



For immediate release
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Boston Symphony Orchestra Names New Concertmaster

**Violinist Nathan Cole Will Become BSO Concertmaster at the Start of
the Tanglewood Season this July**



BSO Concertmaster Designate Nathan Cole (Photo credit: Todd Rosenberg)

The **Boston Symphony Orchestra** and **Music Director Andris Nelsons** are very pleased to announce the appointment of violinist **Nathan Cole** as the orchestra's new concertmaster. Cole will take the Charles Munch chair at the start of the BSO's 2024 Tanglewood season in July, becoming the orchestra's 11th concertmaster since its founding in 1881. Cole succeeds Malcolm Lowe, who retired in 2019 after serving for 35 years (1984–2019) in the prestigious role. Cole will be only the fourth BSO concertmaster in the past 104 years.

Cole has been first associate concertmaster with the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2011 and previously was a member of the Chicago Symphony and principal second violin of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. He has appeared as guest concertmaster with the orchestras of Pittsburgh, Minnesota, Houston, Ottawa, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon.

Statement from Andris Nelsons, BSO Music Director and Head of Conducting at Tanglewood:

The BSO and I are very happy to warmly welcome Nathan Cole as the next concertmaster of our great orchestra. We had immense pleasure collaborating with Nathan last January on Shostakovich's Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, and we look forward to embracing his leadership within the orchestra, exploring our joint musical values, and partnering on our artistic journey together to serve the great music both within and beyond our Boston community.

As concertmaster, Cole will play a central role in focusing the orchestral ensemble and achieving unity of artistic approach. He will sustain and help develop the unique qualities of the BSO's string section—qualities which have been the orchestra's hallmark for decades. In selecting Nathan Cole for one of the most coveted positions in the orchestral world following an exhaustive process of auditions, Andris Nelsons and the BSO believe they have found an outstanding leader who will carry the orchestra to even higher levels of achievement.

As part of an audition process starting last January, the orchestra welcomed a succession of highly accomplished guest concertmasters, including Cole who led the orchestra in both Boston and at Carnegie Hall in performances of Shostakovich's monumental 1934 opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, drawing praise from critics:

“The Los Angeles Philharmonic's Nathan Cole, this week's guest in the concertmaster's chair, contributed several silken, calculating solos.” (A.Z. Madonna, *Boston Globe*, January 26, 2024)

“Various instrumental solos—from guest concertmaster Nathan Cole, principal cellist Blaise Déjardin, principal oboe John Ferrillo, and English hornist Robert Sheena, particularly—stood out for beauty and intensity of execution.” (Jonathan Blumhofer, *Boston Classical Review*, January 26, 2024)

Cole will make his first appearances this summer at Tanglewood, where he will be featured prominently in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and will lead the orchestra in diverse repertoire over several programs. His first full season with the orchestra will include two performances at Carnegie Hall in April 2025 and at the Shostakovich Festival in Leipzig and in three other soon-to-be-announced European cities where the BSO will tour in May 2025.

In addition to leading the orchestra's violin section, Cole will be artistic director of the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players (BSCP)**, formed in 1964 and one of the world's most distinguished chamber music ensembles sponsored by a major orchestra. Comprised of principal players from the BSO, the BSCP will perform at Tanglewood with pianist **Paul Lewis** on July 24 and has five concerts scheduled in Boston next season.

Statement from Newly Appointed BSO Concertmaster Nathan Cole, Charles Munch Chair:

This opportunity to be the BSO's next concertmaster feels like something that I've been waiting for my whole life. When I auditioned with the BSO back in January, for me it was an immediate, warm feeling both from my colleagues in the orchestra and Andris on the podium. I loved the way that Andris spoke in terms of imagery and was really clear about the sound that he wanted. I felt that he left it to us and our creativity to decide how to get those sounds, but at the same time, he was very specific and persistent about what he wanted, and I loved that. I also felt great support from the orchestra, especially from my fellow violins.

