BSO’s world premiere performance of her *Letters from Bachville*, a BSO co-commission (November 7-12). Jolas, who celebrated her 93rd this past August, has been on the faculty of the BSO’s Tanglewood Music Center on several occasions.

Thursday, February 27, at 6 p.m. Scottish composer and former Tanglewood Music Center Fellow Helen Grime curates a program of chamber music in connection with the BSO’s performance of her *Limina* that week (February 27-March 3). *Limina* is a BSO commission that received its world premiere at Tanglewood in 2019.

Thursday, April 2, at 6 p.m. Viennese composer HK Gruber curates a program of chamber music in advance of Andris Nelsons and the BSO’s American premiere performance of his *Short Stories from the Vienna Woods*, a BSO co-commission based on the composer’s opera *Tales from the Vienna Woods*.

FRIDAY PREVIEW TALKS

Friday Preview Talks are informative half-hour talks that incorporate recorded examples from the music to be performed in that afternoon’s concert and are given primarily by BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel and Associate Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger. The Friday Previews take place from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in Symphony Hall before all BSO’s Friday-afternoon subscription concerts.

Community Chamber Concerts

Members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra will perform nine free Community Chamber Concerts as part of the orchestra’s Education and Community Engagement programming this season. Concerts will take place in Pittsfield (10/13), Dorchester (10/20), Methuen (11/10), Charlestown (11/24), North Adams (11/24), Jamaica Plain (1/12), Brighton (1/19), Framingham (3/1), and Roxbury (3/8). An additional three free concerts (11/1, 11/22, & 4/10) will take place at Northeastern University’s Fenway Center, just around the corner from Symphony Hall.

This season, the BSO continues to collaborate with local community music groups who perform before the chamber concerts in an artistic exchange. The Josiah Quincy Orchestra Program will perform before the Charlestown concert at Bunker Hill Community College on November 24, Kids 4 Harmony will perform before the Pittsfield event at Taconic High School on October 13 and the North Adams event at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts on November 24, Project STEP students will perform before the concert at the First Church in Roxbury on March 8, and students from the Boston String Academy will perform before the Brighton event at WBUR CitySpace on January 19. Additionally, prior to the performances on October 20, November 24 (at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts), January 12, March 1, and March 8, BSO Associate Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger will host “Community Conversations,” an opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversation. Complete details about the Community Chamber Concerts are available here.

Free tickets for all non-Fenway Center concerts are available by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting www.bso.org. Tickets to the Fenway Center concerts are available by visiting mytickets.northeastern.edu. A reservation is required to attend each event.
EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS AT THE BSO

The Boston Symphony Orchestra Education and Community Engagement Department offers opportunities for individuals of all ages to connect with orchestral music in an array of settings. Programs for children and families include a series of Family Concerts, Concerts for Very Young People, and the Days in the Arts program hosted each summer at the BSO’s summer home, Tanglewood. The orchestra also connects with the local community through Symphony for our City, a program that builds ties between the BSO and up to 10 local non-profit organizations. The organization’s wide variety of programs for students and educators includes BSO Youth Concerts, BSO High School Open Rehearsals, BSO High School Card, BSO College Card, the Educators Advisory Council, the Collegiate Ambassadors Program, the BSO Concerto Competition, and the Fidelity Investments Young Artist Competition.

In October 2017, the BSO launched a new innovative community engagement program—"BSO In Residence"—a new paradigm for building creative collaborations between an orchestra and its surrounding communities. The present "BSO In Residence," now in its third year, partners the BSO with the Jamaica Plain neighborhood. Developed from a year-long strategic planning process in consultation with community leaders, "BSO In Residence" in Jamaica Plain features performances, demonstrations, school visits and other educational activities, and events that connect with Jamaica Plain’s cultural strengths, vision, and resources.

Click here for a complete list of Education and Community Engagement programs offered by the BSO.

OVERVIEW OF AFFORDABLE TICKET OPTIONS AT THE BOSTON SYMPHONY

In addition to the discounted Casual Fridays ticket prices ($35-59), the BSO has numerous affordable ticket options designed to encourage young concertgoers to enjoy BSO concerts at Symphony Hall. Affordable ticket deals include the orchestra’s highly successful $25 concert tickets for patrons under the age of 40, and the BSO College Card ($30), High School Card ($15), and BSO Medical Card programs that invite students to attend virtually any concert of their choosing throughout the BSO season for just the one-time cost of the card, with the exception of some pre-designated dates. The BSO offers low cost ($5-10) tickets to EBT card holders. The Young Professionals Group (YoPro) offers discounted membership packages ($200) to BSO and Pops concerts featuring networking events throughout the year, allowing members to meet and mingle with other young Bostonians. Patrons of all ages can also take advantage of BSO Rush Tickets, which cost $10 each, as well as the four BSO Open Rehearsals ($21 and $33), providing patrons a unique look at the rehearsal process. In addition, the orchestra continues to offer the Massachusetts Teachers Association and members of the military a 30 percent discount on single tickets and subscriptions.

TICKET AND OTHER PATRON INFORMATION

Ticket Information
Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2019-20 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 ($30-148) 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. The Boston Symphony Orchestra offers groups of 20 or more advanced ticket reservations and flexible payment options for BSO concerts at Symphony Hall. Click here for further information.
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.

**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. The Arbella Insurance Foundation, continuing its major sponsorship for the 14th season, 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. Delta Air Lines has returned as the Official Airline of the BSO. Fairmont Copley Plaza returns for its 18th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and Commonwealth Worldwide Executive Transportation returns for its 17th season as the Official Chauffeured Transportation of the BSO.

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