



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

2025–26 season

where music lives

For immediate release:

Wednesday, November 12, at 12 p.m.

**Boston Symphony Orchestra Presents *E Pluribus
Unum: From Many, One*, A Festival Celebrating the
American Experience (Jan. 8–Feb. 1)**

**The interdisciplinary festival spotlights a multiplicity of
American voices across musical genres, deepening
engagement through conversations with acclaimed scholars
and artists**

**BSO to perform 10 works by American composers, including
Barber's *Vanessa* (Jan. 8 & 10), Bernstein's *Chichester
Psalms* and Allison Loggins-Hull's *Rhapsody on a Theme by
Joni* (Jan. 15–17), an all-John Williams program featuring the
Boston premiere of his Piano Concerto with soloist Emanuel
Ax (Jan. 22–25), and BSO Composer Chair Carlos Simon's
Good News Mass (Jan. 29 & 31)**

13 events complementing January's BSO programs:

New! A pre-concert talk on *Vanessa* by Dr. Carolyn Abbate (Jan. 8)

New! Chamber music by Allison Loggins-Hull at the Boston Athenaeum (Jan. 13)

New! *On Being's* Krista Tippett in conversation with novelist Nicole Krauss at Temple Ohabei Shalom (Jan. 14)

A Boston Symphony Chamber Players concert with guest pianist Seong-Jin Cho (Jan. 18)

New! Three performances around Boston of programs for solo violin drawn from Johnny Gandelsman's anthology of commissions, "This Is America" (Jan. 21, 25, & 26)

New! An illustrated talk on American road trip photography at the Museum of Fine Arts with curator Karen Haas, photographer Amani Willett, and David Company of the International Center of Photography (Jan. 22)

New! Emily Wells' musical meditation *Regards to the End* at the Institute of Contemporary Art (Jan. 23)

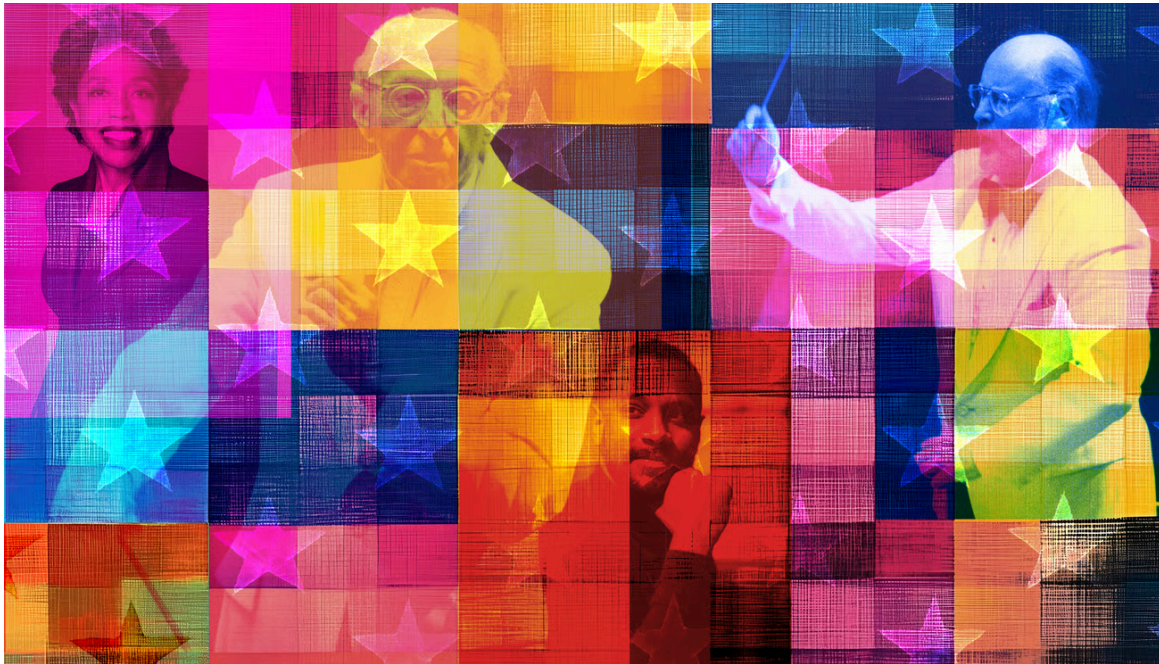
New! A pre-concert talk, *John Williams in the Abstract*, by Williams' biographer Tim Greiving (Jan. 25)

