



Boston Symphony
Orchestra

2024-25 Season



For immediate release
Thursday, January 2 at 12 p.m.

Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director **Andris Nelsons** Announce Updates and Additions to Winter-Spring 2025 Programs (Jan. 30–Apr. 5)

Following January's Beethoven Symphonic Cycle, Nelsons leads Korngold's Spellbinding Late Romantic Opera *Die tote Stadt* with both the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** and the **Boston Lyric Opera Chorus** and Eight Soloists Including **Christine Goerke**, **Brandon Jovanovich**, and **Elliot Madore** (Jan. 30 & Feb. 1)

WBUR Brings its Popular Family Podcast **Circle Round** for a Live Recording in Symphony Hall Featuring Host **Rebecca Sheir**, Composer **Eric Shimelonis**, and a Quintet of **BSO Musicians** (Feb. 8)

New Valentine's Day Event at the Linde Center at Tanglewood Featuring Jazz Trumpeter **Jumaane Smith** and his Quintet (Feb. 14)

Acclaimed Mexican Composer **Gabriela Ortiz's** Powerful Ballet Score *Revolución diamantina* Led by Conductor Giancarlo

Guerrero with Grammy-Winning Chamber Choir **The Crossing**
(Feb. 27–Mar.1)

The **Boston Symphony Chamber Players** Perform a Free
Concert in the Newly Opened **Linde Music Building at MIT** (Mar.
2)

Coltrane: Legacy for Orchestra Presents Lush New
Orchestrations by BSO Composer Chair **Carlos Simon** with
Terence Blanchard as Soloist (Mar. 21 & 22)

BSO Artistic Partner for Education and Community
Engagement **Thomas Wilkins** Leads Annual **Youth and Family
Concert Series** (Mar. 19–22) with a **Newly Added Sensory-
Friendly Performance** (Mar. 22)

Other Previously Announced Highlights Include:

Nathalie Stutzmann of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in her BSO
Conducting Debut Leading Stravinsky's *The Firebird* and **Veronika
Eberle** in Beethoven's Violin Concerto (Feb. 6–8)

Herbert Blomstedt, at 97 the Oldest Major Conductor Actively Touring,
Leads Viennese Classics by Schubert and Brahms (Feb. 13–15)

Mezzo-soprano **J'Nai Bridges** Performs with the Boston Symphony
Chamber Players and **Samy Rachid** Conducting in Jordan Hall (Feb. 16)

Alan Gilbert Conducts **Isabelle Faust** in Stravinsky's Violin Concerto
alongside Haydn Symphonies (Feb. 20–22)

Eun Sun Kim of the San Francisco Opera in her BSO Debut Leads
Rachmaninoff's Powerful Symphony No. 3 and **Inon Barnatan** in Bartók's
Sparkling Piano Concerto No. 3 (Mar. 6–8)

The BSO Debuts of Conductor **Teddy Abrams** of the Louisville Orchestra and Violinist **Ray Chen** in Tchaikovsky's Beloved Violin Concerto on a Program with Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* and Baritone **Dashon Burton** Singing *Whitman Songs* by Michael Tilson Thomas (Mar. 13–16)

Dima Slobodeniouk Returns to Conduct Two Weeks of Programs: **Mozart's Requiem** with the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** and Soprano **Erin Morley** among the Soloists (Mar. 27–29), and Elgar's Violin Concerto with **Frank Peter Zimmermann** on a program with music of Stravinsky and Hailstork (Apr. 3–5)

[Click here for a 2025 Concert Listing](#)

[Click here for a season press kit](#)



Andris Nelsons conducts Mozart with the BSO, November 2024 (Hilary Scott)

The BSO's winter-spring concerts reflect the extraordinary range of and evolution of the BSO's programming during Andris Nelsons' tenure, beginning with the BSO music director's performances of a seminal late-Romantic opera. In February and March, a stellar roster of guest conductors and soloists, several making their BSO debuts, perform symphonic music at the core of the orchestral repertoire alongside works that resonate with vibrant musical energy and powerful social themes. We look ahead to two performances by the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, the annual Youth and Family Concerts with Thomas Wilkins including a sensory-friendly matinee, and a live recording of Circle Round, WBUR's storytelling podcast for families.

