BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TOUR TO EAST ASIA UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANDRIS NELSONS, FEBRUARY 6–16, IS CANCELED DUE TO WIDELY DOCUMENTED CONCERNS OVER THE SPREAD OF THE NEW CORONAVIRUS

The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s four-city tour to East Asia (Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Shanghai) with Andris Nelsons, February 6–16, has been canceled due to increasing concerns over widely documented official news and government agency reports assessing the spread of the new coronavirus. These concerns, along with discussions with the Shanghai Oriental Art Center—whose leadership informed the BSO about the official cancellations of their upcoming performances—followed by consultations with the tour’s presenters in Seoul, Taipei, and Hong Kong, combined to play an influential role in the cancellation of the BSO’s East Asia tour.

“On behalf of everyone at the Boston Symphony Orchestra, we are all deeply disappointed that we will not be able to perform for the wonderful audiences in Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Shanghai,” said BSO President and CEO Mark Volpe.

“Though this was to be the BSO and Andris Nelsons’ first visit to Seoul, and the BSO’s long-awaited returns to Taipei and Hong Kong, it has become clear through recent official reports that concerns over the spread of the new coronavirus have dramatically increased, forcing the orchestra to look seriously at the feasibility of proceeding with the tour,” Volpe added. “With the health and well-being of the musicians and entire tour party, including Yefim Bronfman, always of foremost concern—along with the decision made by the Shanghai presenters to cancel upcoming performances—we have canceled the entire tour. Unfortunately, this includes the BSO’s performances in Seoul, Taipei, and Hong Kong—areas much less impacted by the virus—as it remains unclear how travel in and out of these regions will be affected in the coming weeks.
“Our heartfelt thanks go out to our presenters in Seoul (Vincero Arts Management & Entertainment), Taipei (MNA The Management of New Arts), Hong Kong (Hong Kong Arts Festival) and Shanghai (Shanghai Oriental Art Center) for their understanding about the tour cancellation. We hope to work closely with them in the not-so-distant future to bring the orchestra to their fine cities and concert halls. We also want to express deep appreciation to Askonas Holt, who have scheduled and managed the tour, and TravTours, Inc., who have handled all travel and hotel accommodations. Every individual involved in the planning of this tour has been incredibly dedicated to its success, and we look forward to continuing our work with them on future projects.

“At this time of grave concern over the spread of the new coronavirus, our thoughts continue to be with those most directly affected by this serious public health crisis.”

“All of us at the Boston Symphony Orchestra are incredibly sad to have to cancel our tour to East Asia and disappoint our fans in Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, but we greatly appreciate everyone’s understanding that we need to put the health and well-being of our musicians first and foremost,” said BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons.

“The orchestra and I love to tour and we were so looking forward to our first performances together in these cities and bringing the music of the BSO to these extraordinary places. Please know that we are all passionately committed to a future visit to East Asia soon.

“We all feel deep gratitude to the many wonderful people who worked so hard at every level to organize and support this tour. Most importantly, our hearts and prayers are with everyone who has been affected by the coronavirus.”

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is currently exploring the possibility of scheduling some concerts and special events in Boston during the next two weeks, the period of time when the orchestra would have been on tour. Among the activities being considered is a BSO concert, free for the community of Boston. Further details will be announced by early next week.

The 2020 trip was to be the orchestra’s 29th international tour since the orchestra’s founding in 1881. On other occasions, the BSO has been forced to cancel or significantly alter tour dates and personnel due to external factors. They include the orchestra's 1960 Asia-Australasia tour when the BSO canceled an appearance in Seoul, South Korea due to political unrest and in 1999 when the BSO canceled performances in Beijing due to the accidental bombing of the Chinese embassy in former Yugoslavia.

Click here for a history of BSO touring.

To view a January 27, 2020 report about the new coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, click on this link: https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0128-travelers-avoid-china.html
2020 BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASIA TOUR SCHEDULE,
CANCELED AS OF JANUARY 30, 2020
The original tour press release can be found [here](#).

Thursday, February 6
Seoul Arts Center
**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**
**Yefim Bronfman, piano**
**BARTÓK** Concerto for Orchestra
**MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491
**RAVEL** *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2

Friday, February 7
Seoul Arts Center
**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**
**Yefim Bronfman, piano**
**BARBER** Medea’s Meditation and Dance of Vengeance
**BEETHOVEN** Piano Concerto No. 4
**DVOŘÁK** Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*

Sunday, February 9
Taipei, National Concert Hall
**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**
**Yefim Bronfman, piano**
**BARBER** Medea’s Meditation and Dance of Vengeance
**BEETHOVEN** Piano Concerto No. 4
**DVOŘÁK** Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*

Monday, February 10
Taipei, National Concert Hall
**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**
**Yefim Bronfman, piano**
**BARTÓK** Concerto for Orchestra
**MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491
**RAVEL** *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2

Wednesday, February 12
**Hong Kong Cultural Centre**
**Boston Symphony Orchestra**
**Andris Nelsons, conductor**
Yefim Bronfman, piano
**BARTÓK** Concerto for Orchestra
**MOZART** Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491
**RAVEL** *Daphnis et Chloé*, Suite No. 2
Thursday, February 13
Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, piano
BARBER Medea’s Meditation and Dance of Vengeance
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9, From the New World

Saturday, February 15
Shanghai Oriental Art Center
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, piano
BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 24 in C minor, K.491
RAVEL Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2

Sunday, February 16
Shanghai Oriental Art Center
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, piano
BARBER Medea’s Meditation and Dance of Vengeance
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 9, From the New World

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