

# **BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**2023-24 SEASON**  
ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR



**For immediate release**  
September 26, 2023 at 12 p.m.

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## **ANDRIS NELSONS OPENS HIS 10TH BSO SEASON CONDUCTING 10 CONCERTS, OCTOBER 5–21**

EARLY FALL PROGRAMMING INTEGRATES CONTEMPORARY  
AND CLASSICAL WORKS WITH PERFORMANCES BY  
DISTINGUISHED SOLOISTS RUDOLF BUCHBINDER, YO-YO  
MA, AND PAUL LEWIS

For the season opener on October 5, Mr. Nelsons leads the BSO, recently returned from a nine-city European tour, in a program featuring music by Arturs Maskats, Strauss, and Beethoven. Pianist Rudolf Buchbinder joins as a soloist for Mozart's Lyrical Piano Concerto No. 23 in A.

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**To request interviews or press tickets, contact the press/PR team (see  
contact info at the end of this announcement)**

**[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL 2023–2024 BSO PROGRAM LISTING](#)**

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From October 5–21, Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director **Andris Nelsons**, now in his 10th year, leads the orchestra in 10 exciting concerts featuring both classical favorites and resonant contemporary compositions. The Orchestra's 143rd season kicks off on Thursday, October 5 with Nelsons conducting Ludwig van Beethoven's *Consecration of the House* Overture, a Suite from Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, and *Tango* by Arturs Maskats. One of the most significant Latvian composers, Maskats shares a personal connection with Andris Nelsons, having mentored him at the Latvian National Opera. Austrian pianist Rudolf Buchbinder, a renowned interpreter of Mozart who first collaborated with the BSO in 1986, joins Nelsons to perform Wolfgang Amadè Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488.

On Saturday, October 7, the **Aaron Diehl Trio** makes their Symphony Hall debut alongside Nelsons and Buchbinder for Opening Night at Symphony, a celebratory concert that places the Mozart and Beethoven pieces from the prior two nights in conversation with music inspired by Black American musical traditions. Nelsons will conduct two works by legendary jazz pianist, composer, and conductor Duke Ellington: *New World A-Coming*, played by the BSO and the Aaron Diehl Trio, and *Tonk*, a piano four-hands piece written with Ellington's longtime collaborator Billy Strayhorn, performed here by Buchbinder and Diehl side by side. **Carlos Simon's** *Four Black American Dances*, commissioned by the BSO in 2022 and performed seven times to great acclaim throughout the BSO's recent European tour, brings the program to what *The Times of London* called an "[irresistibly jubilant](#)" conclusion. The 6 p.m. concert will be followed by an 8 p.m. reception with the BSO's new President and CEO **Chad Smith** (reception tickets may be purchased [here](#)).

Concerts the following week (October 12-15) continue to pair classical repertoire with groundbreaking music from contemporary composers. The incomparable **Yo-Yo Ma** plays both of Shostakovich's powerfully emotional cello concertos, which will be recorded for future release by Deutsche Grammophon as part of the BSO's ongoing Shostakovich recording series. (The final installment of the [Grammy Award-winning](#) recordings of the composer's symphonies, featuring nos. 2, 3, 12, and 13, will be released October 20). Nelsons will also conduct Haydn's Symphony No. 22, *Philosopher*, and Canadian-Iranian composer **Iman Habibi's** *Zhiân*, a BSO commission. Praised for its "[sincerity and emotional inspiration](#)" by *The Boston Globe* after this summer's Tanglewood premiere, *Zhiân* was composed following 22-year-old Mahsa Amini's death at the hands of the Iranian morality police in 2022 and the resulting wave of mass protests. Iman Habibi will participate in a pre-concert talk, 12:15-12:45 p.m., prior to the concert on Friday, October 13, as well as a pre-concert

talk for high schoolers prior to the Thursday-morning High School Open Rehearsal on October 12.

Early fall programs conducted by Nelsons conclude with a three-concert series in which British pianist **Paul Lewis**, acclaimed as one of the world's great Beethoven interpreters, plays all five Beethoven piano concertos (October 19–21). Beethoven's commitment to humanism and personal freedom are reflected in the program's other orchestral works: **Hannah Kendall's** *The Spark Catchers*, inspired by Lemn Sissay's poem about the women who labored at the Bryant and May match factory in 19th century East London, and **James Lee III's** *Freedom's Genuine Dawn*, a BSO co-commission that sets text by Frederick Douglass, narrated by Thomas Warfield.

