

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2023–24 SEASON
ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR



For immediate release
October 26, 2023, at 2 p.m.

**BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS *LIGETI 100*, A
CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL
COMPOSERS OF THE LAST CENTURY, NOVEMBER 12–19**

THE CELEBRATION OF GYÖRGY LIGETI TO INCLUDE
CONCERTS BY THE BSO AND BOSTON SYMPHONY
CHAMBER PLAYERS WITH FORMER BSO ARTISTIC PARTNER
THOMAS ADÈS, AS WELL AS FREE PERFORMANCES BY
LOCAL ARTISTS AND ENSEMBLES

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In November, the Boston Symphony Orchestra continues its 2023–24 season with four weeks of compelling programming highlighted by much-anticipated artist debuts and welcome returns, as well as a not-to-be-missed weeklong, multi-faceted festival dedicated to one of the most pioneering composers of the 20th century, György Ligeti (1923–2006).

***Ligeti 100* Performances**

From November 12 through 19, the BSO marks the [100th anniversary of the birth of composer György Ligeti](#) with a variety of performances, many of them free, at Symphony Hall and other local venues. One of the most individual and brilliant artists of the 20th century, Ligeti was born a Hungarian Jew in a Romanian-speaking area of Transylvania in 1923. He survived dangerous slave-labor work in a munitions dump during World War II, the deaths of family members in concentration camps, the suppression of progressive arts in Soviet-controlled Hungary, and finally a harrowing escape to Vienna following the Soviet crackdown in 1956. He died in 2006 at age 83.

Best known for his atmospheric music that figures so prominently in the soundtrack of the 1968 Stanley Kubrick film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Ligeti wrote music of dizzying imagination, depth, and expressive power, including numerous works for chorus, piano, orchestra, and chamber ensemble. He has influenced many composers, such as former BSO Artistic Partner **Thomas Adès** who has said that Ligeti's music evokes for him "the heat-death of the universe." For *Ligeti 100*, Adès conducts three performances with the BSO and performs music for two pianos with **Kirill Gerstein** as part of a Boston Symphony Chamber Players program.

Ligeti 100 begins on November 12 with a free performance by **Lorelei Ensemble** (Beth Willer, director) and organist **Heinrich Christensen** at Saint Cecilia Church, featuring Ligeti's *Idegen Földön*, *Ricercare*, *Négy lakodalmi tánc*, and two etudes for organ, as well as works by Okeghem, Dufay, Frescobaldi, and Kurtág.

The festival continues on November 13 with a free performance at Symphony Hall by [Callithumpian Consort](#) (Stephen Drury, director) with soprano **Nina Guo**, mezzo-soprano **Thea Lobo**, baritone **Corey Gaudreau**, pianist **Joseph Vasconi**, and the New England Conservatory's **[nec]shivaree** ensemble and its **Meraki Quartet**. The all-Ligeti program features his String Quartet No. 1 and the voice-and-ensemble *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures*. The BSO's newly appointed Assistant Conductor **Samy Rachid** will conduct Ligeti's Chamber Concerto. A post-concert performance of Ligeti's *Poème symphonique* for 100 metronomes will take place in Symphony Hall's Cabot-Cahners Room.

Drury returns on November 15 with fellow pianist **Yukiko Tagaki**, horn player **Sarah Sutherland**, and violinist **Lilit Hartunian** to present a free concert at the Goethe-Institut Boston that includes Ligeti's Trio for violin, horn, and piano and selections from Book I of the composer's Etudes for piano.

The BSO's *Ligeti 100* subscription concert program led by **Thomas Adès** on November 16–18 at Symphony Hall is centered on the composer's kaleidoscopic Piano Concerto (1980–1988) and features Russian pianist **Kirill Gerstein** as soloist. Also on the program are Franz Liszt's symphonic poem *Les Préludes*, Igor Stravinsky's *Orpheus* (a retelling of the Classical myth), and Adès' own single-movement symphony *Tevot* (2007), whose title comes from the Hebrew word for "bars of music" and relates to the biblical *teyva*, which refers to both the ark of Noah and the cradle in which the baby Moses is carried on the river.

On November 17, also at the Goethe-Institut, **Drury** joins choreographer and dancer **Elisabeth Schilling**, playing selections from Ligeti's *Études* for piano while Schilling performs her work *PRISMA*. The free performance will also include a discussion with Schilling on her choreographic process, including excerpts from her work *HEAR EYES MOVE Dances with Ligeti*.