New! A live taping of the pop culture podcast *Vibe Check* with special guest Carlos Simon at WBUR CitySpace (Jan. 28)

Simon also gives a free "What I Hear" talk at New England Conservatory (Jan. 29)

American Road Trip, a recital with violinist Augustin Hadelich and pianist Orion Weiss at MIT's Thomas Tull Concert Hall (Feb. 1)

[Click here](#) for a 25-26 BSO press kit, including [performer and speaker photos and bios](#) for the *E Pluribus Unum: From Many, One* festival



This winter, the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) presents *E Pluribus Unum: From Many, One*, an ambitious monthlong festival showcasing the breadth of American music in celebration of the country's 250th anniversary (Jan. 8–Feb. 1). In addition to four weeks of BSO concerts centering music by American composers, the festival presents a variety of complementary events at venues throughout Greater Boston, including the Boston Athenaeum, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, Temple Ohabei Shalom, WBUR CitySpace, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and MIT's Thomas Tull Concert Hall. Performers and speakers at these events include musicologist **Carolyn Abbate** (Jan. 8), composer and flutist **Allison Loggins-Hull** (Jan. 13), authors **Krista Tippett** and **Nicole Krauss** (Jan. 14), the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players** with pianist **Seong-Jin Cho** (Jan. 18), violinist **Johnny Gandelman** (Jan. 21, 25, & 26), ICP creative director **David Company** (Jan. 22), multimedia artist **Emily Wells** (Jan. 23), author **Tim Greiving** (Jan. 25), BSO Composer Chair **Carlos Simon** (Jan. 28 & 29), and violinist **Augustin Hadelich** with pianist **Orion Weiss** (Feb. 1).

The *E Pluribus Unum* festival is part of a multi-year BSO celebration that embraces the plurality and singularity of American music and probes how the crosscurrents of the art form reflect and parallel societal change in our nation. The exploration continues throughout this season and next with BSO and Boston Pops concerts at Symphony Hall and Tanglewood.

Quote from Chad Smith, BSO President and CEO:

“We are thrilled to announce the BSO's *E Pluribus Unum* festival, our celebration of American history, music and ideals. *E Pluribus Unum, From Many, One* is a multi-season theme woven through programs on the Symphony Hall stage, across the Greater Boston community, and in the Berkshires. We are telling this story through the many voices that make up the tapestry of American music and that reflect its history -- from 20th-century giants like Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, and Leonard Bernstein, to contemporary trailblazers like Tania León, and our very own Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams and Composer Chair Carlos Simon. This theme is part of the BSO's new path forward, in which we'll be exploring the critical questions and topics that shape our collective experience, past, present and future, from American identity to faith to the environment. We hope you'll engage deeply and join us for many of these events.”

BSO Concerts at Symphony Hall

BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons opens the festival leading concert performances of Samuel Barber's opera *Vanessa* in collaboration with the Boston Lyric Opera with both the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** (prepared by guest choral conductor **Betsy Burleigh**) and the **Boston Lyric Opera Chorus** (**Brett Hodgdon**, conductor) and a stellar cast including soprano **Jennifer Holloway** making her BSO debut in the title role, mezzo-sopranos **Samantha Hankey** and **Anne Sofie von Otter**, tenor **Pavel Černoch**, baritone **Thomas Hampson**, and bass **Wei Wu** (Jan. 8 & 10). Known for his affinity for leading concert operas and vocal music, Nelsons conducts the BSO's first full performance of the Pulitzer Prize-winning work, which *The New York Times* lauded as “the best American opera ever presented” when it premiered to 17 curtain calls at the Metropolitan Opera in 1958.

