



2024-25 Season



For immediate release  
Wednesday, February 5, 12 p.m.



 Boston Pops  Tanglewood  Symphony Hall



**Boston Symphony Chamber Players Perform at MIT's  
New Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building  
Sunday, March 2, 2025, 5 p.m.**

[Click here to reserve free tickets](#)



Cambridge, MA, February 5, 2025 – **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** presents a free concert by the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players** (BSCP) on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at 5 p.m. The performance is part of the inaugural season of concerts in the new Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building at MIT and will be among the first performances to take place in the new Thomas Tull Concert Hall. The concert is also a highlight of **Artfinity**, a large-scale campus-wide celebration of the arts at MIT featuring 80 free arts events open to the public. The program will include Keeril Makan's *Portal*, Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, and Johannes Brahms's String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat, Op. 18. Makan is a composer and MIT's Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and the Michael (1949) and Sonja Koerner Music Composition Professor, Music and Theater Arts at MIT. He wrote his brief *Portal* for wind quintet in 2012 concurrently with his opera *Persona*, resulting in the quintet's focus on melody and line.

The concert, to be led by BSO Assistant Conductor **Anna Handler** includes principal players from the BSO as well as guest pianist **Vytas Baksys**. The Boston Symphony Chamber Players, established in 1964 by Erich Leinsdorf, is made up of BSO principal string and woodwind players, enhanced via guest performers and other members of the orchestra.

Other performances among the 25 concerts in the new Thomas Tull Hall this inaugural season and part of the Artfinity arts festival include a public open house and concert celebrating the building opening featuring four world premieres of works composed by MIT faculty Harbison, Makan, Shadle, and Zenón, (Feb. 15); Kinetic Ensemble (Feb. 22); Grammy-winning saxophonist and MIT Professor Miguel Zenón (Mar. 14); Artfinity faculty co-lead and Institute Professor Marcus Thompson in the Boston Chamber Music Society (Mar. 16); and Grammy-winning rapper and MIT Visiting Scholar Lupe Fiasco with the MIT Jazz Ensemble (May. 2).

This concert marks the first by the Boston Symphony Chamber Players at MIT. Ties between the two institutions are strong with MIT students among the largest college attendees of BSO concerts at Symphony Hall with over 700 MIT students attending BSO concerts each year. The BSO's ongoing MIT associations include Institute Professor Emeritus John Harbison, many of whose orchestral works were commissioned by the BSO, and composer Tod Machover of MIT's Media Lab. Both Harbison and Machover will present work at Artfinity.

“With over 1500 students per year, music is deeply interwoven into the fabric of MIT. The new Linde Music Building enables the Music program to take partnerships with local institutions, such as the BSO, to new levels of impact for

the Cambridge community,” says **Keeril Makan**, MIT Associate Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

“We are honored to partner with MIT in offering a free performance by the Boston Symphony Chamber Players as one of the first public concerts in its new Linde Music Building. The addition of a state-of-the-art building on the MIT campus dedicated to music study and performance will create more opportunities for us to collaborate with each other and to serve the community, values that are at the heart of our mission,” says **Chad Smith**, BSO president and CEO. “Performing in this iconic new venue has special meaning to the BSO community, as Joyce and Ed Linde both served on our board of trustees (Ed as board chair) and were among our most devoted and visionary supporters. Our own Linde Center of Music and Learning, which opened in 2019 at Tanglewood, has immeasurably enhanced our ability to serve the Berkshires community and to offer year-round concerts and events just as this new building surely will do for MIT, Cambridge, and beyond.”

Photos available in an [online press kit](#)

## Program Details

### Boston Symphony Chamber Players

**Alexander Velinzon, Tatiana Dimitriadis, Glen Cherry, Lisa Ji Eun Kim,**  
violins

**Stephen Ansell and Cathy Basrak,** violas

**Blaise Déjardin and Oliver Aldort,** cellos

**Edwin Barker,** bass

**Lorna McGhee,** flute

**John Ferrillo,** oboe

**William R. Hudgins,** clarinet

**Richard Svoboda,** bassoon

**Richard Sebring,** horn

**Anna Handler,** conductor

**Vytas Baksys,** piano

Keeril MAKAN *Portal*, for wind quintet

Aaron COPLAND *Appalachian Spring*

–intermission–

Johannes BRAHMS String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat, Op. 18

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## How to Get Tickets

Tickets for the March 2 concert may be reserved [for free online](#). For tickets to other Boston Symphony Chamber Players concerts, [visit the BSO website](#).