Ligeti 100 concludes on November 19 when the [Boston Symphony Chamber Players](#) open their 2023–24 season at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall with a ticketed program dedicated to the Hungarian composer. In addition to performing the composer's early work for winds, *Bagatelles*, the ensemble will be joined by **Adès** and **Gerstein**, who will perform Ligeti's 1976 work for two pianos, *Monument – Self Portrait – Movement*. The program will also include the American premiere of Adès' song cycle *Növények*, featuring mezzo-soprano **Katalin Károlyi**, and Mozart's String Quintet No. 3 in C, K.515.

Other BSO Programs in November

The orchestra's other three Symphony Hall subscription programs in November feature both debuts and return appearances by acclaimed guest conductors and soloists.

Recently appointed the first-ever female conductor of Berlin's Konzerthaus and named *Opernwelt's* 2019 Conductor of the Year at age 33, German native **Joana Mallwitz** makes her U.S. debut with the BSO November 2–4 (including a Thursday-morning Open Rehearsal). Award-winning Russian pianist **Anna Vinnitskaya** performs Pyotr Tchaikovsky's beloved Piano Concerto No. 1 in her BSO debut. Rounding out this program are Zoltán Kodály's *Dances of Galánta*, steeped in folk music of the composer's native Hungary, and Franz Schubert's towering Symphony in C, *The Great*, which he wrote near the end of his life.

Finnish conductor **Hannu Lintu** returns to the BSO podium November 9–11 to lead music by Lieberson (November 9 and 11 only), Berg, and Schumann. American composer Peter Lieberson's *Drala*, a BSO co-commission that premiered in 1986, takes as its title a Tibetan Buddhist term relating to one's perception of the world. Robert Schumann's majestic Symphony No. 4 was influenced by Beethoven's Fifth Symphony in its use of recurring thematic ideas to tie together the work's four movements. Frequent BSO guest **Leonidas Kavakos** is the soloist in Alban Berg's Violin Concerto. Quoting poignantly from Bach, this haunting 1935 work was written in response to the death of a friend's daughter.

The first "[Casual Friday](#)" concert of the season, November 10 at 8 p.m., offers a shorter program (the Berg and Schumann works only) with reduced pricing, remarks from the stage by an orchestra member, "conductor cam" seating for patrons seated in the Tech Section in the rear of the floor, and no intermission. As a special postlude to this concert, the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus**, led by conductor **James Burton**, performs music by Roxanna Panufnik, William Byrd, Roderick Williams, and Randall Thompson.

In the BSO's final concerts of 2023 (November 24–25), Assistant Conductor **Earl Lee** leads the sultry, atmospheric 1949 saxophone concerto by French composer Henri Tomasi. Making his BSO debut, American **Steven Banks**, 2022 winner of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, is one of today's leading classical saxophone performers. French composer César Franck's *Le Chasseur maudit*—"The Cursed Hunter"—is based on a ballad in which a hunter commits the grave sin of hunting on the Sabbath and is doomed to be eternally chased by demons. The emotional turmoil of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, which opens with the famous "fate" motif, is sweetened by his great gift for beautiful melody.

BSO 2023-24 Season Resumes on January 11:

Following the annual [Holiday Pops](#) concerts in Symphony Hall and five other cities (December 1–24), the Boston Symphony's concerts resume January 11-13, 2024, when **Andris Nelsons** leads music by Tania León (*Stride*, inspired by Susan B. Anthony and the women's suffrage movement), Maurice Ravel (Piano Concerto in D for the left hand with **Seong-Jin Cho** as soloist), and Igor Stravinsky (*The Rite of Spring*).

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COMPLETE PROGRAM DETAILS, NOV. 2–25

Thursday, November 2, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 3, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, 8 p.m.

Joana Mallwitz, conductor

Anna Vinnitskaya, piano

KODÁLY *Dances of Galánta*

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1

SCHUBERT Symphony in C, *The Great*

Thursday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 10, 8 p.m. (Casual Friday)

Saturday, November 11, 8 p.m.

Hannu Lintu, conductor

Leonidas Kavakos, violin

LIEBERSON *Drala* (November 9 & 11 only)

BERG Violin Concerto

SCHUMANN Symphony No. 4

Postlude (November 10 only)

Tanglewood Festival Chorus, James Burton, conductor

Roxanna PANUFNIK *Love Endureth*

BYRD *Ave Verum Corpus*

Roderick WILLIAMS *Ave Verum Corpus* re-imagined

THOMPSON *The Peaceable Kingdom*

Ligeti 100 Programs

Sunday, November 12, 2 p.m.