The following week, Nelsons conducts Bernstein's life-affirming, Judeo-Christian-inspired *Chichester Psalms* with the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** (prepared by guest choral conductor **Jean-Sébastien Vallée**) and a BSO co-commission by Allison Loggins-Hull inspired by Joni Mitchell, *Rhapsody on a Theme by Joni* for flute and orchestra, with BSO Principal Flute **Lorna McGhee** making her solo debut with the orchestra. Superstar pianist **Seong-Jin Cho** returns to perform Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, a piece that was given its world premiere in Boston in 1875 (Jan. 15–17).

To celebrate one of America's greatest and most expansive composers, Nelsons leads an all-John Williams program (Jan. 22–25) with pianist **Emanuel Ax** performing the Boston premiere of Williams' Piano Concerto, which the [*Wall Street Journal*](#) praised for its "strong universal narrative that moved from near desolation to triumph" after its world premiere at Tanglewood in July. Violinist **Gil Shaham** joins the BSO for *TreeSong*, whose world premiere he performed at Tanglewood in 2000, and the theme from *Schindler's List*. The program also includes other selections of Williams' film music: "The Float" from *Catch Me if You Can* and the Suite from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

As part of both the *E Pluribus Unum: From Many, One* festival and the multi-season focus on *Faith in Our Time*, the BSO performs the Boston premiere of *Good News Mass*, a new co-commission by Composer Chair **Carlos Simon** that draws deeply on the gospel music he learned growing up in his father's church (Jan. 29 & 31). BSO Artistic Partner **Thomas Wilkins** conducts the expansive multimedia work, which includes narration by librettist and spoken word artist **Marc Bamuthi Joseph**, video by **Melina Matsoukas**, vocal contributions by soprano **Jekalyn Carr**, alto **Melvin Crispell III**, and tenor **Zebulon Ellis**, and gospel choruses prepared by **Dennis Slaughter**. Simon's Mass is paired with *poor hymnal*, another work of faith by contemporary composer **David Lang**. Inspired by the world of Charles Ives and the simplicity of New England hymns, Lang composed *poor hymnal* for the Grammy-winning vocal ensemble **The Crossing** (**Donald Nally**, artistic director), using a wide variety of texts to contemplate how we respond to those in need.

Complementary Performances and Conversations

Ahead of the BSO's performance of Barber's *Vanessa* (Jan. 8 & 10), acclaimed Harvard musicologist and opera scholar **Dr. Carolyn Abbate** leads a captivating pre-concert talk entitled "**Midcentury Modern Gothic**," exploring the opera's backstory and haunting contradictions (Jan. 8). Delving into the gothic elegance and midcentury modern sensibilities of Barber's work, which opened to rave reviews in 1958, faded into obscurity, and is now experiencing a renaissance, Dr. Abbate will trace its musical lineage and unpack how "American" identity emerges in sound and form.

In advance of the BSO performance of her piece *Rhapsody on a Theme by Joni* (Jan. 15–17), American composer and flutist **Allison Loggins-Hull** performs a program of her chamber music alongside a **BSO string quartet** at the Boston Athenaeum (Jan. 13). The evening features music for solo flute, string quartet,

electronics, and live effects across five genre-blurring works that reflect Loggins-Hull's inventive approach to narrative and sound. Deeply rooted in American experience and musical traditions, the evening's music features the poignant stories of refugees creating a new home, voices struggling to break through censorship, and remembering the perseverance of our ancestors.

On January 14, award-winning broadcaster, National Humanities Medalist, and *New York Times* bestselling author **Krista Tippett** (*On Being*) and acclaimed author **Nicole Krauss** (*The History of Love*, *Forest Dark*) come together to tape a podcast conversation exploring the intersections of Jewish identity, memory, and the creative spirit. Taking inspiration from Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* (performed by the BSO Jan. 15–17), this special evening at Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline considers how music and literature offer redemptive paths through history, loss, and the search for meaning.

