UPDATE ON BSO CANCELLATIONS:
BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO EXTEND ITS PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE / EVENT CANCELLATIONS AT SYMPHONY HALL IN BOSTON AND THE LINDE CENTER AT TANGLEWOOD THROUGH SATURDAY, MAY 2, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS OVER THE SPREAD OF COVID-19; BSO APRIL CONCERT CANCELLATIONS INCLUDE 4/14 & 15 PERFORMANCES AT NEW YORK’S CARNEGIE HALL

BSO TO OFFER ITS MUSIC COMMUNITY A WIDE VARIETY OF AUDIO AND VIDEO OPTIONS TO CONNECT WITH THE ORCHESTRA DURING PERFORMANCE / EVENT HIATUS

WCRB 99.5 FM to present “BSO Encores: Nightly@8”, Monday-Saturday, 8-10 p.m., starting Monday, March 23, at 8 p.m., spotlighting favorite Boston Symphony Orchestra live-recorded broadcasts from the past five seasons, including performances under the direction of Andris Nelsons
BSO at Home: Ongoing Musical Offerings for the BSO Community: BSO-Created Content Available Through www.bso.org/athome and the BSO YouTube and Social Media Channels, Starting Monday, March 23

- **BSO at Home: Musicians**: Self-produced videos from BSO musicians and conductors featuring anecdotes, personal reflections and insights, and short informal performances, as they stay at home during the coronavirus outbreak, to be released periodically through the BSO’s social media channels

- **BSO at Home: Listening**: Six weeks of daily curated audio offerings available each weekday morning at 10 a.m. through www.bso.org/athome, starting on Monday, March 23
  
  - Performances spotlighting the BSO’s legendary BSO Music Directors past and present (Andris Nelsons, Seiji Ozawa, Erich Leinsdorf, Charles Munch, Serge Koussevitzky), March 23-29
  - Memorable musical moments with beloved guest soloists of the 20th century (Van Cliburn, Isaac Stern, Rudolf Serkin, Leonard Bernstein, Doriot Anthony Dwyer), March 30-April 5
  - Masterworks of the Classical period (Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven), April 6-12
  - BSO performances of musical landmarks of the 20th century (Copland, Shostakovich, Bartók), April 13-19
  - Performances highlighting the French tradition and the BSO (Debussy, Ravel, Berlioz, Bizet), April 20-26
  - A focus on the BSO and the Romantic Age (Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Strauss), April 27-May 3
  - For a complete list of audio offerings, [click here](#)
• **BSO at Home: Behind the Scenes:** Video from previously released BSO productions, including “BSO360” and “Tanglewood Tales,” that take viewers on a behind the scenes adventure of the BSO’s activities in Boston and at Tanglewood, available through the BSO’s YouTube channel or through www.bso.org/athome

  This special content will be available starting Monday, March 23, through www.bso.org/athome and YouTube; all media announcements will be linked on BSO social media channels with #BSOatHome—Facebook (Boston Symphony Orchestra), Twitter (@bostonsymphony), Instagram (@bostonsymphony)

  ![BSO French Horn Player Rachel Childers with children, February 12, 2020 (Photo by Winslow Townson)](image)

**“BSO HOMESCHOOL”** TO FEATURE VIDEO TUTORIALS WITH BSO MUSICIANS PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS IN SUPPORT OF AT-HOME LEARNING; CONTENT TO BE SHARED ON A WEEKLY BASIS BEGINNING THE WEEK OF MARCH 23, WITH DETAILS AVAILABLE AT WWW.BSO.ORG

  • Lesson plans and accompanying playlists from past BSO Youth and Family Concerts
  • Audition preparation and orchestra excerpt coaching
  • BSO musicians instrument demonstrations
  • A virtual Symphony Hall tour (available in April)

As the safety of the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s audience, musicians, visiting guest artists, staff, volunteers, and boards of trustees and advisors—as well as its relationships with all outside vendors and performing arts
organizations—continues to be the orchestra’s top priority, the Boston Symphony Orchestra is extending its period of performance / event cancellations at Symphony Hall in Boston and at the Linde Center at Tanglewood through Saturday, May 2, following updated recommendations about the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The BSO had previously announced (March 12, 2020) cancellations through March 27; today’s announcement extends those cancellations through May 2, including performances to have taken place in New York’s Carnegie Hall on April 14 and 15.

**Quote from Andris Nelsons, the Ray and Maria Stata BSO Music Director**

"I sincerely wish everyone in our beloved BSO family the very best as we confront the many challenges posed by the coronavirus and affecting the worldwide community. Though I join my BSO colleagues in expressing my disappointment and sadness over having to cancel the rest of the 2019-20 season, I know that it is the right and necessary thing to do our part to keep everyone as safe as possible.

"I hope our audiences and the wider music community will stay in touch with the BSO through the many online, audio, and video offerings that will be accessible through bso.org, as well as additional BSO broadcasts on WCRB 99.5, our longtime media partner. Though there is nothing to compare to the live concert experience, these musical gifts can also be food for our souls during these difficult times.

"When I find myself missing my BSO family, including our amazing audience, I look toward the summer and the incredible beauty that awaits us when the Boston Symphony Orchestra and many wonderful guest artists bring us their extraordinary music-making, inspired further by the magnificent atmosphere of Tanglewood surrounded by the beautiful Berkshire hills.

