



Boston Symphony  
Orchestra

Boston Pops

Tanglewood

Symphony Hall



For immediate release

February 20, 2024 at 12 p.m.

---

## BSO March Programs Span Musical Genres and Traditions, Honor Legacies of Wayne Shorter and Serge Koussevitzky

The eventful month begins with the multi-disciplinary Music of the  
Midnight Sun Festival, celebrating Nordic music

[Click here for a press kit with artist photos and bios](#)



This March, the Boston Symphony Orchestra presents a range of innovative programs that link music with the sciences and humanities, champion the legacies of groundbreaking classical and jazz icons, and introduce dynamic new works to Symphony Hall audiences.

**Music of the Midnight Sun (Feb. 28–March 10)**

The Boston Symphony Orchestra announces its [Music of the Midnight Sun Festival](#), February 28–March 10. The two-week celebration of Nordic composers, conductors, and artists highlights the music, culture, and folk traditions of Finland, Denmark, and Norway. The festival offers two weekends of BSO programs with guest conductors **John Storgårds** (Feb. 29–March 2) and **Dima Slobodeniouk** (March 7–9). Storgårds conducts a program spotlighting the music and culture of his native Finland, including the festival's namesake *Midnight Sun Variations* by Finnish composer **Outi Tarkiainen**, the BSO debut of Finnish violinist **Pekka Kuusisto** in BSO's first-ever performance of Danish composer Carl Nielsen's 1911 Violin Concerto, and three of Jean Sibelius's tone poems based on Finnish legends. The following weekend, Slobodeniouk leads a fully staged performance of the familiar and much-loved *Peer Gynt* by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen and composer Edvard Grieg, adapted and directed by acclaimed playwright **Bill Barclay** in an expanded staging from the BSO's 2017 performances (for videos of the 2017 production and Barclay's artist statement, [click here](#)). Soprano **Georgia Jarman** makes her BSO debut as Solveig, Peer's love interest, sharing the stage with actors from **Concert Theatre Works** and the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus**. These two weekends of performances are bookended by a free performance with Finnish-American violinist and vocalist **Sara Pajunen** and friends (February 28) and a program of Nordic chamber music with the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players** (March 10) that includes works by Nielsen, Andriessen, and Anna Thorvaldsdottir.

Reflecting the BSO's commitment to advancing the humanities, festival events offered in conjunction with the Tanglewood Learning Institute include a series of panel discussions and pre-concert talks that bring the diverse perspectives of researchers, composers, and scholars in conversation with Nordic music. On February 28, co-executive producer at NOVA **Julia Cort** moderates ***Light, Loneliness, and Creativity***, a free panel on the dynamic interplay between light and creativity and their combined impact on our emotional health. On March 7–9, BSO Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger will moderate ***Peer Gynt and the Nordic Imagination***, exploring the origins of *Peer Gynt* in Norwegian folklore and its cultural influence. For more details on panels and talks, including the full list of panelists and their affiliations, see the complete program details below.

During the two-week-long festival and before all BSO performances, traditional Finnish *Glögi* (warm mulled wine and spirits) will be offered for bar service. Patrons will also be treated to special lighting in the concert hall, designed to

evoke the aurora borealis. In support of the Midnight Sun Festival, the Boston Public Library curated a Nordic literature reading list. [Click here to see it.](#)

## Celebrating the Symphonic Legacy of Wayne Shorter (March 21 & 23)

On March 21 and 23, the BSO will present an all-Wayne Shorter program, honoring the musical genius of the jazz innovator, composer, bandleader, and saxophonist who passed away in March 2023. These performances feature five longtime Shorter collaborators and jazz legends in their BSO debuts: vocalist and bassist **esperanza spalding**, conductor **Clark Rundell**, pianist **Leo Genovese**, drummer **Terri Lyne Carrington**, and saxophonist **Dayna Stephens**. Five-time Grammy Award winner spalding wrote the libretto for Shorter's 2022 opera ... (*Iphigenia*), one of the six pieces the BSO will perform, which was premiered in Boston in 2021 and is based on the ancient Greek tragedy by Euripides. Other programmatic highlights include the mesmerizing *Gaia*, another longform jazz-orchestral work with a vocal part by spalding, and an orchestral arrangement of *Orbits*, which won Shorter a Grammy Award for Best Improvised Jazz Solo in 2014, nearly 50 years after he first recorded the piece with Miles Davis.

