

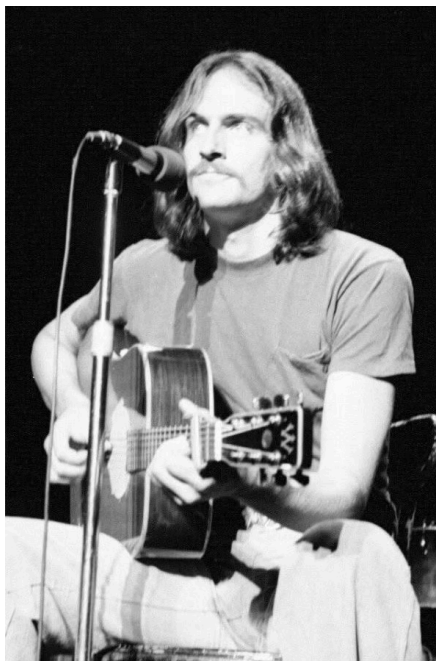


For immediate release
Tuesday, June 11 at 12 p.m.

**Boston Symphony Orchestra to Honor James Taylor
with 2024 Tanglewood Medal on his 50th Anniversary at
the Festival**

**Medal to be Presented During Taylor's July 3 Concert in
the Koussevitzky Music Shed**

**The 2024 Tanglewood Season begins June 20 with a constellation of
Popular Artists through July 4, followed by the Opening Weekend
concerts by the BSO and the Boston Pops on July 5–7, and with
concerts and events continuing through August 31**



Taylor in 1974, performing for the first time at Tanglewood, and in 2024

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is very pleased to announce that it will award **James Taylor** the 2024 Tanglewood Medal in recognition of his extraordinary accomplishments as a singer-songwriter and performer as well as his many significant contributions to the BSO and Berkshires communities. The Tanglewood Medal will be presented to Taylor during his July 3 concert with his All-Star Band, the first of his two sold-out shows in the Shed this summer. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Taylor's first Tanglewood performance in 1974.

Since his first #1 hit in 1971, "You've Got a Friend," Taylor has become one of the most acclaimed musical artists of his generation, winning six Grammy Awards and a Presidential Medal of Freedom, being inducted to both the Rock and Roll and Songwriters Hall of Fame, and amassing legions of fans around the world. Over the five decades since his first appearance at the festival with Linda Ronstadt opening, Taylor's concerts have become a beloved Tanglewood tradition, typically selling out and more recently culminating with an Independence Day fireworks display. For many years James and his wife Kim, a BSO trustee and former staff member, have generously donated the proceeds from the July 4 show to support Tanglewood.

Statement from BSO President and CEO Chad Smith:

"For the past 50 years, James Taylor has been a familiar sight in Tanglewood—not only onstage, but in the audience at so many of our concerts. And I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that Tanglewood wouldn't be the same without his efforts as an artist and an advocate. I look forward to joining him here in the 'dreamlike' Berkshires, immortalized in 'Sweet Baby James,' as we recognize his decades of service with the Tanglewood Medal. As both the CEO of this organization, and a lifelong fan of his legendary work, I can think of no one more fitting to receive this honor."

Prior Tanglewood Medal Recipients

Taylor joins distinguished company as the medal's fourth recipient. **Seiji Ozawa** became the inaugural honoree in 2012. Ozawa, the BSO's longest serving music director (1973–2002), began his deep, decades-long connection with the BSO and Tanglewood in 1960, when he first came to America from Japan to spend a summer as a Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center (TMC), receiving training and exposure that launched his long and storied conducting career. Ozawa, who passed away earlier this year at age 88, will be celebrated on August 6 at the BSO's Tanglewood on Parade concert, an annual concert with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra that he especially loved leading.

In 2015 the medal was awarded to **John Oliver**, who founded the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in 1970 and prepared the chorus for more than 1000 performances, including appearances with the BSO at Symphony Hall, Tanglewood, Carnegie Hall, and on tour in Europe and the East Asia, as well as with visiting orchestras and as a solo ensemble. Oliver, who retired from his longtime role as the TMC's director of vocal and choral activities in 2015, passed away in 2018.

Most recently, in 2022, the medal was given to Boston Pops Conductor Laureate and beloved, world-renowned composer **John Williams** in conjunction with his 90th birthday celebration at Tanglewood. Williams, who led the Pops from 1980 to 1993, is best known as the composer of the scores for over three dozen iconic films by Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, which have earned him 26 Grammy Awards, five Academy Awards, and three Emmy Awards. With film clips and music from his award-winning scores, *John Williams Film Night* is one of the most popular annual events at Tanglewood.

