ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA’S FIRST-EVER JOINT PERFORMANCES WITH THE LEIPZIG GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA—AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT IN THE WORLD OF ORCHESTRAL MUSIC, OCTOBER 31 AND NOVEMBER 2; OCTOBER 31 CONCERT MARKS THE OFFICIAL CULMINATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY’S YEAR OF GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP, WITH A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY GERMAN PRESIDENT FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER

ALSO AS PART OF “LEIPZIG WEEK,” BSO AND GHO COME TOGETHER FOR SYMPHONY HALL GALA CONCERT AND DINNER ON NOVEMBER 1; GEWANDHAUS ORCHESTRA PERFORMS TWO PROGRAMS ON OCTOBER 27 AND 29, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE “PEACEFUL REVOLUTION”

ANDRIS NELSONS UNVEILS NEW PAGES ABOUT THE BSO/GHO ALLIANCE AT ANDRISNELSONS.COM

- Thursday, October 31, and Saturday, November 2, at 8 p.m.: Andris Nelsons to lead his two orchestras, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, in joint concert of works by Strauss and Haydn, on program with Schoenberg’s Verklärte Nacht and Scriabin’s Poem of Ecstasy
• Friday, November 1, at 6 p.m.: Strauss, Haydn, and Scriabin works are repeated for the Symphony Gala in celebration of 2019–20 season and Mr. Nelsons’ fifth anniversary with the BSO; evening begins at 5 p.m. with cocktails and ends with post-concert dinner party in festive rooms throughout Symphony Hall

• Sunday, October 27, at 3 p.m. and Tuesday, October 29, at 8 p.m.: Commemorating the 30th anniversary of the “Peaceful Revolution,” Gewandhausorchester to perform two programs of works by Schubert, Mahler, Schumann, Wagner, and Mendelssohn, as well as Brahms’ Double Concerto with violinist Leonidas Kavakos and cellist Gautier Capuçon

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS AND ARCHIVAL EXHIBITS AROUND THE BSO/GHO ALLIANCE CONCERTS, OCTOBER 27–NOVEMBER 2

Two illustrated performances/discussions led by Christoph Wolff to take place at Boston Public Library: on Tuesday, October 29, 5:30–7 p.m., BSO members to perform music of Schubert followed by discussion about the Gewandhausorchester’s rich tradition of commissioning new works; on Wednesday, October 30, 5:30–7 p.m., members of the BSO and GHO to perform Reicha’s Quintet for Winds in E-flat, initiating a multimedia panel discussion on the sonic differences between the two orchestras

Special Symphony Hall archival exhibit to shine a spotlight on major first editions of beloved works by Bach, Mozart, Schubert, and Brahms, published by the world’s oldest continuing publisher, Breitkopf & Härtel, established in Leipzig in 1719

The Musicians of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester will also celebrate their partnership beyond the music-making, with special social events planned throughout the GHO’s visit

In addition, the BSO will host special guests and dignitaries from the German government—highlighted by a visit from President Frank-Walter Steinmeier—the Gewandhausorchester, and the German Consul Office in Boston

OVERVIEW OF BSO/GHO ALLIANCE:

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA/GEWANDHAUSORCHESTER FIVE-YEAR ALLIANCE—LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY 2018—FEATURES CO-COMMISSIONING PROGRAM, EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES, SHARED AND COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMING, AND RESIDENCIES AND TOUR STOPS BY THE BSO IN LEIPZIG AND GHO IN BOSTON; NEW ALLIANCE INCLUDES MUSICIAN EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO ORCHESTRAS AND BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE ACADEMIES FOR ADVANCED MUSIC STUDIES

TICKETS FOR THE 2019-20 BSO SEASON ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH WWW.BSO.ORG OR BY CALLING 888-266-1200
Andris Nelsons brings his two orchestras—the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig (GHO)—together for a rare undertaking in the orchestra world: these two preeminent orchestras will appear in performance together on the Symphony Hall stage on October 31, and November 1 and 2. These special performances are a major highlight of the Andris Nelsons-led BSO/GHO Alliance, the five-year partnership launched in February 2018 that features a co-commissioning program; educational initiatives; shared and complementary programming; residencies and tour stops by the BSO in Leipzig and GHO in Boston; and musician exchanges between the two orchestras and between their respective academies for advanced music studies. The BSO/GHO Alliance is a major component of Mr. Nelsons’ fifth anniversary season as BSO music director, September 19 through May 2, at Symphony Hall.