"Celebrating the Symphonic Legacy of Wayne Shorter" continues the rich history of the BSO and Boston Pops spotlighting jazz compositions and performers that have included Wynton Marsalis, Gunther Schuller, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Victor Wooten, Benny Goodman, and, in last October's Opening Night at Symphony, the Aaron Diehl Trio. That tradition continues in the [2024 Spring Pops Season](#) with a season-opening performance by multitalented artist **Harry Connick Jr.** (May 10 & 11) and the latest installment of the beloved **Roots of Jazz** series headlined by saxophonist **Branford Marsalis** and with the debut of pianist **Jesus Molina** (May 22 and 23).

## Koussevitzky150 Composition Premieres

March brings the American premieres of two of the season's four Koussevitzky150 compositions, commissioned by the BSO in honor of the sesquicentennial of legendary [former BSO Music Director Serge Koussevitzky](#). Eminent English conductor **Sir Mark Elder** joins to lead the U.S. premiere of **Elena Langer's** *The Dong with a Luminous Nose*, for cello, chorus, and orchestra, featuring the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** and the BSO's principal cellist **Blaise Déjardin** as soloist (March 14–16). Jointly commissioned with the

London Philharmonic Orchestra and premiered at the Royal Festival Hall in March 2023, the whimsical piece draws inspiration from Edward Lear's romantic "nonsense poem," and is programmed with two other works inspired by folklore, the ballet score of Maurice Ravel's *Mother Goose* and Antonín Dvořák's *The Noonday Witch*, as well as Leoš Janáček's energetic Sinfonietta.

Two weeks later (March 28–30), celebrated Venezuelan conductor **Domingo Hindoyan** makes his BSO debut leading the American premiere of **Roberto Sierra**'s Sinfonía No. 6, *Reflexión urbana*, a BSO co-commissioned work that highlights the climate crisis. Hindoyan frequently champions Sierra's music and recorded the electric Sinfonía No. 6 with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, where he is Chief Conductor, in 2023. Sierra's piece is followed by two great Romantic masterpieces; Edward Elgar's regal Cello Concerto, performed by **Pablo Ferrández** in his BSO debut, and Dvořák's majestic Symphony No. 7.

Additional Koussevitzky150 pieces in the BSO's 2023–24 season include two monumental works commissioned by the former Music Director: Olivier Messiaen's *Turangalila-symphonie* (April 11–14) with acclaimed piano soloist **Yuja Wang**, who won a 2024 Grammy Award for the Best Classical Instrumental Solo, and Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 4 (April 25–27). The celebration continues this summer at Tanglewood with a full weekend of music Koussevitzky commissioned or premiered and a companion Tanglewood Learning Institute presentation "The Legacy of Serge Koussevitzky" (July 26–28).

## Complete Program Listing

All programs are ticketed and occur at Symphony Hall unless otherwise noted

\*BSO Debut

### **Music of the Midnight Sun Programs (February 28–March 10)**

Wednesday, Feb. 28 (Free and General Admission)

#### **7 p.m. Panel Discussion: Light, Loneliness, and Creativity**

**Julia Cort**, moderator (Co-Executive Producer, NOVA)

**Dr. Jeremy Nobel** (Faculty, Harvard Medical School; Founder & President, Foundation for Art & Healing)

**Kimaya Lecamwasam, S.M.** (Ph.D. Student/Researcher, MIT Media Lab)

**Outi Tarkiainen** (composer)

#### **8 p.m. Music from Ameriikan laulu with Sara Pajunen (and friends)**

---

Thursday, Feb. 29, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal with 9:30 a.m. pre-rehearsal talk by Robert Kirzinger, BSO Director of Program Publications)

Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 1, 8 p.m. (Casual Friday with post-concert conversation with Robert Kirzinger and Outi Tarkiainen)

Saturday, March 2, 8 p.m.

**John Storgårds, conductor**

**Pekka Kuusisto, violin\***

Outi TARKIAINEN *Midnight Sun Variations*

NIELSEN Violin Concerto

SIBELIUS *The Oceanides* and *The Bard* (February 29 and March 2 only)

SIBELIUS *Tapiola*

---

Thursday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. (High School Open Rehearsal with 9:30 a.m. pre-rehearsal talk by Robert Kirzinger)

Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. (pre-concert panel at 6:15 p.m.)