Taylor's connections to the prior medal winners run long and deep. He first appeared with Williams and the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall in 1993 and performed "Sweet Baby James" at the Pops' Tanglewood concert celebrating Williams' 90th birthday in 2022. Taylor also was a guest performer in 1995 at the Tanglewood gala concert celebrating Ozawa's 60th birthday. In 2012, he performed in the Tanglewood 75th anniversary concert that also included Williams, Oliver, and the TFC.

Photos of James Taylor at Tanglewood through the years and of the prior Tanglewood Medal winners may be downloaded from our [online press kit](#).

Tanglewood Early Season Highlights

2024 Season Opens in Late June with Popular Artists in the Shed and a String Quartet Marathon in Ozawa Hall

The [Tanglewood Popular Artist Series](#) kicks off the summer season with a parade of stars leading up to **James Taylor's** July 3 and 4 shows: **John Fogerty** and **George Thorogood** (June 20), **Roger Daltrey** and **KT Tunstall** (June 22), **Kool & The Gang** with **En Vogue** (June 23), **Jon Batiste** (June 28), **Trey Anastasio** with the **Boston Pops** (June 29), **Brandi Carlile** (June 30), and **Jason Mraz** with the **Boston Pops** (July 2). Later in July, the Shed will offer **An Evening with Pretenders** (July 16) and **Beck with the Boston Pops** (July 23).

Late June brings the annual **String Quartet Marathon**, three distinct free concerts performed by Fellows of the Tanglewood Music Center on June 30 in Ozawa Hall,

preceded by a TLI Open Workshop on string quartet performance technique on June 26.

July Offers BSO and TMC Concerts Led by Andris Nelsons Featuring World Renown Guest Artists, and Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops with Broadway Stars

On July 5, the BSO's Opening Night all-Beethoven program with violin virtuoso **Hilary Hahn** launches a season that will shine a spotlight on a wide spectrum of musical guests and the festival's rich tradition of presenting summertime concerts at their best since 1937. Other Opening Weekend concerts feature **Keith Lockhart** and the **Boston Pops** performing favorites by Broadway's modern masters on July 6 starring **Victoria Clark**, **Mandy Gonzalez**, and **Joshua Henry** and directed by **Jason Daniele**. On July 7, Nelsons leads world-renowned soprano **Renée Fleming** in an all-Strauss program that includes various lieder and arias from the operas *Intermezzo* and *Der Rosenkavalier*.

The following weekend, on July 12, Nelsons leads a concert that pairs Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, featuring newly announced concertmaster **Nathan Cole**, with Igor Stravinsky's neoclassical ballet *Apollon Musagète* performed by members of **Boston Ballet** led by artistic director **Mikko Nissinen**. Four dancers will perform the original choreography created by the 24-year-old George Balanchine for the 1928 premiere. On the afternoon of the concert the Tanglewood Learning Institute presents a companion program, "George Balanchine—Stravinsky's American Muse" with Jennifer Homans and Mikko Nissinen.

On July 13, piano sensation **Yuja Wang** performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with Nelsons and the BSO, along with works by BSO Composer Chair **Carlos Simon** and Ellington. It is followed on July 14 by violinist **Augustin Hadelich** playing Sergei Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto, complementing a program of music by contemporary American composer Sarah Kirkland Snider and Antonín Dvořák.

In another major festival highlight, and reaffirming Mr. Nelsons' commitment to an opera presentation each season at the Shed, is a concert performance of Act III of Richard Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* on July 20. Acclaimed soprano **Christine Goerke** headlines an all-star cast that includes tenor **Michael Weinius**, soprano **Amanda Majeski**, baritone **James Rutherford**, and bass **Morris Robinson**.

Also in July, Nelsons conducts two Shed concerts of the **Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra** along with this year's TMC Conducting Fellows **Ross Jamie Collins** and **Na'Zir McFadden**. The first includes Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 (July 8), and the second features **Emanuel Ax** performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 along with works by Charles Ives and Richard Strauss (July 21).

July culminates with performances celebrating the **150th birth anniversary of Serge Koussevitzky**, BSO music director from 1924–49, founder of the TMC in 1940, and a

champion of new music and prolific commissioner. On July 26, Nelsons conducts Koussevitzky's Double Bass Concerto, performed by BSO Principal Bass Edwin Barker on Koussevitzky's own instrument. (A master class on July 24, taught by Barker, will also spotlight Koussevitzky's instrument.) The BSO's July 26 program also offers two major works that celebrate Koussevitzky's legacy and feature the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus**: Alexander Scriabin's *Prometheus, Poem of Fire*, which Koussevitzky commissioned, featuring pianist **Yefim Bronfman** and Jean Sibelius' *The Origin of Fire*, which Koussevitzky and the BSO performed and recorded, programmed this year with baritone **Will Liverman**. Steven Mackey's *Urban Ocean* completes a program dedicated to Koussevitzky as a champion of new music.

