

# BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2023-24 SEASON  
ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR



**For immediate release**  
June 27, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

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## **BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND ANDRIS NELSONS WELCOME NEW CONTRABASSOONIST SAMUEL WATSON**

**WATSON, AGE 20, WILL BE THE YOUNGEST CURRENT  
MEMBER OF THE BSO**

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The **Boston Symphony Orchestra** and Music Director **Andris Nelsons** are very pleased to announce the appointment of **Samuel Watson** to the Helen Rand Thayer chair as the orchestra's contrabassoonist. A Texas native, Watson succeeds former contrabassoonist Gregg Henegar, whose 30-year tenure with the BSO lasted from 1992 to 2022. Watson will first perform with the BSO during the opening night of the 2023–24 season on October 5, featuring works by Beethoven, Mozart, Maskats, and Strauss.

As an orchestral musician, Watson has worked with acclaimed conductors such as JoAnn Falletta, Ruth Reinhardt, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Marin Alsop, and Robert Spano. Prior to joining the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he held similar positions with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. Like his BSO predecessor Henegar, Watson studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music. His principal teachers were Barrick Stees, assistant principal bassoonist of the Cleveland Orchestra, and Jonathan Sherwin, contrabassoonist of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Watson, who joins the orchestra at the age of 20, will replace violinist Takumi Taguchi

as the youngest current member of the BSO.

[Click here for a photo and full bio of Samuel Watson](#)

**QUOTE FROM BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS:**

"I am so pleased to welcome Sam Watson to the BSO and look forward to working with him when he takes his seat at the start of our 2023–24 season in October. He is a remarkably talented young musician with a long, bright future ahead."

**QUOTE FROM NEW BSO CONTRABASSOONIST SAMUEL WATSON:**

"The Boston Symphony Orchestra has been a huge inspiration to me since I first started playing the bassoon. I am incredibly honored and excited to be joining this wonderful orchestra."

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