BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES ITS 2023–24 SEASON, ANDRIS NELSONS’ TENTH AS MUSIC DIRECTOR, OCTOBER 5–MAY 4; SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING 888-266-1200 OR VISITING BSO.ORG

The 2023–24 Season at Symphony Hall Offers Wide-Ranging Programs, Highlighted by Major Repertoire Focuses, Creative Multimedia Presentations, 14 Works by Important Living Composers, Exciting Artist Debuts, and Performances Celebrating Serge Koussevitzky’s 150th Birth Anniversary and 100 Years since his Appointment as Trailblazing BSO Music Director (1924–1949)

Major Events Under the Direction of Mr. Nelsons Include

- The Culmination of the BSO’s Multiple Grammy-Winning Shostakovich Cycle with Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Powerful 1934 Opera Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk Starring Soprano Kristine Opolais

- The Complete Cycle of Beethoven Piano Concertos with Paul Lewis over a Single Weekend

- Scriabin’s Prometheus, The Poem of Fire with Pianist Yefim Bronfman, the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Accompanying Light Display as Intended by the Composer
Messiaen's Kaleidoscopic *Turangalîla-Symphonie* with Pianist Yuja Wang

Berlioz's "Dramatic Symphony" *Roméo et Juliette* Featuring Mezzo-Soprano J'Nai Bridges, Tenor Lawrence Brownlee, Bass-Baritone John Relyea, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus

CLICK HERE FOR A FULL 2023–24 BSO PROGRAM LISTING

ANDRIS NELSONS LEADS BSO IN WORLD AND AMERICAN PREMIERES AND WORKS NEW TO BOSTON

World premiere and BSO co-commission of a new work by Pulitzer-Prize winner and Kennedy Center Honoree Tania León; the American premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina’s *Prologue for Orchestra* (a BSO co-commission); and the Boston premieres of Iman Habibi’s *Zhián* (BSO commission), James Lee Ill’s *Freedom’s Genuine Dawn* (BSO co-commission), Hannah Kendall’s *The Spark Catchers*, Anna Clyne’s *Color Field*, and Anna Thorvaldsdottir’s *Archora*

LEADING ARTISTS OF OUR TIME JOIN MR. NELSONS AND BSO

Pianists Rudolf Buchbinder (Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23 in A), Paul Lewis (all five Beethoven concertos), Seong-Jin Cho (Ravel Concerto for Left Hand), Yefim Bronfman (Scriabin *Prometheus*), Yuja Wang (Messiaen *Turangalîla*); violinists Randall Goosby (Bruch) and Hilary Hahn (Brahms); cellist Yo-Yo Ma (Shostakovich 1 & 2); BSO Principal Trumpet Thomas Rolfs (Detlev Glanert); the Aaron Diehl Trio (Ellington *New World A-Coming*); soprano Kristine Opolais, tenors Pavel Cernoch and Sergei Skorokhodov, and bass Günther Groissböck (Shostakovich *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*) and mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, and bass-baritone John Relyea (Berlioz *Roméo et Juliette*)

Pre-season activity features the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and Conductor Keith Lockhart at Symphony Hall for two programs in September, *A John Williams Tribute* (Sept. 22 & 23) and *Star Wars: The Story in Music* (Sept. 23 & 24); *BSO Opening Night at Symphony Gala* with Nelsons, pianist Rudolf Buchbinder, and the Aaron Diehl Trio takes place on Saturday, October 7

The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons perform two programs at Carnegie Hall, Jan. 29 & 30 (click here for press release), with soloists and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus (James Burton, conductor)

BSO TITLED & GUEST CONDUCTORS AND RETURNING & DEBUTING SOLOISTS
Thomas Wilkins, Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor and BSO Artistic Advisor, Education and Community Engagement, conducting a series of Youth and Family Concerts (Oct. 24–28) under the theme “May I Have Your Attention, Please?” (a musical look at getting, giving, and paying attention)

Composer/conductor/pianist Thomas Adès, former BSO Artistic Partner, leading the orchestra in music by Liszt, Stravinsky, and Ligeti (the Piano Concerto with Kirill Gerstein, programmed for the composer’s centenary), as well as Adès’ own highly acclaimed Tevot (Nov. 16–18)

BSO Assistant Conductor Earl Lee conducting the BSO in Franck’s Le Chasseur maudit and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4 and joining BSO-debuting saxophonist and 2022 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient Steven Banks for Tomasi’s Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra (Nov. 24 & 25)

