

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2023-24 SEASON
ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR



For immediate release
October 17, 2023, at 12 p.m.

THE BSO PRESENTS A WEEK OF FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROGRAMMING AT SYMPHONY HALL, OCT. 25–28

BSO YOUTH & FAMILY CONDUCTOR **THOMAS WILKINS**
LEADS A NEW MUSICAL PROGRAM ENTITLED *MAY I HAVE
YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: A MUSICAL LOOK AT GETTING,
GIVING, AND PAYING ATTENTION*

Highlights include **free tickets** to Youth Concerts for BPS students and teachers (Oct. 25–27, 11 a.m.), a **Sensory-Friendly Performance** (Oct. 28, 10 a.m.), and a guest solo by the 2023 winner of the BSO's high school **Concerto Competition** (Oct. 28, 12 p.m.)

From October 25–28, the BSO will present an exciting concert program designed for students and families, entitled *May I Have Your Attention Please: A Musical Look at Getting, Giving, and Paying Attention*. Led by BSO Artistic Advisor for Community Engagement / Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor **Thomas Wilkins**, the hourlong concert program features music by composers from Beethoven and Tchaikovsky to William Grant Still. The eclectic program is designed to call attention to musical elements such as tempo, rhythm, repetition, and contrast. Wilkins, now in his twelfth year conducting the BSO's Youth and Family Concerts, is also the

subject of a PBS documentary, [*Beyond the Baton: A Conductor's Journey*](#) that will air on Friday, October 27 at 10:30 p.m. on GBH2.

Weekday [**Youth Concerts**](#), designed to introduce students in grades 4–6 and up to the power of live orchestral music, take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25, Thursday, October 26 (sold-out), and Friday, October 27. Students will hear directly from Wilkins in between pieces and get a chance to interact with BSO musicians and their instruments in pre- and post-concert activities. Tickets cost \$10, and students and teachers from the Boston Public Schools may attend for free. For more information, please see the ticketing section at the bottom of the release.

The BSO is pleased to offer a [**Sensory-Friendly Family Concert**](#) on Saturday, October 28 at 10 a.m., designed for people of any age with an autism spectrum disorder or sensory sensitivity and their families. Sensory-friendly concerts feature relaxed house policies to allow for more audience movement and welcome audience engagement and enjoyment of all kinds in a judgment-free environment. BSO staff and musicians learn about the individual needs of audience members from credentialed experts who are also on hand to support them and their families. Since their inception in June 2019, sensory-friendly concerts have [garnered praise](#) for making Symphony Hall accessible to all. The Sensory-Friendly Concert will also feature a pre-concert interactive instrument playground beginning at 9 a.m.

The final Family Concert of the week on Saturday, October 28 at 12 p.m. will feature a special addition to the program: [Keila Wakao](#), winner of the BSO's annual [Concerto Competition](#), playing the romantic second movement of Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2. Seventeen-year-old Wakao began playing the violin at the age of three and is currently a senior at Walnut Hill School for the Arts. She was selected by a panel of BSO musicians out of a competitive pool of 22 applicants and nine finalists.

In addition to the Youth and Family Concert Series, the BSO presents a variety of engaging programs for students and families, including [Holiday Pops Kids' Matinees](#), [High School Open Rehearsals](#), the [Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition](#), and a free summer arts immersion program called [Days in the Arts](#). To learn more about our offerings for families, [visit our website](#).

Boston Symphony Orchestra Youth and Family Concerts

May I Have Your Attention Please: A Musical Look at Getting, Giving, and Paying Attention

Wednesday, October 25, 11 a.m. (Youth Concert)*

Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m. (Youth Concert: Sold-out)*

Friday, October 27, 11 a.m. (Youth Concert)*

Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m. (Sensory-Friendly Family Concert)

Saturday, October 28, 12 p.m. (Family Concert)^

* Features pre-concert activity from 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and post-concert activity from 12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

^ Features Concerto Competition winner Keila Wakao playing Sergei Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2, II. Andante assai

Malcolm ARNOLD Four Scottish Dances: I. Pesante (“Heavily”)

Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY *Coronation* March

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 1: IV. Adagio—Allegro molto vivace

Julius FUČIK *Entrance of the Gladiators*, March

William Grant STILL Symphony No. 1, *Afro-American*: II. Sorrow; III. Humor

Béla BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra: II. Game of couples

Bedřich SMETANA *The Bartered Bride*: Dance of the Comedians

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How to Buy Tickets

[Tickets to Weekday Youth Concerts \(Oct. 25–27\)](#) are \$10 each, with one complimentary ticket for every 20 tickets purchased. Students and teachers from Boston Public Schools can attend any Youth Concert for free, subject to availability and with advance reservation. Contact Group Sales at 617–638–9345 or groupsales@bso.org. **Arbella's** School Bus Grant Program helps schools defray transportation costs associated with field trips to BSO Youth Concerts. Schools can find out more and apply for the grant [here](#).

[Tickets to the Saturday, October 28 concerts](#) cost \$20 for adults and are free for children under the age of 18.

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.

Sponsorships

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. **Arbella’s** School Bus Grant Program helps schools defray transportation costs associated with field trips to BSO Youth Concerts. 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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[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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