



Boston Symphony
Orchestra

2024-25 Season



For immediate release
June 4, 2024, 10 a.m. E.T.

Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Andris Nelsons Announce Details of a Four-City, 11-Concert European Tour, May 8–24, 2025, Focusing on the Music of Russian Composer Dmitri Shostakovich

Tour Includes Performances in Vienna, Riga (a BSO First), and Prague, Culminating in an Eight-Day Residency in Leipzig as Part of the Shostakovich Festival Leipzig

Marking the 50th Anniversary Year of Shostakovich's Death, the BSO's Six Solo and Joint Appearances in Leipzig Are in Collaboration with the **Gewandhausorchester** (Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra) and a Special Festival Orchestra Composed of **Tanglewood Music Center** Fellows and Young Leipzig Musicians

BSO's 2025 European Tour Programs to Feature Latvian Violinist **Baiba Skride** and French Cellist **Gautier Capuçon**



The **Boston Symphony Orchestra**, under the direction of **Andris Nelsons**, will return to Europe in May 2025 with an all-Shostakovich repertoire commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of the great Russian composer. In what will be Mr. Nelsons' seventh international tour over his decade-long tenure with the orchestra, it will also signify the BSO's first performances in Riga, Latvia, Nelsons' birthplace and hometown. Beginning on May 8 and 9 in Vienna's esteemed Musikverein where the BSO last performed in 2018, the 2025 European tour also takes the orchestra to Prague, Czech Republic, where it last played in 1993, and Leipzig, Germany, where it previously performed in 2018.

As part of its ongoing alliance with the **Gewandhausorchester (Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, GHO)**, which Nelsons also leads, the BSO's six solo and joint appearances in Leipzig over the course of eight days are the culmination of the tour, from May 16–24. Previously announced in October ([link here](#)), the **Shostakovich Festival Leipzig** will explore the Russian composer's 15 symphonies and six concertos with a third Festival Orchestra composed from the ranks of the **Tanglewood Music Center** and the **GHO's Mendelssohn Orchestra Academy** and led by Nelsons and former BSO Assistant Conductor **Anna Rakitina**. This first-ever Shostakovich Festival Leipzig, presented by the Leipzig Gewandhaus, will also feature the composer's complete string quartets, Nelsons conducting the Gewandhausorchester in two performances of the landmark 1934 opera *Lady Macbeth in Mtsensk*, song recitals, film screenings, choral and chamber music, and more.

Andris Nelsons, who just finished his tenth season as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is widely acclaimed as one of the preeminent Shostakovich interpreters of his generation. With the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he has recorded the composer's complete symphonies and concertos, as well as the opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, for Deutsche Grammophon, a project that has so far won four Grammy Awards. Prior to embarking for Europe, in late April and May 2025, the BSO will perform Shostakovich programs at Boston's Symphony Hall and New York's Carnegie Hall, including the Symphonies Nos. 6, 8, 11, and 15 that make up the tour's repertoire.

An artistic partner for these concerts is Latvian violinist **Baiba Skride** who will perform Shostakovich's harrowing Violin Concerto No. 1 in all four of the tour's cities. Skride is a longtime collaborator with Nelsons who made her BSO debut in 2013 with the same Shostakovich concerto. Remarking positively on this performance, *The Boston Globe's* Jeremy Eichler wrote, "she plays the concerto as a whole with poise, subtlety, and self-possession." A recording of the work during Skride's most recent performance with Nelsons and the BSO in Boston in January 2023 is scheduled to be released by Deutsche Grammophon in 2025.

French cellist **Gautier Capuçon** performs Shostakovich's dramatic First Cello Concerto with the BSO in Leipzig on May 17. In his most recent performances with the BSO in April 2023 in Boston's Symphony Hall and New York's Carnegie Hall, Capuçon was praised for his "ravishing, dark-coffee tone" (*Wall Street Journal*) and "suave virtuosity and keen coloristic imagination" (*The Boston Globe*).

Statement from Andris Nelsons, Ray and Maria Stata BSO Music Director:

"The musicians of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and I are thrilled to return to Europe and to share our passion for the music of Dmitri Shostakovich. Shostakovich's music allows us to experience his personal fate, as it reflects the facets of human existence: from fear, darkness, biting irony and sarcasm, to childlike playfulness, joy and burgeoning hope."

"I look forward to our returns to Vienna, Prague, Leipzig, and our first performances in my hometown, Riga. My conducting career started there with the Latvian National Opera many years ago, and I am excited for audiences to experience the truly amazing gifts of the BSO, and for the orchestra to discover the culture, history and hospitality of Latvia. We are also thrilled to be performing again with our brilliant soloists, Baiba and Gautier, who both bring so much

intensity and feeling to Shostakovich's music. To end the tour, the Boston Symphony Orchestra is proud to continue its friendship with the Gewandhausorchester by reuniting for the Shostakovich Festival in Leipzig, culminating in a joint performance of Shostakovich's 7th symphony at the Gewandhaus."

Statement from BSO President and CEO Chad Smith:

"Andris and the BSO's decade-long exploration of Dmitri Shostakovich's music has brought an unprecedented level of attention to one of the greatest composers of the 20th century. By exploring Shostakovich's complete oeuvre, we have shed light on facets of his career that are often overlooked here in the United States, and in doing so learned a tremendous amount about him. On our tour of Europe, we will share what we have come to learn not only with audiences in Vienna, Prague, Riga, and Leipzig, but with a host of guest musicians from our second home, the Tanglewood Music Center; Andris' Gewandhausorchester Leipzig; and the young professional musicians of the Mendelssohn-Orchesterakademie. Together, we will perform a complete cycle of Shostakovich's symphonies and other major works in a marathon eight-day residency at the Shostakovich Festival Leipzig, further strengthening our partnerships across institutions and borders and providing valuable experience to rising musicians in the US and Europe."