Friday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. (pre-concert panel at 12:15 p.m.)

Saturday, March 9, 8 p.m. (pre-concert panel at 6:45 p.m.)

**Panel discussion: *Peer Gynt* and the Nordic Imagination**

**Robert Kirzinger**, moderator

**Bill Barclay** (Artistic Director of Music Before 1800 and Concert Theatre Works)

**Patrick Swanson** (Director of Boston Revels)

**Merrill Kaplan** (Associate Professor of Folklore & Scandinavian Studies, Ohio State University)

**Dima Solobodeniouk, conductor**

**Georgia Jarman, soprano\***

**Actors from Concert Theatre Works**

**Tanglewood Festival Chorus**

**James Burton, conductor**

**GRIEG *Peer Gynt***

written and directed by Bill Barclay adapted from the play by Henrik Ibsen

---

Sunday, March 10, 3 p.m.

**Boston Symphony Chamber Players**

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

NIELSEN Wind Quintet, Op. 43

(Hendrik) ANDRIESSEN Intermezzo for flute and harp

Anna THORVALDSDOTTIR *Spectra*, for violin, viola, and cello  
SCHUBERT (arr. Hans ABRAHAMSEN) Four Pieces from *Moments Musicaux*, for  
winds and strings

---

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 15, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 16, 8 p.m.

**Sir Mark Elder, conductor**

**Blaise Déjardin, cello**

**Tanglewood Festival Chorus**

**James Burton, conductor**

RAVEL *Mother Goose* (complete)

Elena LANGER *The Dong with a Luminous Nose*, for cello, chorus, and orchestra  
(American premiere; BSO co-commissioned with Koussevitzky150 initiative)

DVOŘÁK *The Noonday Witch*

JANÁČEK Sinfonietta

---

Thursday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 22, 8 p.m. (Casual Friday)

Saturday, March 23, 8 p.m.

**Clark Rundell, conductor\***

**esperanza spalding, vocalist and bass\***

**Leo Genovese, piano\***

**Terri Lyne Carrington, drums\***

**Dayna Stephens, saxophone\***

ALL-WAYNE SHORTER PROGRAM

*Forbidden, Plan-It!*

*Orbits*

*Midnight in Carlotta's Hair*

Excerpts from ...(*Iphigenia*) (March 21 & 23 only)

*Causeways*

*Gaia*, for jazz quartet and orchestra

---

Friday, March 29, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 30, 8 p.m.

**Domingo Hindoyan, conductor\***

**Pablo Ferrández, cello\***

Roberto SIERRA Sinfonía No. 6, *Reflexión urbana* (American premiere; BSO co-commissioned with Koussevitzky150 initiative)  
ELGAR Cello Concerto  
DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 7

---

**TICKETS FOR THE 2023–24 BSO SEASON ON SALE  
THROUGH [BSO.ORG](#), OR BY CALLING 888-266-1200, OR BY  
VISITING THE SYMPHONY HALL BOX OFFICE**

Visit our website to [learn more about the BSO](#), including special ticket opportunities and dining options

\* \* \*

## Sponsors

Longstanding major corporate partner **Bank of America** returns as the BSO Lead Season Sponsor for the 2023–24 season. The **Arbella Insurance Foundation**, a longtime partner, returns for its 19th year as Supporting Season Sponsor of the BSO. The BSO is pleased to have **Fairmont Copley Plaza** in its 22nd season as the Official Hotel of the BSO, and to welcome back **Genesis Motor America** as a season sponsor and the Official Vehicle of the BSO. **Turkish Airlines** celebrates its 10th anniversary in Boston and returns as a BSO Winter Season supporting sponsor.

## Press Contacts

Jan Devereux, Senior Director of Public Relations & Communications  
[\(jdevereux@bso.org\)](mailto:jdevereux@bso.org)

Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist and Media Relations Lead ([merikson@bso.org](mailto:merikson@bso.org))

Rena Cohen, Publicist ([rcohen@bso.org](mailto:rcohen@bso.org))

---

[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](mailto:mybso@bso.org) to your email address book. E-mail [customerservice@bso.org](mailto:customerservice@bso.org). This message was sent to [\\_t.e.s.t\\_@example.com](mailto:_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