BSO-debuting conductors include German Joana Mallwitz (Kodály Dances of Galanta and Schubert Great Symphony, Nov. 2–4), American Clark Rundell (A Symphonic Celebration: Jazz Legend Wayne Shorter, March 21–23), and Venezuelan Domingo Hindoyan (in the U.S. premiere of Roberto Sierra’s Sixth Symphony and Dvořák’s Seventh, March 28–30); returning guest conductors are Hannu Lintu (Peter Lieberson Drála and Schumann Fourth Symphony, Nov. 9–11), Karina Canellakis (Bartók Bluebeard Castle, Feb. 8–10), Tugan Sokhiev (Chausson Symphony in B-flat, Feb. 15–18), John Storgårds (works by Outi Tarkiainen and Sibelius, Feb. 29–March 2), Dima Slobodeniouk (Grieg Peer Gynt, March 7–9), and Sir Mark Elder (Ravel Mother Goose and pieces by Dvořák and Janáček, March 14–16)

Other instrumental soloists include violinists Leonidas Kavakos (Berg concerto, Nov. 9–11) and Pekka Kuusisto (Nielsen, a BSO debut, Feb. 29–March 2); BSO-debuting pianists Anna Vinnitskaya (Tchaikovsky 1, Nov. 2–4) and 2022 Cliburn Competition winner Yunchan Lim (Rachmaninoff 3, Feb. 15–18); cellists Alisa Weilerstein (Haydn, Feb. 8–10), Pablo Ferrández (Elgar, a BSO debut, March 28–30), and BSO Principal Cello Blaise Déjardin (in the U.S. premiere of Elena Langer’s The Dong with a Luminous Nose, March 14–16, with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus)

Beyond the BSO’s presentation of the Shostakovich opera Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk and Berlioz’s Roméo et Juliette with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, other singers featured in the 2023–24 season are Scottish mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill and BSO-debuting German bass-baritone Johannes Martin Kränzle (Bartók Bluebeard Castle, Feb. 8–10); innovative jazz vocalist and bassist esperanza spaulding makes her BSO debut in A Symphonic Celebration: Jazz Legend Wayne Shorter, alongside pianist Leo
Genovese, drum player Terri Lyne Carrington, and saxophonist Dayna Stephens (March 21–23)

REPERTOIRE FOCUSES AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- All five Beethoven piano concertos performed in a single weekend at Symphony Hall by British pianist Paul Lewis with the BSO and Music Director Andris Nelsons, to be heard alongside contemporary works, Hannah Kendall’s The Spark Catchers and James Lee III’s Freedom’s Genuine Dawn, with text by Frederick Douglass, narrated by Thomas Warfield, Oct. 19–21

- The 100th anniversary of Hungarian composer György Ligeti’s birth celebrated with a subscription concert led by Thomas Adès and accompanying concert programs by the Boston Symphony Chamber Players and other ensembles (TBA), Nov. 12–19

- A two-week Music of the Midnight Sun series, featuring classic and new works by Nordic composers and culminating in a staged performance of Grieg’s Peer Gynt, based on Ibsen’s play, adapted and directed by playwright Bill Barclay; ancillary events with partnering organizations will be announced at a later date, Feb. 29–March 9

- A two-week Music for the Senses series that spotlights works influenced by synesthesia and experiences of color, taste, smell, and sight, including British contemporary composer Anna Clyne’s Color Field, Scriabin’s tone poem Prometheus, Poem of Fire, for piano, color organ, chorus, and orchestra (April 4–6), and Messiaen’s 20th-century masterwork Turangalîla-symphonie (April 11–14); ancillary events with partnering organizations will be announced at a later date

- In 2024, in observation of the 150th birth anniversary of Serge Koussevitzky (1874–1951) and the 100 years since his appointment as the BSO’s pioneering music director, the BSO performs works he either premiered or commissioned, including Scriabin’s Prometheus, Messiaen’s Turangalîla-symphonie, and Prokofiev’s Fourth Symphony (April 25–27), all led by Andris Nelsons

Boston Symphony Chamber Players Jordan Hall Series to Feature Concert
Marking the 100th Birthday of Composer György Ligeti, as Well as Contemporary Works by Thomas Adès, Allison Loggins-Hull, Adam Schoenberg, and Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Plus Music by Brahms, Messiaen, Mozart, and Schubert
BSO Youth and Family Concerts Series Features Three Programs throughout the 2023–24 Season, Including a BSO Program Led by BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins and Two Programs with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, Including Performances of Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf with Conductor Adrian Slywotsky (Nov. 11 at noon); and “Music and Magic” with conductor Martha Żurad and magician Matt Roberts (Apr. 13 at noon)

Casual Fridays Continue for the Eighth Season, with Spoken Intros by BSO Members and Conductor-Cam, which Allows Patrons to View the Conductor from the Orchestra’s Perspective

BANK OF AMERICA IS THE LEAD SPONSOR OF THE 2023–24 BSO SEASON

Subscriptions to the 2023–24 BSO season are available on April 13, by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting bso.org; single tickets go on sale August 1

To view an online press kit with complete programs, concert listings, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here