January 30 and February 1: BSO's First Performance of Korngold Opera

Following January's *Beethoven & Romanticism* symphonic cycle and related humanities events, BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons' tenth anniversary season continues with two performances of Erich Korngold's late Romantic masterpiece ***Die tote Stadt***, in collaboration with **Boston Lyric Opera** (Jan. 30 and Feb. 1). These performances reflect one of the ongoing themes of Nelson's tenure with the BSO in his tenth anniversary season, building on a legacy of stellar opera performances that have included critically acclaimed concert versions of Strauss's *Rosenkavalier*, Puccini's *Sor Angelica*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte*, Berg's *Wozzeck*, and Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (recorded last season for a forthcoming Deutsche Grammophon CD). Completed in 1920 when Korngold was just 23 years old, *Die tote Stadt* ("The Dead City"), with its story of a lost loved one, resonated with post-World War I audiences and became one of the biggest operatic successes of its time. Korngold was notable not only for his meteoric rise as a composing talent in his teens but for his enormous success later in life as one of Hollywood's greatest film composers. *Die tote Stadt* features a lush and gorgeously lyrical score and an all-star cast headed by soprano **Christine Goerke** (in her role debut), tenors **Brandon Jovanovich**, baritone **Elliot Madore**, and the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** (**James Burton**, conductor), the **Boston Lyric Opera Chorus** (**Brett Hodgdon**, conductor), and the **Boys of the St. Paul's Choir School** (**Brandon Straub**, music director). This marks the first time in its history that the BSO has performed *Die tote Stadt* and the first time that Nelsons has conducted it.

**February 6–April 5: Gabriela Ortiz’s *Revolución diamantina*,
John Coltrane Program Curated by BSO Composer Chair
Carlos Simon, Favorite Guest Artists, and Exciting Artist
Debuts**

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Music Director **Nathalie Stutzmann** makes her BSO conducting debut with German violinist **Veronika Eberle** in her Symphony Hall debut in Beethoven’s majestic Violin Concerto (Feb. 6–8) on a ballet-infused, orchestrally scintillating program that also offers Stravinsky’s *Firebird* and Ravel’s *Alborada del gracioso*. The next week (Feb. 13–15) celebrates a seven-decade conducting career. Leading two Viennese classics, **Herbert Blomstedt** reprises the performances of Brahms’ First Symphony that he led at Symphony Hall to great acclaim in 2019 and opens with Schubert’s youthful Sixth Symphony.

German violinist **Isabelle Faust** and former New York Philharmonic Music Director **Alan Gilbert** return for Stravinsky’s acerbically witty, neoclassical Violin Concerto (1931). Gilbert also leads two witty, charming symphonies by Joseph Haydn, one from early in his career and one from the great “London” symphonies that helped define the Classical era in the late 18th century (Feb. 20–22).

The following week’s program, led by Costa Rican conductor **Giancarlo Guerrero**, pairs the music of acclaimed Mexican composer Gabriela Ortiz and two pieces by Tchaikovsky—the passionate tone poem *Francesca da Rimini* and Variations on a Rococo Theme with German cellist **Alban Gerhardt** (Feb. 27–Mar. 1). Known for her vibrant instrumental colors and skill with dramatic narrative, Ortiz wrote her ballet score *Revolución diamantina* with Pulitzer Prize-winning Mexican writer Cristina Rivera Garza. The piece explores the powerful Mexican feminist “Glitter Revolution” campaign to highlight an epidemic of violence against women. The Ortiz program includes the Grammy-winning chamber choir **The Crossing** (**Donald Nally**, artistic director). This thoughtfully designed program pairs Ortiz’s powerful work with Tchaikovsky’s dramatic tone poem about Francesca da Rimini, depicted in Dante’s *Inferno* as suffering eternal damnation for her own “lustfulness” and who was murdered by her own husband.