St. Cecilia Church (18 Belvedere Street, Boston)

Free

BSO presents—**Lorelei Ensemble**, Beth Willer, director

Heinrich Christensen, organ

Joseph Vasconi, piano

OKEGHEM Kyrie from *Missa prolacionum*

DUFAY *Rite maiorem iacobum canamus*

LIGETI *Idegen Földön*

DUFAY *O proles Hispanie*

LIGETI Ricercare for organ

OKEGHEM *Prenez sur moi vostre exemple amoureux*

DUFAY *Flos florum*

FRESCOBALDI Ricercare for Organ

LIGETI *Négy lakodalmi tánc*

György KURTÁG *Játékok*, for organ

Versetto: Temptavit Deus Abraham...

Versetto: Consurrexit Cain adversus fratrem suum...

Versetto: Dixit Dominus ad Noe: finis universe carnis venit...

Sirens of the Deluge (Waiting for Noah)

Apocryphal Hymn

OKEGHEM Agnus dei from *Missa prolacionum*

DUFAY *Apostolo glorioso*

LIGETI 2 Etudes for organ

Performed without intermission

Monday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.

Symphony Hall

Free

BSO presents—**Callithumpian Consort**, Stephen Drury, director

[nec]shivaree

Samy Rachid, conductor

Nina Guo, soprano

Thea Lobo, mezzo-soprano

Corey Gaudreau, baritone

Joseph Vasconi, piano

The Meraki Quartet

ALL-LIGETI PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 1

Chamber Concerto

Aventures and Nouvelles Aventures

Post-concert performance, Cabot-Cahners Room:

LIGETI's *Poème Symphonique* for 100 metronomes

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

Goethe-Institut (170 Beacon Street, Boston)

Free

Stephen Drury, piano

Yukiko Takagi, piano
Sarah Sutherland, horn
Lilit Hartunian, violin
LIGETI Études for piano (selections from Book I)
LIGETI Trio for violin, horn, and piano

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 18, 8 p.m.

Symphony Hall

Thomas Adès, conductor

Kirill Gerstein, piano

LISZT *Les Préludes*

LIGETI Piano Concerto

STRAVINSKY *Orpheus*

Thomas ADÈS *Tevot*

Friday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.

Goethe-Institut (170 Beacon Street, Boston)

Free

PRISMA by **Elisabeth Schilling** (a choreographic interpretation of György Ligeti's Etudes for Piano)

Stephen Drury, piano

Choreographer and dancer **Elisabeth Schilling** performs her work *PRISMA* to a live performance by pianist Stephen Drury of selections from Ligeti's Études for Piano.

Schilling will also discuss her choreographic process via visual materials from her artistic research and video excerpts from her work *HEAR EYES MOVE Dances with Ligeti*.

Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m.

Boston Symphony Chamber Players

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

Katalin Károlyi, mezzo-soprano

Thomas Adès, piano

Kirill Gerstein, piano

LIGETI Bagatelles for wind quintet

LIGETI *Monument – Self Portrait – Movement* for two pianos

Thomas ADÈS *Növények*, for mezzo-soprano and ensemble (American premiere)
MOZART String Quintet No. 3 in C, K.515

End Ligeti 100

Friday, November 24, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 25, 8 p.m.

Earl Lee, conductor

Steven Banks, saxophone

FRANCK *Le Chasseur maudit*

TOMASI Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

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

***Ligeti 100* events outside of Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall are free
and do not require tickets.**

Special Ticket Opportunities Include:

- \$25 Under 40 seats for select performances
- High School (\$15) and College (\$30) Cards, allowing free attendance to most BSO concerts throughout the season
- Card to Culture program, offering \$10 adult tickets and \$5 children's tickets for EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare Card holders
- Medical Cards (\$30), allowing free attendance to most BSO concerts throughout the season
- \$10 Rush tickets to select concerts
- 30% discount to members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association

Dining at Symphony Hall

From a relaxed, sit-down dinner to a quick bite before shows, Symphony Hall offers a variety of dining options. For more information, [visit our website](#).

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, Massachusetts—but also through educational and community programs, radio, television, recordings, and tours. [Click here](#) for further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Hall.

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** begin 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.

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Symphony Hall | 301 Massachusetts Avenue | Boston, MA 02115 | [Box Office Hours](#)

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