



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

2025–26 season

where music lives

For immediate release:
Thursday, July 17 at 12 p.m.

**BSO Announces Additions to its 2025–26 Season:
A Four-Concert Explorer Series Introducing Classical
Masterworks, plus
An Organ Recital to Celebrate 125 Years of Organ Music
in Symphony Hall**

Tickets on sale Thursday, July 31 at 10 a.m. at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org)



The Boston Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce additions to its 2025–26 Season: a four-concert **Explorer Series** designed to introduce some of classical music's most enduring works to new audiences while offering regular attendees a deeper dive into familiar pieces and insight into the story behind the music. Also newly added is a solo organ recital celebrating Symphony Hall's 125th anniversary with the internationally acclaimed British organist **James McVinnie**. Special cocktails curated by Eastern Standard Beverage and Bar Director Jackson Cannon in celebration of Symphony Hall's 125th anniversary will be offered at the bar for these five concerts as well as the other October concerts celebrating the anniversary.

Tickets for these new events go on sale Thursday, July 31 at 10 a.m. along with single tickets for subscription performances in the BSO's 2025–26 season. Tickets for Boston Pops concerts throughout 2025–26 are currently on sale.

[Click here](#) for a BSO 2025-26 press kit, including a [complete season listing](#) and [archival Symphony Hall materials](#)

New Four-Concert Explorer Series

The BSO introduces the **Explorer Series**: four additional BSO concerts throughout the orchestra's 2025–26 season designed to welcome newcomers to Symphony Hall to engage with some of classical music's most enduring works. With an earlier start time (6:30 p.m.), shorter pieces, and no intermission, the series showcases some of the major forms of the classical music genre and guides listeners through the stories behind the music. To enhance the learning experience, the Explorer Series concerts will offer introductions and exposition by notable hosts, synchronized program notes streamed through [ConcertCue](#), and video projection above the stage to provide a rich multimedia exploration of the program and performance. The Explorer concerts also offer a post-concert DJ experience.

The Explorer Series is intended for adults, newcomers and regular attendees alike, who are interested in learning more about classical music, though children ages 5 and up are welcome to attend any BSO concert with a parent or guardian.

Dates and times for Explorer Series concerts are listed below, with further repertoire to be announced at a later date:

- Tuesday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.

The first concert of the series is a performance of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, a beloved work and an emotional journey through fate into triumph and transcendence. BSO Assistant Conductor **Samy Rachid** leads the orchestra, and **Brian McCreath**, host of Classical Radio Boston's weekly BSO broadcasts, serves as host for the evening.

- Tuesday, November 25, 6:30 p.m.

The second Explorer Series program highlights Dvořák's Cello Concerto, one of the greatest works for cello, showcasing how soloist **Pablo Ferrández** performs "in dialogue" with the orchestra and conductor **Samy Rachid**. Director, writer and composer **Bill Barclay** (Concert Theatre Works) will host.

- Friday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.

BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor **Thomas Wilkins** will host and conduct a program delving into our nation's rich soundscape entitled *Something Borrowed, Something True: What is American Music?*. Please note that this concert takes place during the week when Wilkins is also leading the annual Youth and Family concert series with programs that are more specifically geared to younger audiences.

- Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.

The Explorer Series closes with Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, one of the most famous and recognizable pieces of music ever written. Its iconic "da-da-da-dum" opens a world of drama. Paired with the composer's spirited *Egmont* Overture, the program will be conducted by former BSO Assistant Conductor **Earl Lee** and hosted by **Bill Barclay**.

Organ Recital with James McVinnie

In celebration of the 125th anniversary of Symphony Hall, UK-based organist **James McVinnie** presents a special evening recital on Symphony Hall's prized Aeolian Skinner organ (Friday, Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.). Recently in residence at

London's Southbank Centre, McVinnie released *Dreamcatcher*, an album of contemporary American music, to great acclaim in January 2025.

Titled "James McVinnie: *Patterns* | Bach, Glass, Schumann, Sufjan, and beyond on the organ," the recital program pays homage to organ recitals programs from the BSO's first season at Symphony Hall (1900–1901), with music by Bach, Schumann, Wagner and Franck. McVinnie also performs music by iconic contemporary American composers Meredith Monk, Philip Glass, Julia Wolfe, Sufjan Stevens, and Nico Muhly. The program features Stevens' *The Year of Our Lord* as well as a world premiere of a piece by inti figgis-vizueta, a "rising new music star" (*LA Times*), whose work has recently been performed and commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and San Francisco Symphony.

Designed by G. Donald Harrison and installed in 1949 to replace the original 1900 Hutchings organ, Symphony Hall's organ is considered to be one of the finest of any concert hall in the world. In 2004, it underwent an extensive renovation by Foley-Baker, Inc. The organ also will be featured in the BSO's performances the same weekend of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, which was the centerpiece of the Hall's inaugural program in October 1900 (Oct. 9–11). [Click here](#) for more information about the Symphony Hall organ.

About ConcertCue

ConcertCue is a web application that helps audiences better appreciate and understand music performed in a live classical music concert. During the performance, musical hints, images, and helpful callouts (i.e., "cues") appear on screens that are perfectly synchronized to important events in the music itself, thereby enhancing the listening experience.

ConcertCue was created by Eran Egozy at the MIT Music Technology Lab. MIT music students will assist in building the app's program content for the Explorer Series.

How to Get Tickets

Single tickets for the organ recital and Explorer Series go on sale Thursday, July 31 at 10 a.m. and may be purchased by visiting [bso.org](https://www.bso.org) or calling 888-266-1200. Single tickets for the BSO's 2025-26 subscription season also go on sale

Thursday, July 31 at 10 a.m. Single tickets for Boston Pops programs throughout the 2025-26 season are already on sale.

Accessibility

Accessible seats and other accommodations are available for all Symphony Hall patrons. The Boston Symphony has a dedicated line for patrons with accessibility needs who would like to purchase tickets or need any further information. This line can be reached by calling 617-638-9341 or by emailing access@bso.org. Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue or through the Massachusetts Avenue entrance. For questions and further assistance please contact the Ticketing and Customer Service Team at customerservice@bso.org or 617-266-1200. For more information, [visit our website](#).

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, Mass.—but also via educational and community programs, radio, television, recordings, and tours. [Click here](#) for further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Hall. [Click here](#) for an Andris Nelsons bio.

Titles for BSO Artistic and Executive Leadership

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

Chad Smith, Eunice and Julian Cohen BSO President and CEO

Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

Thomas Wilkins, Artistic partner 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

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

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More BSO News

For more news about the BSO and Boston Pops, [read our recent press releases](#) or follow us on social media.



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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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