For their first concert of the new year in NEC's Jordan Hall, the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players** offer the world premiere of Carlos Simon's *Gardner Suite*, a BSO commission inspired by six paintings from the collection of Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. The program also includes Valerie Coleman's *Rubispheres*, for flute, clarinet, and bassoon, which depicts the urban life and landscapes of two Manhattan neighborhoods, as well as Brahms' Piano Quartet in G minor with guest **Seong-Jin Cho** (Jan. 18) following his three performances with the BSO earlier that week.

Violinist, producer, and 2024 MacArthur Fellowship recipient **Johnny Gandelsman** gives three free solo performances at diverse community venues during the month of January, drawing on his "This Is America" anthology of music conceived in the summer of 2020, as COVID-19, destructive fires, police brutality, and political polarization were sweeping the United States (Jan. 21, The Brattle Theatre; Jan. 25, United Methodist Church, South End; Jan. 26, Vilna Shul, Beacon Hill). Gandelsman asked American and US-based composers to reflect on these tumultuous times by writing new compositions for solo violin. The resulting anthology of 28 works represents a snapshot in time, a representative slice of the creative thought and output in our country. Featuring a broad spectrum of musical genres and composition styles, "This Is America" is a collection of deeply personal experiences, exploring the universal themes of uncertainty, loss, isolation, joy, and love.

On January 22, **David Campany**, Creative Director of the International Center of Photography, gives an illustrated talk on the quintessential American experience:

the road trip. The midcentury innovation was made possible by a new interstate highway system connecting previously patchwork roads, the family sedan, and photographers seeking inspiration. In the process, they captured “the sublime and the banal” of an America you can find on the road. The **American Road Trip, Part I: Photography** event takes place in the Harry and Mildred Remis Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and features photographer **Amani Willett** and **Karen Haas**, Lane Curator of Photographs in a conversation about capturing American street scenes and how photography has evolved as a way to record the human experience. A ticket for this event includes admission to the MFA where an exhibit (“Faces in the Crowd: Street Photography”) that includes Willett’s work is on view in the Herb Ritts Gallery.

The BSO and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston co-present the first full rendering of ***Regards to the End*** by multi-disciplinary artist **Emily Wells** (Jan. 23). Offered as a one-night-only live performance at the ICA, *Regards to the End* is an evocative experience merging pop, chamber music, and visual art based on Wells’ 2022 album of the same name. Wells is joined by twelve BSO musicians, drummer and composer **Ian Chang**, and multi-instrumentalist and singer **David Baldwin** who together perform music integrated with video of early AIDS activism, clips of modern and contemporary dance, and captured moments of extreme climate events. Lit and designed by **Tuçe Yasak**, this immersive production examines artists working at the beginning of the AIDS crisis through a distinctly American lens and the lessons they may offer for today’s artists and activists, with a specific eye on climate action. The ICA/Boston is open until 9 p.m. that night, and a ticket to this event offers access to the galleries as well.

Prior to the final all-Williams BSO program on January 25, **Tim Greiving**, author of *John Williams: A Composers’ Life*, presents a substantive and entertaining tour of the many concertos, symphonies, and other concert works Williams has written in parallel to his popular film scores over the past 60 years. Greiving is the first biographer to write about John Williams, a larger-than-life composer and conductor whose personal life has remained very private. Through exclusive interviews with both Williams and his closest collaborators, Greiving brings to life a new perspective of one of America’s greatest composers. Titled ***John Williams in the Abstract***, Greiving’s talk illuminates how and why the language of his concert music is so markedly different from his film music—but also highlights the surprising DNA in common. Greiving will sign copies of his book following the 2 p.m. concert.

BSO Composer Chair **Carlos Simon** is a special guest for a live taping of weekly pop culture podcast **Vibe Check** at WBUR CitySpace (Jan. 28). Named one of the 10 best podcasts of 2022 by *The New York Times*, *Vibe Check* is hosted by author and poet **Saeed Jones** and theater producer **Zach Stafford**. Simon joins the hosts for a conversation on being a composer in America today and the development of his *Good News Mass*, a new BSO co-commission that draws deeply on the gospel music he learned growing up in his father's church. Musical selections from *Good News Mass* open and close the event.

