

For immediate release:

April 11, 2024 at 12 p.m.



**Boston Symphony Orchestra Presents
A Free *Concert for the City* of Boston on
Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m.**

**Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras
Tanglewood Festival Chorus
Andris Nelsons, Keith Lockhart, Thomas Wilkins, and James Burton,
Conductors
Nathan Amaral, Violin
Boston Arts Academy's Tina Turner Tribute
Anjalequa Leynneyah Verona Birkett, Boston Youth Poet Laureate**

with

Pre-Concert Performances by Local Groups at 12:45 p.m.

Reserve complimentary tickets online at [BSO.org/concertforthecity](https://www.bso.org/concertforthecity) or in-person at the BSO Box Office, starting April 12, at 10 a.m.



The **Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** will open its doors to the Boston community at a free *Concert for the City* on Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m. Led by all four of the BSO's named conductors, **Andris Nelsons**, **Keith Lockhart**, **Thomas Wilkins**, and **James Burton**, this year's event offers an eclectic musical program by the BSO and Boston Pops Orchestras, as well as the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, which will be making their *Concert for the City* debut. Guest performers on the stage include violinist **Nathan Amaral**, the 2024 Sphinx Competition winner and a New England Conservatory student, and the **Boston Arts Academy's Tina Turner Tribute**. **Boston's 2022-24 Youth Poet Laureate Anjalequa Leynneyah Verona Birkett** will give the invocation.

With pre-concert performances and demonstrations by eight local music groups taking place in function spaces throughout Symphony Hall from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., this year's *Concert for the City* celebrates and showcases the talent and traditions of Boston's multicultural communities, the start of spring, and *Cinco de Mayo* while building community through the shared experience of great music performed in one of the world's most renowned concert halls.

"We are so excited to open Symphony Hall's doors and to invite the Boston community to enjoy an inspiring afternoon of music and fellowship," said **Chad**

Smith, the BSO Eunice and Julian Cohen President and CEO. “As a non-profit performing arts organization committed to service, education, and community engagement, the BSO especially hopes that many first-time visitors, students, and families will join us for this year’s *Concert for the City* and discover that Symphony Hall is a place where everyone belongs. We are grateful to our event host committee and partner organizations for sharing the invitation with their supporters, students, and congregations. We look forward to welcoming a full house.”

“I am thrilled to be part of this year’s *Concert for the City* -- it’s a special treat to share the podium with my fellow BSO conductors Andris, Keith, and James, and to perform works by American composers of color like Carlos Simon, recently appointed the BSO’s inaugural Composer Chair, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Duke Ellington, and Lin-Manuel Miranda,” said **Thomas Wilkins**, BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor. “I look forward to conducting Nathan Amaral, a rising star studying at NEC, in Coleridge-Taylor’s Violin Concerto in G Minor, which he performed to win the prestigious Sphinx Competition this year. In celebration of spring, the concert closes with ‘Maestro’ Leonard Bernstein’s joyful ‘Make Our Garden Grow’ from his operetta *Candide*.”

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. for pre-concert activities starting at 12:45 p.m. in function spaces throughout Symphony Hall. Visitors of all ages can touch and explore instruments on the Instrument Playground and enjoy short performances by local music and school groups including: **BEAM (Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music)**; **Boston Arts Academy Strings, Spiritual Choir**, and **Big Brass/Second Line Ensemble**; **Juan Nieves Ensemble**; **Northeastern Madrigal Singers**; **Odaiko New England**; and **Project STEP**. The main concert program will begin at 2 p.m. and will run for about 75 minutes without an intermission.

Tickets are offered free of charge and tickets may be reserved online or in person through the BSO Box Office, starting on April 12 at 10 a.m. (see ticketing details below). Tickets have also been offered to over 100 local organizations through the BSO’s Education and External Engagement Department and the event host committee.

The BSO last offered a *Concert for the City* in May 2023, featuring among other highlights a performance by Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and the BSO of Mozart’s Piano Concerto in C, K. 467, second movement. Prior to that, the *Concert for the City* in October 2021 celebrated the return to in-person performances following

Symphony Hall's pandemic closure. Another *Concert for the City* is planned for Saturday, September 21, as part of the Opening Weekend events for the BSO's recently announced 2024-25 season. Other free events that the BSO offers in Boston each season include the Community Chamber Concert series, Youth concerts and High School Open Rehearsals (free for BPS students and teachers), and the annual Boston Pops *Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular* on the Charles River Esplanade. During the summer season at Tanglewood, a number of concerts and speaker events are offered at no charge through the Tanglewood Music Center and the Tanglewood Learning Institute. For more information on free BSO events, [visit our website](#).

[Click here for a press kit for this event](#)

Complete Program Listing

Concert for the City

Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m.

Symphony Hall

Boston Symphony and **Boston Pops** Orchestras

Tanglewood Festival Chorus

Andris Nelsons, Keith Lockhart, Thomas Wilkins, and James Burton,
conductors

Nathan Amaral, violin

Boston Arts Academy's Tina Turner Tribute

Anjalequa Leynneyah Verona Birkett, Boston 2022-24 Youth Poet Laureate

Carlos SIMON Selection from *Four Black American Dances*

COPLAND "At the River" and "Simple Gifts" from *Old American Songs*

Gabriela ORTIZ *Kauyumari*

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR Violin Concerto in G minor, I. Allegro maestoso

ELLINGTON (Arr. Edmar Colón) *Caravan*

Lin-Manuel MIRANDA (Arr. Emilio Solla) "The Club" from *In the Heights*

BERNSTEIN "Make Our Garden Grow" from *Candide*

Please arrive early for pre-concert performances and activities, starting at 12:45 p.m. The main concert program runs from 2 p.m. to about 3:15 without an intermission.

How to Reserve Complimentary Tickets

Tickets are available at no charge and can be reserved starting on April 12, 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](#)).

Accessibility

Accessible seating available. Other accommodations including ASL Interpretation and Braille programs will be available for this performance. Please call 617-638-9341 or email access@bso.org for any help with accommodations. For more information, [visit our website](#).

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

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[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

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