On Thursday, October 31, and Saturday, November 2, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester will combine forces to present a program that opens with Strauss’ Festival Prelude for organ and orchestra, a large dramatic work calling for major musical forces, and closes with Scriabin’s Poem of Ecstasy, which features kaleidoscopic orchestral effects and is the work that calls for the greatest number of forces—with 112 musicians filling the entire Symphony Hall stage. Each of these works rarely appears on a traditional orchestra program, due to the sheer number of players required. The program will also include works of Haydn and Schoenberg.

The October 31 BSO/GHO joint performance marks the official culmination of the Federal Republic of German’s Year of German-American Friendship in the USA, under the patronage and in the presence of German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who will deliver welcoming remarks from the Symphony Hall stage prior to the start of the concert.

Featuring the combined forces of the Boston Symphony and Gewandhaus Orchestras, the program was designed to highlight the collective strength of these two great ensembles. Each orchestra is renowned for its distinctive tonal personality—the result of both the particular style of instrument used by the musicians and the different traditions and schools of playing they represent. In selecting the works for the joint performances, Andris Nelsons carefully chose pieces not immediately identified with either orchestra and the schools of composers or styles of composition each orchestra tends to be identified with. Instead, he chose music which is part of a shared musical heritage. Mr. Nelsons was also drawn to individual pieces calling for huge forces—including Symphony Hall’s great pipe organ—and which are rarely heard due to the extraordinary musical forces they call for. By virtue of combining forces in performance, the musicians of the BSO and GHO will need to respond to a different approach to music-making and work towards adapting and blending with the goal of finding a new shared vision and creating a rare opportunity to hear two of the world’s greatest musical ensembles combined under the inspirational direction of the conductor they share.

Click here for more information about "Leipzig Week in Boston" from Maestro Nelsons' website.
STATEMENT FROM ANDRIS NELSONS, BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSIC DIRECTOR AND GEWANDHAUSKAPELLMEISTER

“Watching the BSO/GHO Alliance become a reality has been one of the most exciting and fulfilling experiences for me. Now, as we approach a major highlight of this five-year alliance—bringing both of these great orchestras together at Symphony Hall for their first-ever joint performances—I am filled with joy that our audiences will experience a deeper appreciation for the many unique musical gifts this partnership has to offer.

“When we announced the BSO/GHO Alliance in September 2015, we had many hopes for what it might achieve. While conducting programs for ‘Leipzig Week in Boston’ and ‘Boston Week in Leipzig,’ I’ve seen musicians and audiences open their hearts to another world of music-making. The musician exchange programs—with both orchestras, as well as student musicians at Tanglewood and in Leipzig—have given those involved a tremendous glimpse into the inner workings of each other’s orchestras, and an incredible opportunity for audiences to see new faces within their beloved ensembles. In addition, discussions and archival exhibits have been created with a view toward expanding our audiences’ understanding of these two great orchestras. The co-commissioning program has brought important new music into the world, including works by Sean Shepherd, Jörg Widmann, Andris Dzenitis, Sebastian Currier, Betsy Jolas, Arturs Maskats, and HK Gruber. As we anticipate the next two years of alliance programs and activities, I am so looking forward to more commissions, as well as joint touring and recording projects in the coming years.

“I am filled with gratitude at the unexpected gifts that have come through this partnership, in particular, observing how these two orchestras—each with unique deep traditions and impressive accomplishments—can look beyond their individual experiences to genuinely appreciate the value of coming together, and experience each other from a whole new perspective. Through this immersive and multi-level partnership, we have all grown to appreciate both our commonalities and our differences, a gift that transcends the extraordinary level of artistry on display.

“As we forge ahead, I am inspired by the many connections between these two orchestras. The BSO’s founder Henry Lee Higginson used the second Gewandhaus as a model for what Symphony Hall would become. Six former BSO music directors either studied at the Leipzig Conservatory or were members of the Gewandhausorchester, including BSO music director Charles Munch, who was GHO concertmaster. These two esteemed orchestras also share a deep and time-honored commitment to the creation of new music, each responsible for bringing an astounding number of new works into the repertoire, essential masterpieces embraced by generations of music lovers everywhere.