Simon is also the featured composer in a January 29 “**What I Hear**” talk at the New England Conservatory's Brown Hall. In advance of the BSO's first performance of *Good New Mass* later that evening, Simon and BSO Artistic Administrator **Eric Valliere** discuss the composer's music and influences during a chamber music concert curated by Simon and featuring New England Conservatory students. “What I Hear” is an ongoing series of free events produced in collaboration with NEC to introduce audiences to composers working with the BSO.

The *E Pluribus Unum: From Many, One* festival concludes with BSO Artist-in-Residence and violinist **Augustin Hadelich** and pianist **Orion Weiss** performing selections from their 2024 CD *American Road Trip*, which traverses the American musical landscape of past and present from New England's Amy Beach and Charles Ives to John Adams and Daniel Bernard Roumain (Feb. 1). The program includes the world premiere of Carlos Simon's *Serenade*, a BSO commission. Hadelich described his approach to creating the album in a recent [Boston Globe](#) interview, sharing that American music “feels very much a part of me now, the way that I felt about German and Russian and French music when I moved to America.” The **American Road Trip, Part II: Chamber Music** concert takes place at Thomas Tull Concert Hall in MIT's new Linde Music Building.

How to Purchase Tickets

For tickets and additional information about these events, please visit [bso.org](https://www.bso.org), call 888-266-1200, or stop by the Symphony Hall Box Office ([see hours](#)). On sale dates vary for some events at some of the partner venues.

Admission to the pre-concert talks for *Vanessa* (Jan. 8) and the all-John Williams program (Jan. 25) is included with the purchase of a ticket to those concerts.

The three Johnny Gandelsman concerts are free, but advance registration is required on bso.org.

The “What I Hear” event at NEC (Jan. 29) is free and does not require advance registration, but space is limited.

E Pluribus Unum: From Many, One Festival Full Event **Schedule**

Note: Programs listed in the same color are intended as companions

NEW! Thursday, Jan. 8, 6pm, Symphony Hall

Vanessa: Midcentury Modern Gothic

Pre-show talk led by Harvard Music Department Professor Dr. Carolyn Abbate

Thursday, Jan. 8, 7:30pm, Symphony Hall

Saturday, Jan. 10, 8pm

BARBER *Vanessa*

Presented in collaboration with the Boston Lyric Opera

Sung in English with supertitles

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Jennifer Holloway, soprano (*Vanessa*)

Samantha Hankey, mezzo-soprano (*Erika*)

Anne Sofie von Otter, mezzo-soprano (*The Old Baroness*)

Pavel Černoch, tenor (*Anatol*)

Thomas Hampson, baritone (*The Old Doctor*)

Wei Wu, bass (*Major Domo/Footman*)

Alexandra Dietrich, stage coordinator

Tanglewood Festival Chorus

Betsy Burleigh, TFC guest conductor

Boston Lyric Opera Chorus

Brett Hodgdon, conductor

NEW! Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7pm, Boston Athenaeum

Allison Loggins-Hull and BSO String Quartet Present *Homeland*

Homeland

Ban

Persist

Homeland Remix

Rhapsody Remix

NEW! Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6pm, Temple Ohabei Shalom

On Being: Krista Tippett in Conversation with Nicole Krauss

On Jewish identity, cultural memory, and the redemptive power of art

Thursday, Jan. 15, 10:30am (Open Rehearsal), Symphony Hall

Thursday, Jan. 15, 7:30pm

Friday, Jan. 16, 7:30pm

Saturday, Jan. 17, 8pm

Allison LOGGINS-HULL *Rhapsody on a Theme by Joni*, for flute and orchestra (BSO co-commission)

BERNSTEIN *Chichester Psalms* (Jan. 15 & 17 only)

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Seong-Jin Cho, piano

Lorna McGhee, flute

Tanglewood Festival Chorus

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, TFC guest conductor

Sunday, Jan. 18, 3pm, Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

Valerie COLEMAN *Rubispheres*, for flute, clarinet, and bassoon

Carlos SIMON *Gardner Suite* (world premiere; BSO commission)

