



Boston Symphony
Orchestra

2025–26 season

where music lives

For immediate release
Tuesday, August 26 at 12 p.m.

Boston Symphony Orchestra Opens its 2025–26 Season with Two Free Performances Celebrating Community and Artistry

The annual ***Concert for the City*** features the **BSO**, **Boston Pops**, and **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** with conductors **Andris Nelsons**, **Keith Lockhart**, and **Thomas Wilkins** in performances with local guest artists **Fabiola Méndez**, **Clayton Stephenson**, and the **Veronica Robles Mariachi Band** (Sept. 17)

New this year, ***Music's Next Generation – A College Showcase*** brings seven instrumental and vocal ensembles from colleges across Greater Boston to offer their unique take on the future of music (Sept. 18)

Complimentary tickets for **[Concert for the City](#)** and the **[College Showcase](#)** may be reserved starting on Wednesday, September 3 at 10 a.m.



The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) kicks off the Opening Week of its 2025-26 season with two free concerts at Symphony Hall that invite audiences to experience the breath of phenomenal artistry and commitment to community-building that define the BSO today: the annual ***Concert for the City*** (Sept. 17), and a new addition, ***Music's Next Generation – A College Showcase*** (Sept. 18).

Concert for the City, a celebration of music-making and community spirit, begins at 4:30 p.m. with pre-concert performances throughout Symphony Hall by local music, art, and dance groups, showcasing Boston's rich cultures and musical traditions. The event culminates in a 7:30 p.m. concert with the **BSO**, **Boston Pops**, and **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** led by **Andris Nelsons**, **Keith Lockhart**, and **Thomas Wilkins**, with the **Veronica Robles Mariachi Band** and cuatrista and vocalist **Fabiola Méndez** and her ensemble as special guests. Acclaimed young pianist **Clayton Stephenson**, a finalist in the Van Cliburn International Competition, a Gilmore Young Artist Award winner, and a Harvard-New England Conservatory graduate, closes the concert as soloist in the first movement of George Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F.

The following evening, ***Music's Next Generation – A College Showcase*** brings musical ensembles from Berklee College of Music, Boston University, Harvard University, New England Conservatory, Northeastern University, and Tufts University to Symphony Hall for a varied and dynamic program. From Randall Thompson's "The Last Words of David," performed by the **Boston University Symphonic Chorus**, to Toto's "Africa," performed by the **Harvard University Crimson Cellos**, the program showcases the varied talents of students across Boston.

Free tickets to both *Concert for the City* and the *College Showcase* will be available starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Quote from BSO President and CEO Chad Smith

"This September, to open the BSO's 144th season, we are excited to welcome our friends and neighbors back for our sixth *Concert for the City* and to introduce *Music's Next Generation – A College Showcase*, a brand-new event spotlighting musical groups from the city's higher education community. We can think of no better way to start the 2025-26 season than with two free events that center local partners and celebrate the breadth of talent and artistry across Boston's musical community. We invite everyone to experience the power of music to build community and inspire joy and look forward to seeing you at Symphony Hall this fall."

Press kits are available for [Concert for the City](#) and the [College Showcase](#)

Concert for the City

This first event of the BSO's 2025-26 season, this year's **Concert for the City** (Wednesday, Sept. 17) kicks off at 4:30 p.m. with pre-concert performances in function spaces throughout Symphony Hall, featuring a variety of talented Boston-based youth and community music organizations: **Boston Music Project, Boston Pops Gospel Choir, Boston Public Schools Hip Hop Ensemble, Boston String Academy, Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, Cambridge Conservatory Lab Charter School, DEAFinitely, Me2 Orchestra, NEC Prep, Pastor Jeremy D. Battle, and Project STEP**. Start times in each room will be staggered so attendees may wander through the building and hear parts of each group's performance.

The mainstage evening concert begins at 7:30 p.m. with the all-female **Veronica Robles Mariachi Band** and renowned cuatrista **Fabiola Méndez** and her

ensemble. After intermission, BSO Music Director **Andris Nelsons** conducts **Beethoven's** dramatic *Leonore* Overture No. 2 and William Grant Still's *Threnody (In Memory of Jan Sibelius)*. Celebrating his 30th year as conductor, **Keith Lockhart** leads the **Boston Pops** in Lin-Manuel Miranda's "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from *Encanto* and Alan Silvestri's *Back to the Future* Theme. BSO Artistic Advisor **Thomas Wilkins**, familiar to many students and families as the leader of the orchestra's annual Youth and Family Concerts, closes the concert with Gwyneth Walker's joyful "How Can I Keep from Singing?" featuring the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** and the first movement of Gershwin's jazzy Piano Concerto in F with the dynamic young soloist **Clayton Stephenson**.

The BSO last hosted a *Concert for the City* in September 2024, featuring among other highlights Mayor Michelle Wu performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Renese King singing "America the Beautiful" with the Boston Pops.

Music's Next Generation – A College Showcase

With over forty colleges and universities in the greater metropolitan area, Boston is a global magnet for higher education and innovation in the arts and sciences. In *Music's Next Generation – A College Showcase*, the BSO invites college students to perform on the Symphony Hall stage and to share their unique takes on the future of music. From traditional Chinese music performed by the **Berklee Chinese Music Ensemble** to Coldplay's "Viva la Vida" performed by the **Harvard University Crimson Cellos**, the *College Showcase* presents some of the abundant of musical talent developing on college campuses across Boston.