## **STATEMENT FROM ANDRIS NELSONS, THE BSO'S RAY AND MARIA STATA MUSIC DIRECTOR**

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### **COMPLETE PROGRAM DETAILS, OCTOBER 5–21**

Thursday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6, 1:30 p.m.

**Andris Nelsons, conductor**

**Rudolf Buchbinder, piano**

BEETHOVEN *Consecration of the House* Overture

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488

Arturs MASKATS *Tango*

STRAUSS Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*

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Saturday, October 7, 6 p.m.

*Opening Night at Symphony*

**Andris Nelsons, conductor**

**Rudolf Buchbinder, piano**

**Aaron Diehl Trio (Ellington)**

BEETHOVEN *Consecration of the House* Overture

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488

ELLINGTON *New World A-Coming*, for piano and orchestra

ELLINGTON/STRAYHORN *Tonk*, for piano four-hands

Carlos SIMON *Four Black American Dances*

*The Opening Night at Symphony 6 p.m. concert will be followed by an 8 p.m. reception. For Opening Night Benefactor Sponsorships and Benefactor Tickets, click [here](#).*

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Thursday, October 12, 10:30 a.m. (High School Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 13, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 14, 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 15, 2 p.m.

**Andris Nelsons, conductor**

**Yo-Yo Ma, cello**

HAYDN Symphony No. 22, *Philosopher*

SHOSTAKOVICH Cello Concerto No. 2

Iman HABIBI *Zhiân* (BSO commission)

SHOSTAKOVICH Cello Concerto No. 1

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Thursday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 20, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 21, 8 p.m.

**Andris Nelsons, conductor**

**Paul Lewis, piano**

**Thomas Warfield, narrator (October 21)**

Oct. 19:

Hannah KENDALL *The Spark Catchers*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3

Oct. 20:

Hannah KENDALL *The Spark Catchers*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 2

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4

Oct. 21:

Hannah KENDALL *The Spark Catchers*

James LEE III *Freedom's Genuine Dawn*, for narrator and orchestra (BSO co-commission)

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5, *Emperor*

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**TICKETS FOR THE 2023–24 BSO SEASON ON SALE THROUGH**  
**[BSO.ORG](https://www.bso.org), OR BY CALLING 888-266-1200, OR VISITING THE**

# SYMPHONY HALL BOX OFFICE

## Special Ticket Opportunities Include:

- **\$25 Under 40 seats** for select performances
- **High School (\$15) and College (\$30) Cards**, allowing free attendance to most BSO concerts throughout the season
- **Card to Culture program**, offering \$10 adult tickets and \$5 children's tickets for EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare Card holders
- **Medical Cards (\$30)**, allowing free attendance to most BSO concerts throughout the season
- **\$10 Rush tickets** to select concerts
- **30% discount to members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association**

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## Dining at Symphony Hall

From a relaxed, sit-down dinner to a quick bite before shows, Symphony Hall offers a variety of dining options. For more information, visit our [website](#).

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## Brief Information About the BSO

Led by Music Director Andris Nelsons since 2014, the Boston Symphony Orchestra gave its inaugural concert in 1881 and opened Symphony Hall—widely acclaimed as one of the greatest concert halls in the world—in 1900. Today, the BSO reaches millions of listeners through not only its concert performances in Boston and at Tanglewood—the orchestra's summer home in Lenox and Stockbridge, Massachusetts—but also through educational and community programs, radio, television, recordings, and tours. Click [here](#) for further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Hall.

## Sponsorships

Longstanding major corporate partner **Bank of America** returns as the BSO Lead Season Sponsor for the 2023–24 season. The BSO is pleased to have **Fairmont Copley Plaza** begin its 22nd season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and to welcome back **Genesis Motor America** as a season sponsor and the Official Vehicle of the BSO.

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## PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACTS

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### [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [CONTACT US](#)

Tanglewood | 297 West Street | Lenox, MA 01240 | [Box Office Hours](#)

Symphony Hall | 301 Massachusetts Avenue | Boston, MA 02115 | [Box Office Hours](#)

Ticketing & Customer Service | 617.266.1200 (M-F: 10-4pm & Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm) Service & Tickets | Subscriptions 888.266.7575

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