



2024-25 Season



For immediate release  
Tuesday, February 4, 9 a.m. EST



Boston Pops Tanglewood Symphony Hall



**Andris Nelsons, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and  
Seong-Jin Cho Release Ravel's Piano Concertos in G  
major and for the Left Hand with Deutsche  
Grammophon, February 21**



***Ravel: The Piano Concertos* is part of Cho's celebration of Ravel's 150th anniversary, a project that also includes a Deutsche Grammophon album of Ravel's complete solo piano works ([out now](#))**

**A deluxe edition containing the complete solo piano works and both concertos follows on May 2**

**The first track from the album will be released on February 7. Listen to the Adagio assai from the Piano Concerto in G major [here](#)**

**“Cho's strength is that he keeps such a high standard of accuracy and clarity, down to the exact weighting of every chord even at speed, without sounding clinical or purely a virtuoso ... Ravel playing of such perfection of detail does not come round often.”**

*Financial Times*, reviewing *Ravel: The Complete Solo Piano Works*

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The music world is currently celebrating the **150th anniversary of the birth** of the great French composer **Maurice Ravel** (1875-1937). **Seong-Jin Cho** is marking the occasion with his most ambitious project since he was signed by **Deutsche Grammophon** after winning the 2015 Chopin Competition. Renowned for his insightful readings of Ravel, he has recorded the composer's complete solo piano music and two piano concertos. *Ravel: The Complete Solo Piano Works* was released on January 17 to great critical acclaim and, in Cho's home country of South Korea, **instant gold status**.

Its companion release, ***Ravel: The Piano Concertos***, in which the pianist is joined by the **Boston Symphony Orchestra** and its **Music Director Andris Nelsons**, comes out digitally and on CD on **February 21**. A **deluxe edition** presenting the complete recordings will be issued digitally and as a 3-CD box set on **May 2**. Vinyl versions of the two individual albums will be released later this year. The Piano Concerto in G's central **Adagio assai** is available to stream/download beginning **February 7**, while the **Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn** will be released in advance of the deluxe edition, on **March 7**, the exact anniversary of Ravel's birth.

While the Concerto for the Left Hand is a recent addition to his repertoire, Seong-Jin Cho is very familiar with Ravel's other work in the genre, having made his debuts with the Seoul Philharmonic (aged just 15) and the Berliner Philharmoniker (at 23) in the Concerto in G major. Both works date from the latter years of Ravel's career and are influenced by jazz and blues music.

Notoriously difficult to play, the Concerto for the Left Hand is notable for its dark sonorities, while the more lighthearted Concerto in G major achieves an exquisite combination of jazz and the Classicism of Mozart and Saint-Saëns. “For me,” says Cho, “the highlight of the Concerto in G is the second movement [Adagio

assai] – the long piano solo at the beginning. It's one of the most touching movements in the piano literature.”

The recordings were made live at Boston's Symphony Hall with Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The *Boston Globe* hailed the way “Cho's hand glided and bounced across the keyboard with confident grace and dynamic nuance” in the Concerto for the Left Hand.

Referencing the BSO's expertise in the French repertoire, rooted in the work of Nelsons' predecessors Pierre Monteux, Charles Munch, and Sergei Koussevitzky, Cho notes, “You feel like the French spirit is in the BSO's blood—it was so inspiring to play and record with them, and of course working with Andris is always a real joy.”

For his part, when discussing the process of performing and recording with Cho, Nelsons has nothing but high praise for the pianist: “Exploring the vivid colors and textures of Ravel's piano concertos together with Seong-Jin Cho and the BSO has been an extraordinary experience. Seong-Jin's artistry and profound understanding of Ravel's intricate sound world bring a rare elegance and emotional depth to these works,” he said.

Cho's anniversary focus on Ravel continues with a major tour of the US during February and March. In April and May he makes recital appearances at London's Barbican Centre and venues throughout Germany, notably Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie and the Berlin Philharmonie, as part of his season as Artist in Residence with the Berliner Philharmoniker.

Cho will perform both Ravel's Piano Concerto in G and the Concerto for Left Hand with Nelsons and the BSO on July 12 at Tanglewood's Koussevitzky Music Shed. On July 16 he will perform the complete solo piano works in recital in Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall. Tickets to the Tanglewood concerts go on public sale on March 6 at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org).

Further dates follow in Asia and the US through the summer.



*Seong-Jin Cho performs with Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra in January 2024 (Robert Torres)*

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## 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, Mass.—but also via educational and community programs, radio, television, recordings, and tours. Celebrated for its diverse programs, passionate performances, and tradition of innovation, the BSO is one of the world’s most accomplished and versatile ensembles, attracting world-renowned guest artists and players, composers, and conductors. More information about the BSO and Andris Nelsons may be found at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org).

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## Press Contacts

Jan Devereux, Senior Director of Public Relations & Communications  
([jdevereux@bso.org](mailto:jdevereux@bso.org))

Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist and Media Relations Lead  
([merikson@bso.org](mailto:merikson@bso.org))

Rena Cohen, Publicist ([rcohen@bso.org](mailto:rcohen@bso.org)).

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