



BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2022-23 SEASON • ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR

For immediate release

February 15, 2023

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NAMES NEW ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Samy Rachid, an acclaimed young conductor and cellist from France, will make his scheduled BSO debut at Tanglewood in 2024

BOSTON, MA — The **Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** has announced that **Samy Rachid** has been appointed as new assistant conductor for a two-year term, effective in October 2023. **BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons** named Rachid to succeed Anna Rakitina in the position following an audition process. Rachid joins **Earl Lee**, appointed in 2021, as one of the BSO's two assistant conductors. The young French conductor will make his scheduled debut with the orchestra during the 2024 Tanglewood season, followed by subscription concerts at Symphony Hall during the BSO's 2024–25 season.



“All of us at the BSO are thrilled to welcome Samy Rachid as our new assistant conductor,” said **Anthony Fogg, William I. Bernell Vice President for Artistic Planning**. “Samy’s impressive international achievements as a cellist, as well as his emerging skills as a conductor of great individuality and insights, make him an especially exciting choice for the BSO. We look forward to his first concerts with the orchestra in summer 2024 at Tanglewood and to introducing him to Symphony Hall audiences in 2024–25. I know that Samy will be a wonderful addition to the BSO family.”

“I am overjoyed to be joining the Boston Symphony Orchestra family,” said **Rachid**. “I discovered classical music with a recording of Charles Munch with the BSO, which inspired me to become a professional musician. Working with Maestro Nelsons and the wonderful musicians of the BSO is a great honor, and I look forward to becoming part of the Boston community.”

About Samy Rachid

Formerly the cellist of the Arod Quartet, Samy Rachid left that ensemble in 2021 to focus on conducting, winning 2nd Prize of the Tokyo International Music Competition for Conducting. The same year he worked with France’s Orchestre Elektra and was subsequently asked by the ensemble to become their music director for the 2022-23 season. He was a Conducting Fellow of the prestigious Verbier Festival 2022, where he worked with such renowned conductors as Gianandrea Noseda and Klaus Mäkelä, and took part of the Gstaad Conducting Academy, where he worked closely with Jaap von Zweden and became the first French conductor to be awarded the Academy’s Neeme Järvi Prize. He is currently assistant conductor of the Opéra National du Rhin.

Rachid studies and works closely with Mathieu Herzog, assisting him with the Orchestre Appassionato on several projects and working with singers including Roberto Alagna, Ludovic Tezier, and Nadine Sierra. As cellist of the Arod Quartet, he worked with Quatuor Ébène and the Artemis Quartet. With the Arod Quartet, he won the First Prize and two special prizes at the Carl Nielsen String Quartet Competition in 2015, and the following year was awarded First Prize and two special prizes at the ARD Competition in Munich. He also recorded several albums for Warner Classics.

Since 2021, Rachid has conducted the NHK Symphony Orchestra, Gstaad Festival Orchestra, Verbier Festival Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, PKF Prague Philharmonia, Tokyo Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, Sinfonie Orchester Biel Solothurn, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, Orchestre Symphonique de Mulhouse, and Hungarian Symphony Orchestra Szeged.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD PHOTOS AND BIO OF SAMY RACHID](#)

The Boston Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor Program

The BSO’s longest-serving assistant or associate conductors were concertmasters **Richard Burgin** and **Joseph Silverstein**. **Michael Tilson Thomas** earned instant fame when he replaced an ailing **William Steinberg** (BSO Music Director, 1969–72) mid-concert and, following his BSO tenure, has earned international acclaim for his artistic leadership of the San Francisco Symphony, New World Symphony, and London Symphony Orchestra. Many of the BSO’s former assistant conductors have gone on to careers with major symphony orchestras, including **Shi-Yeon Sung**—the BSO’s first female assistant conductor—who is formerly the artistic

director and chief conductor of the Gyeonggi Philharmonic Orchestra, and **Ken-David Masur**, who now holds the position of music director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

BSO Assistant Conductors

Richard Burgin 1934–1943 (Associate Conductor, 1943–1966)

Charles Wilson 1966–1969

Michael Tilson Thomas 1969–1970 (Associate Conductor, 1970–1972;
Principal Guest Conductor, 1972–1974)

Joseph Silverstein 1971–1984

Carl St. Clair 1986–1990

Pascal Verrot 1986–1990

Grant Llewellyn 1990–1993

Robert Spano 1990–1993

Thomas Dausgaard 1993–1995

David Wroe 1993–1995

Richard Westerfield 1995–1997 (Associate Conductor, 1997–1998)

Federico Cortese 1998–2002

Ilan Volkov 1998–2001

Jens Georg Bachman 2004–2007

Ludovic Morlot 2004–2007

Julian Kuerti 2007–2010

Shi-Yeon Sung 2007–2010

Marcelo Lehninger 2010–2013 (Associate Conductor, 2013–2015)

Sean Newhouse 2010–2012

Andris Poga 2012–2014

Ken-David Masur 2014–2018 (Associate Conductor, 2018)

Moritz Gnann 2015–2017

Yu-An Chang 2018–2020

Anna Rakitina 2019–2023

Earl Lee 2021–

Samy Rachid 2023–

PRESS 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