



2021•22 SEASON ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Thursday, September 23, 2021

**BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS A FREE CONCERT  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE BOSTON COMMUNITY AND THE  
REOPENING OF SYMPHONY HALL TO AUDIENCES AFTER AN 18-  
MONTH HIATUS**

***CONCERT FOR OUR CITY: REUNITED AT SYMPHONY HALL* ON  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, AT 3 P.M.—FEATURING BOTH THE **BSO** AND  
**BOSTON POPS**—CAPS THE BSO'S OPENING WEEK OF ITS 2021–  
22 SEASON AT SYMPHONY HALL**

**ANDRIS NELSONS, THOMAS WILKINS, JOHN WILLIAMS, AND  
KEITH LOCKHART**—IN A RARE AND SPECIAL CONCERT  
SPOTLIGHTING FOUR OF THE BSO'S TITLED CONDUCTORS—  
LEAD A WIDE-RANGING PROGRAM THAT FEATURES VIOLINIST  
**ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER** AS SOLOIST



COMPLIMENTARY GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE OCTOBER 3 CONCERT CAN BE RESERVED STARTING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, AT NOON AT [WWW.BSO.ORG/CONCERTFOROURCITY](http://WWW.BSO.ORG/CONCERTFOROURCITY) OR BY CALLING SYMPHONY CHARGE AT 617-266-1200

MOST OF THE CONCERT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AS A FREE *BSO NOW* ONLINE STREAM OCTOBER 14 THROUGH NOVEMBER 13 AT [BSO.ORG/NOW](http://BSO.ORG/NOW)

FURTHER DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT [BSO.ORG/CONCERTFOROURCITY](http://BSO.ORG/CONCERTFOROURCITY)

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**[CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR THE 2021–22 SEASON**

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THE BSO PRESS OFFICE WILL SEND OUT VIDEO AND PHOTOS FOR PRESS COVERAGE CONSIDERATION ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT APPROXIMATELY 6 P.M.; CONTACT GRACE MUNNS AT [GMUNNS@BSO.ORG](mailto:GMUNNS@BSO.ORG) FOR PRESS TICKETS

**[CLICK HERE](#) FOR A COMPLETE PRESS KIT, INCLUDING B ROLL AND PHOTOS**

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As the culmination of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's 2021–22 season-opening weekend, the orchestra presents a special BSO/Boston Pops community concert under the direction of **Andris Nelsons**, **Thomas Wilkins**, **John Williams**, and **Keith Lockhart** (in order of appearance) on **Sunday, October 3, at 3 p.m.**, at Symphony Hall in Boston. Entitled ***Concert for Our City: Reunited at Symphony Hall***, this free performance celebrates the reopening of Symphony Hall to audiences after an 18-month hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The concert will begin with welcoming remarks from BSO President and CEO **Gail Samuel**.





### **Statement from Eunice and Julian Cohen President and CEO of the BSO Gail Samuel**

"It is our hope that this special free performance will provide some much-needed joy and inspiration as we celebrate the reopening of Symphony Hall and share that beautiful space again with our Boston community," said BSO President and CEO **Gail Samuel**. "For all of us at the BSO, we can't imagine a better counter to the pandemic than welcoming concertgoers back to live performances at Symphony Hall."

Complimentary general admission tickets can be reserved starting on Monday, September 27, at noon, at [www.bso.org/concertforourcity](http://www.bso.org/concertforourcity) or by calling SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200. Tickets to the October 3 concert also have been distributed to dozens of the BSO's community partners including organizations such as Boston Public Schools, Asperger/Autism Network, and Boston Center for Youth and Families.

### **Program Details for *Concert for Our City: Reunited at Symphony Hall* on October 3, at 3 p.m.**



BSO and Boston Pops musicians greatly anticipate reconnecting with the Boston community in a festive program that encompasses various genres and spotlights the many musical gifts of the **Boston Symphony** and the **Boston Pops**. To open the program, BSO Music Director **Andris Nelsons** will conduct the BSO in Beethoven's *Consecration of the House* Overture—the first piece ever performed by the BSO in 1881—a work that imparts a sense of renewal and revitalization as orchestra and audience come together again in a shared space. Mr. Nelsons will also lead the BSO in a BSO signature work, the final movement of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra (music that the BSO premiered in 1944 under then Music Director Serge Koussevitzky).

BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor **Thomas Wilkins** leads movements from William Grant Still's evocative 1948 orchestral suite *Wood Notes*, music inspired by poems about America's natural beauty. Boston Pops Conductor Laureate **John Williams** takes the baton for three of his recent film score arrangements for violin and orchestra with German violin virtuoso **Anne-Sophie Mutter** as soloist. Boston Pops Conductor **Keith Lockhart** leads the Pops in the humorous *Ringtone Cycle* arranged by Mark Cumberland, Rachel Bruerville's propulsive *Dancing on Tiptoes (but never falling)*, and an arrangement of *St. Louis Blues* by "Father of the Blues" W.C. Handy.



Please note that *Concert for Our City: Reunited at Symphony Hall* will not have an intermission.

### **Portions from *Concert for Our City: Reunited at Symphony Hall* to be Made Available as a BSO NOW Online Stream at [bso.org/now](http://bso.org/now)**

As a gift to Boston's larger music community, most segments from the October 3 performance (excluding the Anne-Sophie Mutter and John Williams performances) will be available as a free online concert stream on *BSO NOW* ([bso.org/now](http://bso.org/now)) October 14 through November 13. Introduced to enthusiastic reception in November 2020 in response to the live performance hiatus due to the pandemic, *BSO NOW* online concert streams will continue to be offered in the 2021–22 BSO season, with details about the streaming schedule to be announced at a later date.



### **Protocol Details for Symphony Hall**

The orchestra's commitment to returning to performances with audiences is matched by an equally strong

commitment to the health and safety of everyone associated with the 2021-22 BSO season, including patrons, staff, and musicians. Please note that in adherence to COVID protocols announced by the BSO on August 31, proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test result—either a PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance or an antigen test taken within 24 hours—will be required for entry into Symphony Hall. The BSO's fall protocols will also require mask-wearing except when patrons are actively eating and drinking. For more information, [click here](#); details about protocols are also available at [bso.org/safety](https://www.bso.org/safety).

### **2021-22 BSO Season at Symphony Hall Opens on September 30**



The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director [Andris Nelsons](#) are thrilled to welcome audiences back for the 2021-22 season opener on September 30, performing the first BSO concert for live audiences at Symphony Hall since March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the closure of the Hall. The opening night program will include Beethoven's *Consecration of the House* Overture and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, under the direction of BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons, and John Williams' recently premiered (July 24, 2021, at Tanglewood) Violin Concerto No. 2, with Anne-Sophie Mutter as soloist and Mr. Williams conducting. The BSO's season continues through April 30. Additional information about the 2021–22 BSO season is available at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org).

Formal BSO titles for conductors referenced in this release: **Andris Nelsons** is the Ray and Maria Stata BSO Music Director; **Thomas Wilkins** is the BSO's Artistic Advisor, Education and Community Engagement, and the Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor; **John Williams** is the George and Roberta Berry Boston Pops Conductor Laureate; and **Keith Lockhart** is the Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor.

### **Sponsorships**

Special thanks to our longstanding major corporate partner **Bank of America**, BSO Season Lead Sponsor for the 2021–22 season, for their support of our work with the Boston Public Schools this year. **Arbella Insurance Foundation**, a longtime sponsor, is continuing its major sponsorship for the 16th season as the *Music for All* Sponsor, supporting initiatives that bring new audiences to the Hall. The BSO is also delighted to have **Fairmont Copley Plaza** begin its 20th season as the Official Hotel of the BSO.





*From a July 7, 2019 performance at Tanglewood, violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter performs one of John Williams' arrangements from his film scores with the composer conducting (Photo by Hilary Scott)*

**Program listing: Concert for Our City: Reunited at Symphony Hall, Sunday, October 3, 3 p.m.**

Free community concert at Symphony Hall  
 ANDRIS NELSONS, THOMAS WILKINS, JOHN WILLIAMS, and KEITH LOCKHART, conductors  
 ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER, violin  
 BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA and BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA

*This program has no intermission.*

BEETHOVEN *Consecration of the House Overture*  
 STILL "Singing River" and "Whippoorwill's Shoes" from *Wood Notes*  
 John WILLIAMS Three arrangements for violin and orchestra from film scores  
 Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin  
 arr. Mark CUMBERLAND *The Ringtone Cycle*  
 Rachel BRUERVILLE *Dancing on Tiptoes (but never falling...)*  
 W.C. HANDY (arr. ELLIOTT) *St. Louis Blues*  
 BARTÓK Fifth movement (Finale presto) from Concerto for Orchestra

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