"Touring with the BSO isn't just about bringing our music out of Boston—it's about traveling to peoples' homes, to directly learn from and share with one another through an exchange of art and culture. While all of our destinations are world-class musical capitals with an enormous amount to offer, I am especially looking forward to the BSO's very first visit to Riga, where Andris was born, raised, and discovered his love of music. I can't wait to learn more about Andris, his artistry, and the people and places that have shaped his life on a musical and personal level."

BSO Tours with Andris Nelsons

The 2025 European tour will be the 31st international tour in the Boston Symphony Orchestra's 143-year history; it will also mark Nelsons' seventh international tour with the BSO. The BSO's last international tour was in August and September 2023, a nine-city, 12-concert European tour that garnered considerable praise from both audiences and critics.

[Click here](#) for a detailed BSO touring history. Nelsons just finished his tenth season as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

[Click here](#) for a press kit with photos, video, and artist bios

Concert Listing: European Tour, May 8–24, 2025

Shostakovich Programs with BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons

Tickets for these performances may be purchased from their presenting venues

VIENNA

[Musikverein, Golden Hall](#)

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Violin Concerto No. 1

Baiba Skride, violin

Symphony No. 11, *The Year 1905*

[Musikverein, Golden Hall](#)

Friday, May 9, 2025, 7:30pm

Symphony No. 6

Symphony No. 15

RIGA

[Latvian National Opera](#)

Sunday, May 11, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Violin Concerto No. 1

Baiba Skride, violin

Symphony No. 8

[Latvian National Opera](#)

Monday, May 12, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Symphony No. 6
Symphony No. 15

PRAGUE

Prague Spring festival

Smetana Hall, Municipal House

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 8:00 p.m.

Violin Concerto No. 1
Baiba Skride, violin
Symphony No. 11, *The Year 1905*

LEIPZIG

Shostakovich Festival Leipzig

Presented by the Leipzig Gewandhaus

Friday, May 16, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Violin Concerto No. 1
Baiba Skride, violin
Symphony No. 11, *The Year 1905*

Saturday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.

Cello Concerto No. 1
Gautier Capuçon, cello
Symphony No. 8

Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.

Symphony No. 6
Symphony No. 15

Thursday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.

Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad* (with Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra)

Friday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.

Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad* (with Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra)

Saturday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Symphony

Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad* (with Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and Festival Orchestra)

The full concert and event schedule for the GHO's Shostakovich Festival Leipzig (May 15 through June 1, 2025) may be found [here](#).

About the BSO-GHO Alliance

Established in 2018, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig enjoy a close partnership: the GHO-BSO Alliance, initiated by Andris Nelsons, music director of both orchestras. A close connection already existed between the orchestras in the 19th and 20th centuries, which was revived when Andris Nelsons assumed his position in Leipzig. Today, it includes exchange programs for the musicians of the orchestras and their respective academies, shared commissions of new works, and complementary programming on the two sides of the Atlantic.

In October 2019, Nelsons led the BSO's first-ever joint performances with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig at Symphony Hall in a special gala program that included an appearance by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

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.

About the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra

The Gewandhausorchester is the oldest civic symphony orchestra in the world. The enterprise was founded in 1743 by a group of 16 musical philanthropists—representatives of the nobility as well as regular citizens—forming a concert society by the name of Das Große Concert. On taking residence in the trading house of the city’s textile merchants (the “Gewandhaus”) in 1781, the ensemble assumed the name Gewandhausorchester. Many celebrated musicians have been appointed to the office of Gewandhauskapellmeister (Music Director and Principal Conductor), including Johann Adam Hiller, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Arthur Nikisch, and Kurt Masur. After his inauguration in 2005, Riccardo Chailly’s phenomenally successful tenure as Gewandhauskapellmeister came to an end in 2016. Andris Nelsons assumed the position of Gewandhauskapellmeister in the 2017–18 season. [Click here](#) for further information about the Gewandhausorchester.

* * *

Titles for BSO Artistic and Executive Leadership

Andris Nelsons, Ray and Maria Stata BSO Music Director and Head of Conducting at Tanglewood

Chad Smith, Julian and Eunice Cohen BSO President and CEO

Thomas Wilkins, Artistic Advisor for Education and Community Engagement / Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor

James Burton, Alan J. and Suzanne W. Dworsky BSO Choral Director and Conductor of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus

Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

Sponsors

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is grateful to our 2024-25 season sponsors including Lead Season Sponsor **Bank of America**, Official Vehicle **Genesis Motor America**, Official Hotel **Fairmont Copley Plaza**, supporting season sponsor **Arbella Insurance Foundation**, and winter season sponsor, **Turkish Airlines**.

Press Contacts

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

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

Rena Cohen, Publicist (rcohen@bso.org)

[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

© 2007-2024 bso.org | [Terms of Use](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

To make sure our email updates are delivered to your inbox, please add mybso@bso.org to your email address book. E-mail customerservice@bso.org. This message was sent to _t.e.s.t_@example.com by Boston Symphony Orchestra, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Symphony Hall, Boston, MA 02115, United States.

[View a web copy of this email](#)