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The 2023–24 Boston Symphony Orchestra season, October 5–May 4, has been programmed to offer the BSO’s most devoted audiences and newcomers alike an exciting and wide-ranging spectrum of musical styles and periods—awe-inspiring works with an extraordinary potential to move us through their emotional power, beauty, and brilliance. For his tenth season with the BSO, Music Director Andris Nelsons will lead the orchestra in 11 programs. In total, 14 works by living composers—including a world premiere piece by Pulitzer Prize winner Tania León and the American premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina’s Prologue for Orchestra—will be presented as part of the orchestra’s 143rd season, alongside Nelsons-led concert performances of the complete cycle of Beethoven piano concertos with pianist Paul Lewis and signature repertoire works by Berlioz, Haydn, Mozart, Prokofiev, Ravel, Stravinsky, and Wagner, among others.

In another major moment of the season, Mr. Nelsons will lead concert performances of Dmitri Shostakovich’s landmark 1934 opera Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, concluding the orchestra’s Shostakovich performance and Grammy Award-winning recording cycle, and reaffirming Mr. Nelsons’ commitment to an opera presentation each season at Symphony Hall. In addition, the 2023–24 season introduces exciting new performers—among them, jazz vocalist and bassist esperanza spaulding, 2022 Cliburn Competition-winning South Korean pianist Yunchan Lim, and talented young American violinist and 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence Winner Randall Goosby—and welcomes back guests who have deeply inspired audiences with their extraordinary musicianship time and time
again at Symphony Hall, including cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Alisa Weilerstein, violinists Hilary Hahn and Leonidas Kavakos, and pianists Yefim Bronfman, Seong-Jin Cho, Kirill Gerstein, and Yuja Wang. More details are available at bso.org.

Andris Nelsons will open the season on October 5, with longtime BSO collaborator Rudolf Buchbinder performing Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488, on a program with Beethoven’s Consecration of the House Overture, Arturs Maskats’ Tango, and Richard Strauss’ Suite from Der Rosenkavalier. (The next evening’s opening gala celebration substitutes Carlos Simon’s electrifying Four Black American Dances and Ellington’s New World A-Coming with the Aaron Diehl Trio for the Maskats and Strauss.) Adding an enhanced dramatic layer to the season will be the presentations of significant large-scale works that anchor particular repertoire focuses, including György Ligeti’s Piano Concerto with former BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès and Gerstein for the 100th birthday of the influential Hungarian composer; a dramatic retelling of Grieg’s Peer Gynt for the Music of the Midnight Sun series, featuring classic and new works by Nordic composers; and Scriabin’s colorful tone poem Prometheus, Poem of Fire (with lighting research and design by Anna Gawboy and Justin Townsend) along with Messiaen’s vital masterwork Turangalîla-symphonie for the series Music for the Senses.

Former BSO Music Director Serge Koussevitzky (1924–1949) conducted the premiere of Scriabin’s Prometheus in 1911, and Messiaen’s Turangalîla was commissioned by Koussevitzky and premiered by the BSO under the baton of Leonard Bernstein in 1949. In 2024, in observance of the 150th birth anniversary of Koussevitzky (1874–1951) and the 100 years since his appointment as the BSO’s trailblazing music director, the BSO performs music he either premiered or commissioned—including Prokofiev’s Fourth Symphony along with the Scriabin and Messiaen works—all under the baton of Mr. Nelsons. Furthermore, four new works performed during the 2023–24 season will receive the designation “Koussevitzky 150 commission.” They include a still untitled piece by Cuban-American composer Tania León (to be performed on January 11–13, 26); Elena Langer’s The Dong with a Luminous Nose, for cello, chorus, and orchestra (March 14–16); Roberto Sierra’s Symphony No. 6 (March 28 – 30); and Sofia Gubaidulina’s Prologue for Orchestra (April 25–27). The Koussevitzky 150 celebration will continue through the Tanglewood 2024 season and into the BSO’s 2024–25 season with the programming of additional music influenced by the legendary Russian-born conductor, composer, and double-bassist.

Beyond Symphony Hall, Nelsons and the BSO perform their annual series at Carnegie Hall on January 29 and 30 (link to release). Pre-season Symphony Hall activity spotlights the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, under the direction of Keith Lockhart, which will present two special programs at Symphony Hall: on September 22 and 23, A John Williams Tribute, featuring film score music ranging from Star Wars to The Lord of the Rings; and a collaboration with the Boston Children’s Chorus (October 26–28), with works including music by Handel and a world premiere commission titled The Pioneers Boy, by a student from the Boston Children’s Chorus.
from *The Towering Inferno* (1974) to *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015), and on September 23 and 24, *Star Wars: The Story in Music*, which includes music from all nine *Star Wars* films.