The following groups will perform in the *College Showcase* on Thursday, September 18, starting at 7:30 p.m.:

- The **Berklee Chinese Traditional Music Club (CTM)** is a dynamic, internationally oriented student organization founded in 2018. Dedicated to promoting Chinese traditional music and sharing its rich cultural heritage with the world, CTM creates a vibrant platform for cultural exchange through performances, innovative projects, and collaborative endeavors.
- The **Boston University Symphonic Chorus** is the premier choir at Boston University. Dedicated to performing major works from the choral-orchestral canon as well as contemporary compositions, its membership is made up of musicians from across the greater Boston University community.

- The **Harvard University Crimson Cellos** illustrate the instrument's remarkable versatility through a repertoire ranging from classical arrangements to Billboard Hits. Since its founding in 2024, the group has showcased the cello at a variety of venues, including the Harvard Art Museum, Venezia Waterfront, Spaulding Rehabilitation Center, the Harvard Club of Boston, and Sanders Theatre.
- **Mariachi Véritas de Harvard**, founded in 2001, was the first student mariachi on the east coast. The group, the only mariachi at Harvard, is student-run and performs frequently throughout the community, striving to give students and audiences alike the chance to experience Mexican culture through music.
- The **New England Conservatory Chamber Orchestra**, comprised of seventeen string players, performs without a conductor and gives four concerts yearly. The program is guided by Artistic Director Donald Palma, a founding member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.
- **Northeastern University A Capella Association for Desi Music (NAAD)**, founded in 2024 and comprising musicians from the many nations in South Asia, is dedicated to performing diverse music from across South Asian cultures, fusing classical, Bollywood, and contemporary styles.
- Established in 1963, the **Tufts University Jackson Jills** are the oldest all-female a cappella group at Tufts University, and perform frequently across Tufts and the broader community, arranging and singing a wide range of contemporary music genres, including pop, indie, rock, alternative, and R&B.

* * *

How to Reserve Free Tickets

Tickets for both events are available at no charge and can be reserved starting Wednesday, September 3, at 10 a.m. through [BSO.org](https://www.bso.org), by calling 888-266-1200, or by visiting the Symphony Hall Box Office ([see hours](#)). Some tickets may remain available at the door on the day of the show.

Other Pops Concerts this September

Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops start a string of early September performances with ***Cirque de la Symphonie: Cirque Rocks***, a unique program coupling the circus artistry of **Cirque de la Symphonie** with live symphonic performance of classic rock from The Who, Aerosmith, The Eagles, AC/DC, Pink Floyd, Journey, and others and featuring guest soloists **Chloe Lowery** and **Dan Domenech** (Sept. 11). The following night, Lockhart conducts ***From Broadway to Hollywood: Award-Winning Music from the Stage and Screen***, a tribute to the beloved music of Hollywood and Broadway, including favorites from *Titanic*, *Chicago*, and *West Side Story* with special guest vocalist **Jacyn Tremblay** (Sept. 12). Pops programs continue with live-to-picture performances of ***The Princess Bride in Concert*** with an unforgettable score by Mark Knopfler (Sept. 13 & 14). Then, following *Concert for the City*, the *College Showcase*, and the BSO Opening Gala (Sept. 19), Lockhart and the Pops present the world premiere production of ***Everything I Know***, featuring the music of Lin-Manuel Miranda performed by Broadway superstar **Mandy Gonzalez**. The **Boston Children's Chorus** also performs. (Sept. 20).

Accessibility

Accessible seating will be available. Please call 617-638-9341 or email access@bso.org for any help with accommodations. For more information, [visit our website](#).

BSO Student Discount Programs

The BSO's popular student pass programs return this fall, offering students at local high schools, colleges, and universities the opportunity to attend BSO concerts throughout the Symphony Hall season with the one-time purchase of a student pass (\$35). Students with the card may reserve a ticket at a small fee (\$5) to concerts on a week-by-week basis, subject to availability. Sales of the 2025-26 student passes will begin in September. For more information about these and other discount programs, please visit [Special Ticket Opportunities](#) on bso.org.

Sponsorships

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is grateful to our longtime Supporting Season Sponsors **Arbella Insurance Foundation** and the **Fairmont Copley Plaza**, our

official hotel.

We are also delighted to announce that **Bank of America** has focused their longtime season support as the BSO Youth and Family Programs Sponsor, providing access to the arts beginning with the Concert for the City and for other family-friendly programming throughout the BSO season.

Other Free Programs Offered by the BSO

Free events offered in Boston each season include the [Community Chamber Concert series](#) (2025-26 dates TBA), [Youth Concerts](#) and [High School Open Rehearsals](#) (both of these are free for Boston Public School students), and the annual Boston Pops *Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular* on the Charles River Esplanade. The Boston Pops offer an annual free Holiday Pops Military Preview for members of the military community and their families. During the summer season at Tanglewood, a number of programs are offered at no charge through the Tanglewood Music Center and the Tanglewood Learning Institute.

Titles for BSO Artistic and Executive Leadership

Andris Nelsons, Ray and Maria Stata BSO Music Director and Head of Conducting at Tanglewood

Chad Smith, Eunice and Julian Cohen BSO President and CEO

Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

Thomas Wilkins, Artistic partner for Education and Community Engagement / Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

Press Contacts

Jan Devereux, Senior Director of Public Relations & Communications, BSO
(jdevereux@bso.org)

Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist and Media Relations Lead

(merikson@bso.org)

Rena Cohen, Publicist (rcohen@bso.org)

More BSO News

For more news about the BSO and Boston Pops, [read our recent press releases](#) or follow us on social media.



[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

© 2007-2025 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 rcohen@bso.org 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