



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

2024-25 Season



For immediate release

April 30, 2024, 12 p.m.

Boston Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons Name Three New Musicians to Join the Orchestra in 2024–25 Season

Lorna McGhee will become the BSO’s principal flute, joining from the Pittsburgh Symphony where she has been principal since 2012

The BSO and Nelsons also welcome Josh Baker as associate principal bassoon and Toby Grace as a new section percussionist, starting in 2024–25



Left to right: Josh Baker, Lorna McGhee, and Toby Grace

The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Andris Nelsons are pleased to announce the appointment of Lorna McGhee as the orchestra's new principal flute, starting with the opening of the 2024–25 season in September. A native of Scotland, McGhee will occupy the Walter Piston chair, endowed in perpetuity, succeeding Elizabeth Rowe, who is stepping down at the conclusion of the Tanglewood season after 20 years with the BSO. In addition to leading the BSO's flute section at Symphony Hall, Tanglewood, Carnegie Hall, and on tour, McGhee will join other first-chair string and wind players to become a member of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. She will be the eighth principal flute in the BSO's history, a chair held by the late Doriot Anthony Dwyer who was named the orchestra's first female principal player in 1952.

The BSO also announces that it has appointed Josh Baker as its new associate principal bassoon (and principal bassoon of the Boston Pops) and Toby Grace as a new member of the percussion section. Both Baker, who joins after five years with the Florida Orchestra, and Grace were Fellows at the [Tanglewood Music Center](#), the BSO's prestigious summer program that has trained emerging orchestral talent from around the world since its founding by Serge Koussevitzky in 1940.

All three of the newly appointed players will first perform with the BSO during the Opening Weekend concerts at Symphony Hall (Sept. 19–21), which will include a fundraising gala celebrating Andris Nelsons' tenth anniversary season and a world premiere by Composer Chair Carlos Simon, a Boston Pops *Cirque de Symphonie* performance conducted by Keith Lockhart, and a free *Concert for the City* jointly led by Nelsons, Lockhart, and Thomas Wilkins and featuring guest artists from the community.

Statement from BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons:

“I am very pleased to welcome Lorna McGhee as the Boston Symphony Orchestra's new principal flute. Lorna brings a wealth of experience and incredible artistry to this pivotal role. I am also happy to appoint Josh Baker as associate principal bassoonist and Toby Grace as a new percussionist, both of whom studied as Fellows at our wonderful Tanglewood Music Center. I look forward very much to making beautiful music with all three of these very talented musicians this fall, as I begin my eleventh season as Music Director of this extraordinary orchestra.”

Statement from BSO President and CEO Chad Smith:

"Our extraordinary musicians are at the center of our organization. They define the BSO and our work. We are thrilled to welcome Lorna McGhee, Josh Baker, and Toby Grace to the orchestra and look forward to getting to know them as players and colleagues. It is especially gratifying that the Tanglewood Music Center continues to play such an important role in the development of the next generation of orchestral talent."

For full bios and headshots of the new musicians, [click here](#).

Lorna McGhee, Principal Flute
Walter Piston chair, endowed in perpetuity

Lorna McGhee grew up in Largs, Scotland, and has been the principal flute of the Pittsburgh Symphony since 2012, during which she recorded symphonies of Beethoven, Bruckner, Brahms, Dvořák, and Tchaikovsky, as well as the PSO's Grammy Award-winning Shostakovich Symphony No. 5. She has performed as guest principal with Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields, and Chamber Orchestra of Europe, among others. Before emigrating to North America, McGhee was co-principal flute of London's BBC Symphony Orchestra.

As a concerto soloist, McGhee has appeared with orchestras in Japan, Taiwan, Canada, the U.K., and the U.S. with such groups as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. As winner of the Shell/LSO Scholarship, she performed the Ibert Concerto with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Center in London and in a gala concert in Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall. Other career highlights include performances of Penderecki's Flute Concerto under the baton of the composer, Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 2 with both Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Nicholas McGegan, Saariaho's concerto *Aile du songe* with Osmo Vänskä, and Mozart's G major concerto with Manfred Honeck. During the 2024–25 season, she returns to the Pittsburgh Symphony as soloist in Rautavaara's Flute Concerto *Dances with the Winds* with conductor Donald Runnicles.

Statement from Lorna McGhee:

“I am excited to be joining the Boston Symphony Orchestra in September and very much look forward to making music with my new colleagues and Maestro Nelsons. I am also deeply respectful of the legacy of all the flute players who have held this position before me and am honored to be walking in their footsteps.”

BSO Principal Flutes, 1881–Present

***Acting Principal**

Edward Martin Heindl 1881–1886

Member of flute section: 1881–1896

Charles Molé 1887–1895

Leon Ambroise Jacquet 1896–1898

André Maquarre 1898–1918

George Laurent 1918–1952

Doriot Anthony Dwyer 1952–1990

Leone Buyse* 1990–1993

Elizabeth (Ostling) Klein* 1995–1997

Jacques Zoon 1997–2003

Elizabeth Rowe 2004–2024

Josh Baker, Associate Principal Bassoon and Principal Bassoon of the Boston Pops

Diana Osgood Tottenham / Hamilton Osgood chair, endowed in perpetuity

A native of Boise, Idaho, Josh Baker has been principal bassoonist of the Florida Orchestra since 2018. Prior to Florida, he served three years as principal for the Charleston Symphony in South Carolina.

A 2013 Tanglewood Music Center Fellow and a 2014 graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, Baker studied under BSO bassoonists Richard Ranti, who retired as associate principal at the end of the 2022–23 season, and principal Richard Svoboda.

Statement from Josh Baker:

“Joining the Boston Symphony Orchestra is a dream come true. It’s an orchestra that’s had a huge impact on my musical upbringing. I’ve been a part of the Boston

University Tanglewood Institute, the Tanglewood Music Center, a student at the New England Conservatory of Music, and now the BSO—there is undeniably some magnetism going on! I'm looking forward to collaborating with Andris Nelsons and the musicians of this world class orchestra this upcoming season.”

Toby Grace, Section Percussion

A native of Austin, Texas, percussionist Toby Grace has been a frequent guest performer of the Kansas City Symphony and has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Omaha Symphony, and Tulsa Symphony.

He received his bachelor's degree from the Juilliard School, where he was a student of the New York Philharmonic's Daniel Druckman and a proud recipient of the Kovner Fellowship. He also studied with former Chicago Symphony Orchestra principal percussionist Ted Atkatz at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, where he earned his master's degree. Grace was a Fellow of the BSO's Tanglewood Music Center for two summers.

Statement from Toby Grace:

“It is a dream come true to perform as a member of the Boston Symphony. My most treasured musical memories come from performances at Tanglewood, and I am beyond grateful to now be sharing the stage with such exceptional and passionate musicians.”

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How to Purchase Tickets

Subscriptions to the 2024–25 BSO season are now available to purchase by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting [bso.org](https://www.bso.org); single tickets go on sale July 25 at 10 a.m.

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, Mass.—but also via educational and community programs, radio, television, recordings, and tours. More information about the BSO and Andris Nelsons may be found at [bso.org](https://www.bso.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, Julian and Eunice Cohen BSO President and CEO

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

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

Sponsors

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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

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