

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2023–24 SEASON
ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR



For immediate release
April 13, 2023

**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](https://www.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 *Zhiân*** (BSO commission), **James Lee III'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 *Drala* 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 Žurad** 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](https://www.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](#)

* * *

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](https://www.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 *Turangalila-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 *Turangalila* 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 *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 *Turangalila-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](https://www.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.

PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTACTS

Jan Devereux, Interim Senior Director of Public Relations & Communications, jdevereux@bso.org; Tel: 617-638-9283

Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist, merikson@bso.org; Tel: 617-638-9284

[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

© 2007-2023 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](#)

Email Marketing by ActiveCampaign