BRAHMS Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Opus 25

Boston Symphony Chamber Players

Seong-Jin Cho, piano

NEW! Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7pm, The Brattle Theatre

Sunday, Jan. 25, 4:30pm, United Methodist Church

Monday, Jan. 26, 7pm, Vilna Shul

Johnny Gandelsman "This Is America"

NEW! Thursday, Jan. 22, 6pm., Museum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium

American Road Trip, Part I: Photography

The Open Road and Street Scenes with David Campany, Imani Willet, and Karen Haas

NEW! Friday, Jan. 23, 8pm, Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA)

Emily Wells: Regards to the End

Boston premiere, co-presented with the ICA

Emily Wells, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist

BSO musicians

David Baldwin, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist

Ian Chang, percussion

Tuçe Yasak, lighting designer

Thursday, Jan. 22, 7:30pm, Symphony Hall

Friday, Jan. 23, 1:30pm

Saturday, Jan. 24, 8pm

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2pm

All-John WILLIAMS program

"The Float" from *Catch Me if You Can*

Piano Concerto

TreeSong, for violin and orchestra

Theme from *Schindler's List*

Suite from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Emanuel Ax, piano

Gil Shaham, violin

NEW! Sunday, Jan. 25, 12:30pm, Symphony Hall

John Williams in the Abstract

Pre-Concert talk by Tim Greiving, author of *John Williams: A Composer's Life*

Greiving will sign copies of his book following the Jan. 25 2 p.m. concert

NEW! Wednesday, Jan. 28, 6pm, WBUR CitySpace

Vibe Check Live with Special Guest Carlos Simon

Saeed Jones and Zach Stafford, hosts

Thursday, Jan. 29, 5:30pm, New England Conservatory Brown Hall

“What I Hear” with Carlos Simon

Eric Valliere, Moderator

NEC Student Performers

Thursday, Jan. 29, 7:30pm, Symphony Hall

Saturday, Jan. 31, 8pm

David LANG Selections from *poor hymnal*

Carlos SIMON *Good News Mass* (with video by Melina Matsoukas; BSO co-commission)

Thomas Wilkins, conductor

Jekalyn Carr, soprano

Melvin Crispell III, alto

Zebulon Ellis, tenor

Marc Bamuthi Joseph, librettist and spoken word artist

The Crossing

Donald Nally, Artistic Director

Gospel Choruses

Dennis Slaughter, guest chorus director

Sunday, Feb. 1, 3pm, Thomas Tull Concert Hall, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

American Road Trip, Part II: Chamber Music

IVES Sonata No. 4

Stephen HARTKE *Netsuke*

Daniel Bernard ROUMAIN *Filter*

Carlos SIMON *Serenade* (world premiere; BSO commission)

John ADAMS *Road Movies*

COPLAND *Nocturne, Ukelele Serenade, Hoe-Down*

BEACH *Romance*

Augustin Hadelich, violin

* * *

Sponsorships

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is grateful to our longtime Supporting Season Sponsors **Arbella Insurance Foundation** and the **Fairmont Copley Plaza**, our official hotel.

We are also delighted to announce that **Bank of America** has focused their longtime season support as the BSO Youth and Family Programs Sponsor, providing access to the arts with family-friendly programming throughout the BSO season.

Titles for BSO Artistic and Executive Leadership

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

Chad Smith, Eunice and Julian Cohen BSO President and CEO

Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

Thomas Wilkins, Artistic partner for Education and Community Engagement / Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

John Williams, Boston Pops Conductor Laureate

Press Contacts

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

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

Rena Cohen, Publicist (rcohen@bso.org)

More BSO News

For more news about the BSO and Boston Pops, [read our recent press releases](#) or follow us on social media.



[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

© 2007-2025 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 _t.e.s.t._@example.com by Boston Symphony Orchestra, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Symphony Hall, Boston, MA 02115, United States.

[View a web copy of this email](#)

Email Marketing by ActiveCampaign