San Francisco Opera Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** makes her BSO debut with star pianist **Inon Barnatan** returning to Symphony Hall to take on one of Bartók’s final compositions, the Third Piano Concerto (Mar. 6–8), a sparkingly virtuosic work he wrote for his wife to play. Kim also leads the BSO in Anatoly Liadov’s

atmospheric tone poem *The Enchanted Lake* and Rachmaninoff's expressively wide-ranging Third Symphony.

More BSO debuts await the following week, from Louisville Symphony Music Director **Teddy Abrams** and violinist **Ray Chen** (Mar. 13–16). Chen plays Tchaikovsky's much-adored Violin Concerto—a work whose immense popularity today overshadows its turbulent beginnings. The concerto is programmed with Michael Tilson Thomas' *Whitman Songs*, settings of the great American poet sung by three-time Grammy winning bass-baritone **Dashon Burton**, and Bernstein's delightfully lively Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*.

In his BSO debut, **Edwin Outwater** conducts *Coltrane: Legacy for Orchestra*, a program arranged and curated by Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair **Carlos Simon** that reframes some of jazz saxophonist John Coltrane's most influential works with new, lush orchestrations by Simon. Jazz trumpeter and composer **Terence Blanchard**, a five-time Grammy winner, joins as guest soloist (Mar. 21 and 22). The program is accompanied by exclusive and recently exhibited personal photographs of Coltrane.

The **Tanglewood Festival Chorus**, directed by **James Burton**, is front and center for performances of Mozart's Requiem (Mar. 27–29). Joining the TFC, conductor **Dima Slobodeniouk**, and the BSO are soprano **Erin Morley**, mezzo-soprano **Avery Amereau**, tenor **Simon Bode**, and bass **Morris Robinson**. Arvo Pärt's meditative *Tabula Rasa* starts the program.

A favorite with audiences and musicians, **Slobodeniouk** returns the following week for Elgar's Violin Concerto with German violinist **Frank Peter Zimmermann**, Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements, and *Lachrymosa: 1919* by contemporary American composer Adolphus Hailstork (Apr. 3–5). *Lachrymosa* evokes the tragedy of the Red Summer of 1919, a deadly backlash against Black American prosperity in the wake of World War I when at least 77 Black Americans were lynched.

**Boston Symphony Chamber Players: Guest Artist
Appearance by Mezzo-Soprano J'Nai Bridges and a Free
Performance in MIT's New Music Building**

The Boston Symphony Chamber Players' 2025 season opens on February 16 in New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall with **Samy Rachid** conducting mezzo-

soprano **J’Nai Bridges** singing a recent work by longtime BSO collaborator and Newton resident **Osvaldo Golijov**. Titled *Laika*, the piece is inspired by the story of the Soviet space dog who flew aboard the Sputnik 2 spacecraft in 1957, becoming the first animal to orbit the Earth, before perishing on the craft’s fourth orbit. Works by Schubert, Ravel, and Brahms complete the program.

In partnership with MIT, the Chamber Players perform a special free concert on Sunday, March 2 at 5 p.m. as part of the inaugural events of the Institute’s newly opened Linde Music Building. BSO Assistant Conductor **Anna Handler** leads Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* on a program that includes a work for wind quintet by MIT Composition Professor Keeril Makan. Free tickets will be available to reserve starting February 5.

Programs for Children and Families

WBUR brings its popular family folktales podcast **Circle Round** for a live recording in Symphony Hall featuring Host **Rebecca Sheir**, composer **Eric Shimelonis**, a quintet of **BSO Musicians**, and a star-studded cast of actors (Sat., Feb. 8 at 1 p.m.). This is a Symphony Hall first, following the very popular Circle Round recordings at Tanglewood’s Linde Center the past two summers. All four *Circle Round* picture books will be available for purchase; a book signing and meet-and-greet will follow the show.

