



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

2024-25 Season



For immediate release
September 4, 2024, 12 p.m.

**Boston Symphony Orchestra Announces a Free
Chamber Music Concert Featuring the Boston
Symphony Chamber Players Performing Works by
Black Composers, Curated by New BSO Composer
Chair Carlos Simon**

**Program takes place at Union United Methodist Church,
Boston on Sunday, September 29, 3 p.m.**

**Free tickets are available to reserve at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org); [click here](#) for
a press kit, including artist bios**



The **Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** announces that the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players (BSCP)** will perform a free concert on Sunday, September 29 at 3 p.m. at Union United Methodist Church in Boston's South End neighborhood. The program, curated by the inaugural BSO Composer Chair **Carlos Simon**, includes works by Simon, **Jessie Montgomery**, **Damien Geter**, **Dave Ragland**, and **Jasmine Barnes**—all members of the collective of composers known as "The Blacknificent 7." Simon will accompany several pieces at the piano.

Three solo and chamber works by Simon are on the program, the first BSCP concert of the 2024-25 season: *move it*, for solo flute, to be performed by new Principal Flute **Lorna McGhee**; *between worlds*, for solo cello, to be played by BSO Principal Cello **Blaise Déjardin**, and his 2023 composition *Giants* for wind

quintet.

The concert includes three chamber pieces by Grammy-winning composer Jessie Montgomery, whose critically acclaimed works *Starburst* and *Rounds* have been performed recently by the Boston Symphony. She is represented here with her compositions *Strum*, for string quintet, and Rhapsody No. 1, for solo violin, and with her arrangement of the spiritual, "I Want to Go Home", for soprano and string quintet.

Damien Geter's woodwind quintet *I Said What I Said* will be performed as part of this program. A celebrated bass-baritone, Geter is currently Richmond Symphony's Composer-in-Residence through 2026 and serves as Interim Music Director and Artistic Advisor at Portland Opera. Geter's major new opera, *Loving v. Virginia*, based on the true story of Mildred and Richard Loving and the landmark Supreme Court decision, premieres with the Richmond Symphony and Virginia Opera in May 2025.

Also on the program are two works for soprano soloist accompanied by Simon at the piano: a recent work by Jasmine Barnes ("America's Mandatory Pottery Class" from *Might Call You Art*), and an arrangement by Dave Ragland of the classic spiritual "Steal Away." An acclaimed vocalist and educator, Barnes is also the composer of five operas. She has received commissions from several distinguished organizations, including the New York Philharmonic, Washington National Opera (in celebration of the Kennedy Center's 50th anniversary), Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Ragland is a four-time Emmy nominated composer, vocalist, pianist, and conductor based in Nashville, Tennessee.

Statement from Carlos Simon, BSO Composer Chair:

"I am excited to work with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players to present music by some of the most dynamic and highly accomplished African American composers of my generation in a church with longstanding ties to Boston's Black community. During the pandemic, Jasmine Barnes, Damien Geter, Jessie Montgomery, Dave Ragland, and I connected through a Facebook Live talk show called #KikiKonversations, created and hosted by soprano Karen Slack who described it 'as a way for artists and industry leaders to connect during a time when the entire performing arts sector had been hit with devastating loss.' Since then, we have continued to collaborate and lift each other up as a collective known as 'The Blacknificent 7,' a group which also includes Joel Thompson and Shawn Okpebholo. In curating this free chamber music program, I chose pieces that present a small snapshot of the musical language and style of each of these

trailblazing artists. Three of my own works are included, and it will be a thrill and an honor for me to hear them performed by extraordinary principal players of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.”

Statement from Chad Smith, BSO President and CEO:

"We are pleased to open the Boston Symphony Chamber Players' 2024-25 season with a free program curated by our inaugural Composer Chair Carlos Simon. Carlos has selected a range of his own compositions paired with compelling new works and arrangements by some of today's leading Black composers. We are honored to present this thought-provoking chamber program in a historic church with deep ties to the Black community."