"Until then, our thoughts are with everyone in Boston and the world over who is dealing with the many effects of the coronavirus, especially those who are sick and suffering and their caretakers. All of us at the BSO will continue to keep everyone in our hearts and prayers until we are back together experiencing the joy and inspiration that only our many musical offerings can bring."

**BSO at Home: Ongoing Musical Offerings for the BSO Community**

The BSO will be launching a series of “at home” broadcast, audio, and video content to connect with its audiences and supporters during this period of Symphony Hall closure.

99.5 WCRB Classical Radio Boston will collaborate with the Boston Symphony Orchestra to broadcast additional orchestra concerts in this challenging time of performance cancellations and social distancing due to COVID-19. Beginning Monday, March 23, WCRB will present six concert broadcasts per week, Monday through Saturday, at 8 p.m. "BSO Encores: Nightly@8" will be drawn from a collection of over 200 Boston Symphony Orchestra live performance broadcasts from the last five years, with many under the direction of BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons. This unprecedented partnership between the BSO and WCRB—which may be the first time a radio station has collaborated with its hometown orchestra to play pre-recorded live concerts six nights a week—was made possible by a unanimous agreement with the musicians of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. "BSO Encores: Nightly@8" will replace the WCRB’s "Symphony at 8" for the duration of its run. The concerts will broadcast locally at 99.5 FM and for all at [www.classicalwcrb.org](http://www.classicalwcrb.org).
This ongoing musical offering for the BSO community—to be linked on the orchestra's social media channels with #BSOatHome—will also include BSO-created audio and video content that will focus on regular self-produced videos from musicians and conductors; six weeks of daily curated audio clips; and popular episodes from previously released BSO video productions. The BSO will also offer "BSO HomeSchool"—behind-the-scenes video tutorials with BSO musicians providing educational support for at-home learning; this content will be shared on a weekly basis beginning the week of March 23, with the details available at www.bso.org.

This special content will be available starting Monday, March 23, through www.bso.org/athome and YouTube; all media announcements will be linked on BSO social media channels with #BSOatHome—Facebook (Boston Symphony Orchestra), Twitter (@bostonsymphony), Instagram (@bostonsymphony).

This content is being made available with support from Bank of America, BSO Season Lead Sponsor, and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company LTD, BSO Season Supporting Sponsor.

**Donations / Ticket Exchanges / Refunds During Period of Symphony Hall Closure**

Due to the financial impact of concert cancellations on the Boston Symphony Orchestra, we ask patrons, whenever possible, to consider donating their tickets back to the orchestra and receiving a tax donation for the total ticket value paid. Otherwise, the BSO is also offering a credit towards a future subscription or performance. An additional option being offered is a refund for the value of the tickets purchased. For further information about ticket accommodations or to request further information about the concert cancellations, patrons can contact the BSO's Customer Service Department at customerservice@bso.org or call 617-266-1200. Symphony Charge (617-266-1200), the BSO's ticketing sales office, will remain open during this period of concert cancellations. The Symphony Hall and Tanglewood box offices are closed for walk-up sales at this time.

**Additional Performances / Events Affected by Symphony Hall Closure**

Beyond the BSO's activities at Symphony Hall, all April public events, including those of the Handel and Haydn Society, the Boston Speaker Series, and Celebrity Series of Boston are canceled. Ticket holders for Handel and Haydn Society events (April 2 & 5 and May 1 & 3) should call 617-262-1815 for further information. Patrons of the Boston Speaker Series (April 22 & 27) are asked to hold on to their tickets and they will be honored at a future rescheduled date; questions can be addressed through comments@bostonspeakers.org. Ticket holders for Celebrity Series events (April 10 & 26) should email boxoffice@celebrityseries.org for further information. In addition, patrons who purchased tickets to the Stockbridge Library Association’s performance on April 25, which is being postponed until fall 2020 (exact details to be announced at a later date through the association), can contact the BSO’s Customer Service Department at customerservice@bso.org or call 617-266-1200.

**Further Details of Symphony Hall Closure Due to COVID-19**

The BSO’s decision to extend its performance/event cancellations has been informed by the most recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), City of Boston, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, official news reports, and ongoing concern about what the organization can do to best ensure the well-being of everyone in the BSO community. During this period of closure, the BSO will be in regular communication with updates about Symphony Hall’s performance and event schedule, as it continues to be unclear at the present time when the Hall will reopen.
The BSO’s internal constituencies, including staff and musicians, have been made aware of the important facts about COVID-19 and have been asked to abide by the latest public health guidance and hygienic recommendations, outlined at www.cdc.gov, including avoiding close contact with people who are sick and avoiding touching their eyes, nose, and mouth; staying home when they are sick and always covering their cough or sneeze to prevent the spread of germs; and washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Per the CDC’s guidelines for employers, the BSO has ordered additional hand sanitizers for its offices and workspaces. The BSO’s Human Resources Department is working closely with the BSO staff and musicians to address the wide variety of challenges that might arise around the spread of the virus. At present, in accordance with recommendations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all non-essential BSO employees are being strongly encouraged to work from home.