Looking back, I feel fortunate to have known two people who held the position before me, Malcolm Lowe and Joseph Silverstein. Silverstein was one of my idols, and I grew up with many of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players recordings. Any time that I had to learn a piece, BSCP would have a recording of it with Silverstein leading, so I had his sound in my ear early on and was lucky to get to work with him before he passed away. He was extremely generous with his time and wisdom. He took himself seriously enough to continue working on his craft all the way through the end of his life. But I always got the sense that he

knew he was a custodian of the position, and that everything he did was for his colleagues and for the music, and that's something that I want to carry forward.

Meanwhile, I'm thrilled to be starting my tenure this summer at Tanglewood. It will be my first time playing there. My wife Akiko and I and all three of our kids are super-excited about the move to New England!

Statement from BSO Bass Musician Todd Seber, Eleanor L. and Levin H. Campbell Chair and Chair of the BSO Players' Committee

As only the fourth BSO concertmaster in the past 104 years, Nathan will be part of a distinguished legacy of violinists to put their stamps on this exceptional violin section, orchestra, and institution. The players look forward to his leadership.

More About Nathan Cole

Violinist Nathan Cole joins the BSO as concertmaster beginning in the 2024–25 season. As first associate concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2011, he was regularly featured as soloist at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl in repertoire spanning the 17th to the 21st centuries. Prior to this position, he was a member of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony. He has appeared as guest concertmaster with the orchestras of Pittsburgh, Minnesota, Houston, Ottawa, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon.

Cole grew up in a musical family in Lexington, Kentucky. His parents, both flutists, taught lessons in the home while his grandfather told stories about his years in the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy. Cole made his debut with the Louisville Orchestra at the age of ten while studying with Donna Wiehe; he studied a further eight years with Daniel Mason, a student of Jascha Heifetz. Cole attended the Curtis Institute of Music, where his primary teachers were Pamela Frank, Felix Galimir, Ida Kavafian, and Jaime Laredo.

Chamber music has long been an essential part of Cole's life. The Grancino Quartet, which he formed at Curtis, made its New York debut in Weill Hall. He participated for three summers at the Marlboro Music Festival, including national tours, and looks forward to leading the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. As an educator, Cole leads the orchestral repertoire program for violin at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, while his innovative online programs allow him to work with thousands of players around the globe. A collection of Cole's articles, videos, and courses can be found on his website, natesviolin.com.

Nathan Cole's bio and photo may be downloaded from our [online press kit](#)

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How to Purchase Tickets

Tickets for the 2024 Tanglewood season are on sale at tanglewood.org, the official site for all Tanglewood tickets.

Tanglewood 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 at the Symphony Hall Box Office during regular [Box Office hours](#). The Tanglewood Box Office will open for the summer on June 8 at 12 p.m. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Subscriptions to the 2024–25 BSO season are now available to purchase by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting bso.org; single tickets for 2024-25 concerts go on sale July 25 at 10 a.m.

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. Celebrated for its diverse programs, passionate performances, and tradition of innovation, the BSO is one of the world's most accomplished and versatile ensembles, attracting world-renowned guest artists and players, composers, and conductors. More information about the BSO and Andris Nelsons may be found at bso.org.

Titles for BSO Artistic and Executive Leadership

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

Chad Smith, Julian and Eunice Cohen BSO President and CEO

Thomas Wilkins, Artistic Advisor for 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

Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

Sponsors

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.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is grateful to our 2024-25 season sponsors including Lead Season Sponsor **Bank of America**, Official Vehicle **Genesis Motor America**, Official Hotel **Fairmont Copley Plaza**, supporting season sponsor **Arbella Insurance Foundation**, and winter season sponsor, **Turkish Airlines**.

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Symphony Hall | 301 Massachusetts Avenue | Boston, MA 02115 | [Box Office Hours](#)

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