On July 27, Nelsons leads Tania León's *Stride* and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique*, and is joined by pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** for Aram Khachaturian's Piano Concerto. Finally, on July 28, Nelsons conducts a Koussevitzky-themed BSO program that includes Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*, Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* with the TFC, James Lee III's *Freedom's Genuine Dawn*, and Aaron Copland's Piano Concerto with **Paul Lewis**.

Plus: Tanglewood Learning Institute Events, the TMC's Festival of Contemporary Music, and Ozawa Hall Recitals, and More July Events

In his new role as head of conducting at Tanglewood, Nelsons will lead **TLI Art of Conducting** workshops with **Hilary Hahn** (July 6) and with **TMC vocalists** (July 15). The series also features conductors **Dima Slobendouick** (July 11), **Thomas Wilkins** (July 22), **Great Conductors on Film** (also on July 22), and **Alan Gilbert** (August 2).

The end of July also offers the Tanglewood Music Center's annual **Festival of Contemporary Music**, this year co-curated by composers **Steven Mackey** and **Tania León** in tribute to Koussevitzky's legacy of commissions, with a wealth of diverse new music performed by TMC Fellows in Ozawa Hall and the Linde Center (July 26–30). Koussevitzky's life and work will be celebrated with a panel discussion organized by the Tanglewood Learning Institute on his 150th birthday (July 26).

Other July highlights include pianist **Conrad Tao** performing Bernstein's Symphony No. 2, *The Age of Anxiety*, in a BSO program conducted by **Dima Slobendiouk** that also includes Brahms' Symphony No. 3 (July 19); recitals in Ozawa Hall by **MILOS** (July 10), **Yuja Wang** (July 17), **Les Arts Florissants** (July 18), and **Gerald Clayton Trio** (July 21); Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, memoirist, and librettist **Tracy K. Smith** gives the first TLI Spotlight Series talk of the summer (July 20); the annual **Family Concert** at Tanglewood led by **Thomas Wilkins** (July 21); the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players** concert with pianist **Paul Lewis** that will be the final BSCP performance by Principal Flute Elizabeth Rowe (July 24).

For the full schedule of Tanglewood programs, June 20 through August 31, please visit tanglewood.org

* * *

How to Purchase Tickets

[Tanglewood.org](https://www.tanglewood.org) is the official site for all Tanglewood tickets.

Tickets also may be purchased by calling 888-266-1200 on Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 12:30–4:30 p.m.

Tickets for all Tanglewood concerts and events may be purchased from the box offices at Symphony Hall or Tanglewood during regular [Box Office hours](#).

Popular Artist tickets are available for mobile delivery or for Box Office-Will Call pickup only. Mobile tickets will appear on the purchaser's device five days prior to the concert. Will Call tickets may be picked up at the Tanglewood Box Office starting five days prior to the concert. There is a limit of eight tickets purchased per person (four for Brandi Carlile).

Accessibility Services

The BSO is committed to providing access to Tanglewood for everyone. For information about accessible seats, parking, programs, and other accommodations, call 617-638-9431, email access@bso.org, or [visit our website](#).

About Tanglewood

Tanglewood, one of the country's premier summer music festivals and summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1937, is in the Berkshire Hills of Lenox and Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Tanglewood is also the home of the [Tanglewood Music Center](#), the acclaimed summer music academy founded by Serge Koussevitzky in 1940. Launched in 2019 with the opening of the Linde Center for Music and Learning, the [Tanglewood Learning Institute](#) in collaboration with the newly announced Humanities Institute offer dynamic and leading-edge performances and events connecting audiences with musicians, artists, students, scholars, and cultural leaders through wide-ranging humanities-focused programs. Tanglewood also presents an annual [Popular Artist Series](#) in the Koussevitzky Music Shed (1938) and recital and chamber music concerts in Ozawa Hall (1997).

Sponsorship

The BSO is proud to welcome back [Genesis](#) as the Official Vehicle of Tanglewood and [Berkshire Health Systems](#) as the Official Health System of Tanglewood.

Press Contacts

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

Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist and Media Relations Lead (merikson@bso.org)

Rena Cohen, Publicist (rcohen@bso.org)

Formal Titles for BSO Conductors, Leadership, and Guest Composers

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

Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

John Williams, George and Roberta Berry Boston Pops Conductor Laureate

Thomas Wilkins, BSO Artistic Advisor, Education and Community Engagement and Germeshausen BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor

James Burton, BSO Choral Director and Conductor of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, Alan J. and Suzanne W. Dworsky chair

Tania León and Steven Mackey, The Merwin Geffen, M.D. and Norman Solomon, M.D. Festival of Contemporary Music Directors

Chad Smith, Eunice and Julian Cohen President and Chief Executive Officer

Edward Gazouleas, Director of the Tanglewood Music Center, endowed in honor of Edward H. Linde by Alan S. Bressler and Edward I. Rudman

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

[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

© 2007-2024 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](#)