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

“It is always such a special occasion to announce a new Boston Symphony Orchestra season filled with so many new musical gifts for our devoted Symphony Hall community. We especially look forward to celebrating legendary conductor Serge Koussevitzky with special events marking his 150th birthday year, the centennial of his first year leading the BSO, and his indelible legacy of commissioning many influential and beloved works of the 20th century.

“Among the works being performed in honor of Koussevitzky, Alexander Scriabin’s *Prometheus*, presented with color projections as the composer intended, and Olivier Messiaen’s massive *Turangalîla-symphonie*, with pianist Yuja Wang and marking the 75th anniversary of its BSO premiere, make up our Music for the Senses mini-festival.

“Additional season highlights include Shostakovich’s opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, bringing the orchestra’s Grammy award-winning recording cycle to a close with one of the composer’s most radical and politically consequential works that is universally considered a masterpiece of the 20th century. Two treasured BSO guests—Yo-Yo Ma, performing both Shostakovich cello concertos, and Paul Lewis, in all five Beethoven piano concertos—share new aspects of their extraordinary artistry with our appreciative audiences.

“Composers Iman Habibi, Elena Langer, and James Lee III, as well as Sofia Gubaidulina, Tania León, and Roberto Sierra, add their unique voices to programming that furthers the BSO’s important commitment to new works. A focus on dynamic artists new to the BSO brings esperanza spalding to Symphony Hall for a memorial tribute to jazz great Wayne Shorter.

“As a figure of inspiration to me and so many musicians of our time, Koussevitzky is an enduring presence in the rich history that continues to inspire the BSO. As we look forward to celebrating him, we reflect on the BSO’s ability to touch so many lives with the power of music. This is always our mission and hope as we create and immerse ourselves in every new season.”

**Boston Symphony Chamber Players 2023–24 Season**

The Boston Symphony Chamber Players open their 2023–24 season on Sunday, November 19 at New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall with a program dedicated to the music of composer György Ligeti, who would have turned 100 this year. The ensemble performs the composer’s early work for winds, *Bagatelles*, as
well as guest pianists Thomas Adès and Kirill Gerstein playing the Hungarian composer’s Monument – Self Portrait – Movement (1976). The program will also include the American premiere of Adès’ song cycle Növények, featuring mezzo-soprano Katalin Károlyi, and Mozart’s String Quintet No. 3 in C, K.515.

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, the Chamber Players will present a new work by Adam Schoenberg, a BSO co-commission “modeled after Aaron Copland’s Appalachian Spring.” The program also includes Allison Loggins-Hull’s Homeland for solo flute and Brahms’ String Sextet No. 2 in G, Op. 36. Coinciding with the BSO’s Music of the Midnight Sun festival, the BSCP’s Nordic-themed program on March 10 features Nielsen’s Wind Quintet, Op. 43, Anna Thorvaldsdottir’s Spectra, for violin, viola, and cello, and Hans Abrahamsen’s arrangements of four pieces from Schubert’s Moments Musicaux, for winds and strings. Pianist Garrick Ohlsson joins the Chamber Players on Sunday, March 31, 2024, for a program to include Messiaen’s sublime Quartet for the End of Time, for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano. More programming details for this season-closer will be announced at a later date.

**HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND DISCOUNTED PROGRAMS**

2023–24 Season BSO Tickets
- Tickets to the 2023–24 BSO season—subscription renewals beginning on April 13 and public sale on August 1—may be purchased through [bso.org](http://bso.org), by calling 888-266-1200, or by visiting the Symphony Hall Box Office

Other ticket programs
- BSO continues new three-concert Sunday-afternoon series, October 15, February 18, and April 14, with a start time of 2 p.m.
- For Casual Fridays, continuing for the eighth season, patrons are encouraged to wear casual attire and enjoy shorter programs, informal conversations with BSO members, and special Conductor-Cam seating; dates are November 10, January 26, March 1 & 22
- BSO’s highly successful $25 tickets for people under 40 returns in 2023–24
- $30 College Card available throughout the season
- $10 Rush Tickets program, offering significantly discounted tickets to concertgoers on the day of concert since the orchestra’s inception, continues for select performances throughout the year
- Open rehearsals, for both the public and high schools, continue through the 2023–24 season. The dates for the High School Open Rehearsals are Thursday, October 12 and Thursday, March 7 at 10:30 a.m. Open Rehearsals
for the general public are Thursday, November 2, Thursday, January 11, Thursday, February 29, and Thursday, April 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Click here for further details about ticketing and discount ticket programs.

**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, MA—but also via streaming on BSO NOW, 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; 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.

**SPONSORSHIPS**

Longstanding major corporate partner **Bank of America** returns as the BSO Lead Season Sponsor for the 2023–24 season.

The BSO is delighted to have **Fairmont Copley Plaza** begin its 22nd season as the Official Hotel of the BSO. The BSO is thrilled to welcome back **Genesis Motor America** as a season sponsor and the Official Vehicle of the BSO.

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