“This alliance has shown me that each of my extraordinary orchestras also embraces a spirit of risk and adventure in the effort to achieve big goals. I am deeply grateful to the leadership of both the BSO and the GHO for their extraordinary commitment to finding the resources to make the dream of a BSO/GHO Alliance become a reality.

“Looking ahead to the future of this great partnership, we must keep our eyes on the most important goal—to share the unique gifts of these two world-renowned orchestras with our cherished audiences, while also doing our best to expand our wonderful circle of devoted patrons. As we continue to offer new and exciting programs of the BSO/GHO Alliance, we hope all who
participate will discover and experience something that is filled with the possibility of inspiration, beauty, and deep meaning that can change all our lives for the good.”

**Details of Joint Concerts with BSO and GHO, October 31, and November 1 and 2**

It is extremely rare in the orchestra world for two ensembles of the highest rank to come together for a joint performance. The opening work on the program, Strauss’ *Festival Prelude* for organ and orchestra, is a large dramatic work calling for a broad assortment of instruments, including the non-traditional heckelphone, similar to the oboe but pitched an octave lower. The program’s ending work, Scriabin’s *Poem of Ecstasy*, which features kaleidoscopic orchestral effects, is the work that calls for the greatest number of forces—with 112 musicians filling the entire Symphony Hall stage. In between audiences will hear Haydn’s *Sinfonia concertante* for oboe, bassoon, violin, and cello, with BSO principals John Ferrillo, oboe, and Richard Svoboda, bassoon, playing the wind parts and Gewandhaus players Frank-Michael Erben, violin, and Christian Giger, cello, playing the string parts. Also on the program is Schoenberg’s *Verklärte Nacht*, one of the great masterpieces of the 20th century.

In addition to making music together, the musicians of the Boston Symphony and Gewandhausorchester will also have time to socialize at special receptions planned to take place after their first two rehearsals together on Monday, October 28, and at a special post-concert gathering on Thursday, October 31.

Throughout the visit by the Gewandhausorchester, the Boston Symphony Orchestra will host many special guests and dignitaries from the Gewandhausorchester, the German government, and the German Consul General Office, Boston.

The October 31 and November 2 program with the BSO and GHO, minus the Schoenberg work, will also be performed as part of the BSO’s 2019–20 gala party in celebration of Andris Nelsons’ fifth anniversary season as BSO Music Director, on Friday, November 1.

Following the 6 p.m. performance celebrating the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester alliance, the 2019-20 BSO season gala party will pick up on that theme, with a dinner featuring a combination of New England and German culinary favorites, starting off with appetizers like mini-Maine lobster rolls and finishing off with a dessert of German chocolate cake. Using the centenary year of the German-born Bauhaus school of design as inspiration, with its international style favoring minimalist, linear, and geometric forms, all the Symphony Hall rooms that will be used for the dinner will be designed with bold colors, strong lines, and structured floral arrangements. The gala party will be designed by Jen Wheaton of Design Collaborative, with flower arrangements by Michael Ciano at Winstons.

**BSO/GHO Alliance Boston Public Library Events and Symphony Hall Archival Displays**

Two Illustrated performance/discussions at the Boston Public Library will be led by Christoph Wolff, the Adams University Professor at Harvard University and former Director of the Bach Archive in Leipzig (2001–13), who is serving as an artistic advisor to the BSO/GHO Alliance. On Tuesday, October 29, 5:30–7 p.m., BSO members will perform music of Schubert, in advance of a discussion about the Gewandhausorchester’s rich tradition of commissioning new works. On Wednesday, October 30, members of the BSO and GHO will perform Reicha’s Quintet for Winds in E-flat, initiating a multimedia panel discussion on the sonic differences between the two
orchestras. In addition, a special Symphony Hall archival exhibit will shine a spotlight on major first editions of beloved works by Bach, Mozart, Schubert, and Brahms, published by the world’s oldest continuing publisher, Breitkopf & Härtel, established in Leipzig in 1719.