## **Location and Transit**

Thomas Tull Concert Hall is located in the new Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building at MIT (201 Amherst St., Cambridge, MA 02141). It is next to the Kresge Auditorium

Paid parking is available in the Building W18 garage, located at 201 Amherst Street, for a flat rate of \$11. There is also street parking in the area on Memorial Drive and Vassar Street.

The #1 bus, which runs Massachusetts Avenue, stops in front of the building.

## **About the Boston Symphony Chamber Players (BSCP)**

One of the world's most distinguished chamber music ensembles sponsored by a major symphony orchestra and made up of principal players from that orchestra, the [Boston Symphony Chamber Players](#) include first-chair string and wind players from the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The Chamber Players present an annual four-concert series in Boston's Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory and perform each season at Tanglewood.

The BSCP was founded in 1964 during Erich Leinsdorf's tenure as BSO music director. The flexibility of the ensemble ensures that it can perform virtually any work within the vast chamber music literature, expanding their range by calling upon other BSO members or enlisting the services of guest artists, who have included such performers as pianists Thomas Adès, Emanuel Ax, and André Previn and vocalists Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, Dominique Labelle, and Dawn Upshaw.

## **About Music at MIT**

The Music program within the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences serves more than 1,500 MIT students who enroll in music classes each academic year. More than 500 student musicians participate in at least one of 30 on-campus ensembles. Music faculty hold Grammy Awards, Guggenheim Fellowships, and perform worldwide. The Music program at MIT welcomes all students, regardless of major, who wish to take subjects in music history and

culture, composition and theory, music technology, and performance. Through the study and creative practice of classical, jazz, popular, and world musics, the program offers students an experience that is intensely rich and uniquely MIT. A new Music Technology and Computation graduate program will begin in the fall of 2025 in partnership with the School of Engineering (SoE).

## **About the Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building and Thomas Tull Concert Hall at MIT**

Opening on February 15, 2025, the Edward and Joyce Linde Music building at MIT features the newest concert hall in the Boston area, the Thomas Tull Concert Hall. With 25 concerts scheduled for the inaugural spring 2025 season, the concert hall will present Grammy-winning jazz, classical, and rap artists, as well as faculty-led ensembles of student musicians, and solo performances by faculty and students. Flexible seating in the round provides seating for up to 390 audience members. The 35,000 square foot Linde Music building was designed by SANAA architects and features acoustics designed by Nagata Acoustics.

## **About Artfinity**

Artfinity is a festival of the arts at MIT featuring 80 free events across the performing and visual arts, celebrating creativity and community at MIT. The festival launches with the opening of the new Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building at MIT on February 15, 2025, continues with a concentration of events Feb 28-March 16, and culminates with the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts public lecture by 2025 recipient Es Devlin on May 1, 2025, and a concert by Grammy-winning rapper and Visiting Scholar Lupe Fiasco on May 2, 2025.

Artfinity features the work of MIT faculty, students, staff, and alumni, alongside guest artists from the Greater Boston area and beyond. All 80 events are open to the public, including dozens of concerts and performances plus an array of visual arts such as projections, films, installations, exhibitions, and augmented reality experiences, as well as lectures and workshops for attendees to participate in. With a wide range of visual and performing arts events open to all, Artfinity embodies MIT's commitment to the arts and the intersection of art, science, and technology. Artfinity is an Institute-sponsored event, organized by the Office of the Arts at MIT, with faculty leads Institute Professor of Music Marcus Thompson and Professor of Art, Culture and Technology Azra Aksamija.

All official Artfinity events are free and open to the public. More at [artfinity.mit.edu](https://artfinity.mit.edu).

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## Sponsorships

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