The BSO also presents its annual Youth and Family Concert Series, led by BSO Artistic Advisor for Education and Community Engagement **Thomas Wilkins** (Mar. 19–22). The series includes a sensory-friendly matinee for all ages (Sat., Mar. 22 at 10 a.m.). This year’s theme is “Symphonic Stories of Courage, Caution, and Kindness.” The Mar. 22 midday concert will include a performance by the winner of the BSO’s annual [Concerto Competition](#) for high school students. The 2023 competition’s first place winner Keila Wakao, now a student at New England Conservatory, was invited back to perform at the BSO’s Opening Night Gala last September.

Another spring program for families features the **Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra** (BYSO) led by conductor **Marta Žurad** and magician **Matt Roberts** (Sat., Apr. 5 at 12 p.m.).

Open Rehearsal Series Offers Unique Glimpse into the Orchestra at Work

A [High School Open Rehearsal](#) on February 27 at 10:30 a.m. welcomes students in grades 8–12 to sit in on the morning rehearsal of the *Revolución diamantina* program. Students and teachers from Boston Public Schools may attend any High School Open Rehearsal for free, subject to availability and with advance reservation. Students from other schools are welcome to attend at discounted group rates. Please contact our Group Sales office at 617-638-9345 or groupsales@bso.org.

A ticketed [Open Rehearsal](#) of Slobodeniouk-Zimmermann program is offered on Thursday, April 3 for members of the public. The Open Rehearsal starts at 10:30 a.m. and runs until about 1:00 p.m., and includes pre-concert talk at 9:30 a.m.

Free Community Chamber Concert Series Premieres Previously Unknown Mozart String Trio

The BSO's series of free [Community Chamber Concerts](#) offers programs at the Scandinavian Center in West Newton on March 21 (1:30 p.m.) and at the Memorial Music Hall in Methuen on April 6 (3 p.m.). The Methuen program is the Boston premiere of Mozart's recently rediscovered Serenade in C for two violins and cello, KV 648, *Ganz Kleine Nachtmusik*.

Year-Round Programming Continues at the Linde Center in Lenox through the Tanglewood Learning Institute

In addition to the previously announced [TLI events at the Linde Center for Music and Learning](#) that feature Chamber Concerts performed by BSO musicians (Feb. 2 and Mar. 23), the prize-winning, sonically daring **Akropolis Reed Quintet** (Mar. 29), and Cuban fusion artist **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Apr. 4), a new event has been added on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) featuring GRAMMY-winning jazz trumpeter, vocalist, and composer **Jumaane Smith** and his quintet. Titled *Love Always: Celebrating the Romance of Nat King Cole*, the event will offer cabaret-style seating and food and beverage service to make it an "unforgettable" evening. Tickets to the Feb. 14 event will be available soon.

Quote from BSO President and CEO Chad Smith:

“We're excited to continue our season with a focus on partnerships, world-class talent, and access. Central to our programming is a commitment to showcasing the extraordinary artists of our time who illuminate the enduring power and relevance of the classical canon. At the same time, we remain dedicated to championing bold new works by today's greatest creative voices. Our winter and spring programs embody our mission to ensure that music continues to be a vital, relevant force in our cultural landscape.”

How to Purchase Tickets

Tickets to the 2024–25 BSO season are available to purchase by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting [bso.org](https://www.bso.org).

Discounts and Special Ticket Opportunities

- BSO's highly successful [\\$25 tickets for people under 40 program](#)
- [College Card](#) and [High School Card](#) available throughout the season
- **\$10 Rush Tickets program**, offering significantly discounted tickets to concertgoers on the day of concert, continues for select performances throughout the year
- We offer discounts to groups of 15 or more people through our [Group Sales](#) office
- Discounts for health care professionals, members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, military personnel and veterans, and EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare Card holders

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. [Click here](#) for further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Hall. [Click here](#) for an Andris Nelsons bio.

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Chad Smith, Eunice and Julian Cohen BSO President and CEO

Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

Thomas Wilkins, Artistic Partner, 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

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

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