**BSO/GHO Alliance Musician Exchange Program Fall 2019**

Starting in fall 2018, the BSO/GHO Alliance began a musician exchange program offering musicians from each orchestra a rare opportunity to spend three months performing with its partner orchestra in the latter’s home city. BSO violinist Lisa Ji Eun Kim and flutist Clint Foreman are taking part in the program in Leipzig during fall 2019; they will immerse themselves in the many activities of the Gewandhausorchester, including weekly subscription concerts, regular concerts with the Leipzig Opera, and Sunday performances of Bach cantatas at St. Thomas Church, where Bach served as Thomaskantor, composing weekly cantatas from 1723 through 1750, the year of his death at age 65. Gewandhausorchester violinist Veronika Starke and flutist Manfred Ludwig are performing with the BSO for fall 2019, including weekly BSO subscription concerts, and performances with the Boston Pops during the holiday and spring seasons. These four musicians, in their exchange roles in their sister orchestras, will be part of the BSO/GHO combined performances on October 31 and November 1 and 2.

In addition, one of the highlights of the BSO/GHO Alliance has been a musician exchange program between the Tanglewood Music Center (TMC) and the Mendelssohn-Orchesterakademie (MOA), two of the world’s most acclaimed training programs for classical musicians. This first-ever exchange program between the TMC and MOA was initiated in summer 2018, with several instrumentalists from the famed Leipzig academy becoming Fellows at the Tanglewood Music Center, where they participated in all TMC activities including master classes, orchestral concerts, and chamber performances. Violinist Anna Luisa Volkwein from the Mendelssohn Academy was a TMC Fellow during the 2019 season; she will be performing with the GHO during their upcoming visit to Boston. Also part of the exchange program, Yu-an Chang, one of the BSO's current assistant conductors, traveled to Leipzig in spring 2018 as a TMC Conducting Fellow to work closely with Andris Nelsons as part of a residency with the Gewandhaus Orchestra.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BSO/GHO ALLIANCE ANNOUNCED**

Launched in February 2018, under the direction of Andris Nelsons, the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and Gewandhaus Orchestra (GHO) Alliance is a five-year multidimensional collaboration designed to create programs and activities for these two orchestras and their respective audiences to explore each ensemble’s unique world of music-making and discover the great traditions and historic accomplishments that have played an important role in building their reputations as two of the world’s great orchestras. In addition, the programs of the BSO/GHO Alliance will celebrate the shared mutual heritage of these two orchestras, while also shedding light on the overall culture of each ensemble and the cities they are proud to call home. In addition to his long-term commitment as Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director through 2022 and beyond, Mr. Nelsons holds the title of Gewandhauskapellmeister.

As the central figure in bringing the BSO and GHO together, Andris Nelsons is intricately involved in the planning and implementation of all the programming initiatives of the BSO/GHO Alliance, which was announced in September 2015. Though many orchestra music directors take on more than one leadership post at the same time, it is rare—seemingly unprecedented—for a conductor to go beyond
the traditional model of keeping the positions separate from each other. Along with the management teams at the BSO and GHO, Mr. Nelsons is bringing his two orchestras together and creating a unique approach to programming with the goal of enriching the lives of both the musicians involved in the alliance and the audiences who so deeply cherish their home orchestras.

**BSO/GHO MUTUAL HERITAGE; WORKS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH EACH ORCHESTRA**

The history of close cultural connections between Boston and Leipzig began in 1881, when the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s founder, Henry Lee Higginson, appointed Leipzig Conservatory-trained Georg Henschel as the BSO’s first conductor. Subsequent conductors of the BSO, including Wilhelm Gericke, Emil Paur, Max Fiedler, Karl Muck, and particularly Arthur Nikisch, were either educated in Leipzig and/or held posts with the Gewandhaus Orchestra. In the mid-20th century, the Leipzig tie was reinforced when Charles Munch was BSO Music Director from 1949 to 1962; Munch studied in Leipzig and was concertmaster of the Gewandhaus Orchestra from 1926 to 1933.

Symphony Hall in Boston, which was inaugurated in 1900, is not simply a replica of the historically renowned second Gewandhaus that opened its doors in 1884 and was destroyed in 1944. Mr. Higginson had visited the Leipzig concert hall while touring Europe and had instructed his team of architects to design a larger version of the Gewandhaus, with as many as 2,600 seats. Boston’s new hall also added the latest acoustic principles to the overall design of its Leipzig counterpart. These acoustical principles played a major role in determining the size of the stage and the placement of sound-absorbing statues in the auditorium, among other features. In 1974, the Gewandhaus Orchestra appeared in Boston’s Symphony Hall during its first tour of the United States. To date, Boston has welcomed the Gewandhaus Orchestra for eleven guest performances, including its upcoming appearance in October/November 2019. While the BSO made its debut appearance at the Gewandhaus in May 2016, the Leipzig hall featured the BSO-affiliated Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2008 during its European tour.