Program Details

Sunday, September 29, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Union United Methodist Church, 485 Columbus Ave., Boston

Boston Symphony Chamber Players

Carlos Simon, curator and pianist

Jessie MONTGOMERY *Strum*, for string quintet

Carlos SIMON *move it*, for solo flute

arr. Jessie MONTGOMERY "I Want to Go Home", for soprano and string quartet

Damien GETER *I Said What I Said*, for wind quintet

Carlos SIMON *between worlds*, for solo cello

Jasmine BARNES "America's Mandatory Pottery Class" from *Might Call You Art*, for soprano and string quartet

Jessie MONTGOMERY Rhapsody No. 1, for solo violin

arr. Dave RAGLAND "Steal Away", for soprano and piano

Carlos SIMON *Giants*, for wind quintet

How to Reserve Free Tickets

Tickets are available at no charge through [bso.org](https://www.bso.org), by calling 888-266-1200, or by visiting the Symphony Hall Box Office ([see hours](#)). Doors open at 2 p.m. Advance

registration is appreciated and helpful for planning seating capacity. Some tickets may remain available at the door on the day of the show. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office.

Accessibility

Accessible seating will be available. The church building is fully accessible.

Sponsorships

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**, and supporting season sponsor **Arbella Insurance Foundation**.

* * *

About the Boston Symphony Chamber Players

One of the world's most distinguished chamber ensembles sponsored by a major symphony orchestra and made up of principal players from that orchestra, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players include first-chair string and wind players from the BSO. Founded in 1964 during Erich Leinsdorf's tenure as music director, the Chamber Players can perform virtually any work within the vast chamber music literature by calling upon other BSO members and collaborating with such distinguished artists as Thomas Adès and pianists Emanuel Ax, Paul Lewis, and Jean-Yves Thibaudet. The ensemble's activities include an annual series in Boston's Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, regular appearances at Tanglewood, and a busy touring schedule. Besides appearances throughout the United States, they have performed in Europe, Japan, South America, and the former Soviet Union. Their recordings on BSO Classics include an album of Mozart chamber music for winds and strings; a disc of chamber music by American composers William Bolcom, Lukas Foss, Michael Gandolfi, and Osvaldo Golijov; *Profanes et Sacrées*, a Grammy-nominated disc of 20th-century French chamber music by Ravel, Debussy, Tomasi, Françaix, and Dutilleux; and, most recently, arrangements for chamber ensemble of serenades written originally for orchestra by Brahms (his Serenade No. 1 in D, Opus 11) and Dvořák (his E major string serenade, Opus 22).

Upcoming Performances by the Boston Symphony Chamber Players

This season the Boston Symphony Chamber Players will perform four subscription concerts at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall on Sundays at 3 p.m.: October 27 (with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet), November 17 (with pianist Randall Hodgkinson), February 16, 2025 (with mezzo-soprano J'Nai Bridges), and April 3, 2025. BSO Assistant Conductor Samy Rachid will conduct the ensemble on November 17 and February 16, and BSO Assistant Conductor Anna Handler will conduct on April 6, 2025. Tickets to these concerts are available at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org).

About Union United Methodist Church

Union Church is a historically Black, multicultural, and LGBTQ+ empowering community with a 200-year-old legacy of love and social justice in Boston. Their magnificent Gothic Revival-style sanctuary (completed in 1872) is located at 485 Columbus Avenue in the South End. Over the years, the church has hosted many significant events including the 1950 NAACP National Convention, 1966 Duke Ellington Sacred Jazz Orchestra concert, and the 2023 homegoing celebration for Boston civil rights leader Melvin H. King. Union Church is the anchor site of the Union Combined Parish, a multisite United Methodist congregation committed to love and liberation ([unionboston.org](https://www.unionboston.org)).

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 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

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

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)

More BSO News

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



[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 rcohen@bso.org by Boston Symphony Orchestra, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Symphony Hall, Boston, MA 02115, United States.

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

Email Marketing by ActiveCampaign