Since its founding in 1743, the GHO has been associated with some of the greatest figures of music history, including Johann Sebastian Bach, who lived and worked in Leipzig from 1723 until 1750, the year of his death at age 65. In addition to the GHO’s widely known reputation for performances of the works of Bach, the orchestra also gave the premieres of works by such luminaries of classical music as Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Brahms. This tradition has continued into the 20th and 21st centuries with scores by such significant composers as Henze, Rachele, and Rihm, among others. The BSO’s own compositional legacy is similarly without parallel, including some of the seminal scores of the last century from composers ranging from Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Poulenc, and Bartók, to Messiaen, Dutilleux, Gubaidulina, and Takemitsu, and myriad Americans including Copland, Bernstein, Sessions, Carter, and Harbison, among others. Significant 21st century composers performed by the BSO in recent years include Betsy Jolas, Helen Grimes, Hans Abrahamsen, Kaija Saariaho, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Michael Gandolfi, and Thomas Adés, among others.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE BSO/GHO ALLIANCE ANNOUNCED IN FALL 2015**

Launched in February 2018, under the direction of Andris Nelsons, the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and Gewandhaus Orchestra (GHO) Alliance is a five-year multidimensional collaboration designed to create programs and activities for these two orchestras and their respective audiences to explore each ensemble’s unique world of music-making and discover the great traditions and historic accomplishments that have played an important role in building their reputations as two of the
world’s great orchestras. In addition, the programs of the BSO/GHO Alliance will celebrate the shared mutual heritage of these two orchestras, while also shedding light on the overall culture of each ensemble and the cities they are proud to call home. In addition to his long-term commitment as Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director through 2022 and beyond, Mr. Nelsons holds the title of Gewandhauskapellmeister.

Highlights of the BSO/GHO Alliance include a series of new works through a co-commissioning program (Jörg Widmann, Sean Shepherd, Sebastian Currier, Andris Dzenitis, and Betsy Jolas, among others to be announced); educational initiatives with a special focus on archival exhibits and lecture series; performances that shine a spotlight on each orchestra’s unique programming, with an additional focus on their shared and complementary musical heritages; and residencies and tour stops by the BSO in Leipzig and GHO in Boston. One of the major highlights of the BSO/GHO Alliance, taking place annually over the five-year period of the collaboration (2018-22), is a focus on complementary programming, whereby the BSO celebrates "Leipzig Week in Boston" and the GHO celebrates "Boston Week in Leipzig," highlighting each other’s musical traditions through uniquely programmed concerts, chamber music performances, archival exhibits and lecture series. In addition to exploring the many historic connections between these two famed ensembles (see section below), the BSO/GHO Alliance continues to create memorable new associations through a musician exchange program involving the two orchestras and their respective academies for advanced music studies, the Mendelssohn Academie and the Tanglewood Music Center, which took place in summer 2018.

As the central figure in bringing the BSO and GHO together, Andris Nelsons is intricately involved in the planning and implementation of all the programming initiatives of the BSO/GHO Alliance, which was announced in September 2015. Though many orchestra music directors take on more than one leadership post at the same time, it is rare—seemingly unprecedented—for a conductor to go beyond the traditional model of keeping the positions separate from each other. Along with the management teams at the BSO and GHO, Mr. Nelsons is bringing his two orchestras together and creating a unique approach to programming with the goal of enriching the lives of both the musicians involved in the alliance and the audiences who so deeply cherish their home orchestras.

The Boston Symphony and Gewandhaus orchestras are fortunate to have Christoph Wolff, Adams University Professor at Harvard University, former Director of the Bach Archive in Leipzig (2001-13), and author of numerous acclaimed texts on the history of music from the 15th to 20th centuries, serving as an artistic advisor to the BSO/GHO Alliance. In that capacity, Mr. Wolff, working closely with archivists and historians at the BSO and GHO, oversees the creation and presentation of multimedia/film presentations and panel discussions with musicians, historians, and archivists close to these organizations, offering fascinating insights into the stories and accomplishments that make these two institutions legendary.

The BSO/GHO Alliance was announced in September 2015 and began, informally, in May 2016 when the BSO, as part of a European tour to the major musical capitals of Austria, Germany, and Luxembourg, made its debut performance, under Andris Nelsons, in Leipzig’s Gewandhaus, one of the great European halls.

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