



2024-25 Season



For immediate release
July 24, 2024, at 12 p.m.

Single tickets on sale Thursday, 7/25 at 10 a.m. for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's 2024–25 season through [BSO.ORG](https://www.bso.org) or 888-266-1200

Fall highlights of Andris Nelsons' tenth anniversary season include Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 8, a tribute to Ellington, premieres of works by BSO Composer Chair Carlos Simon and Tania León, and the return of Halloween Pops concerts

For opening weekend of the 144th season, Andris Nelsons conducts Lang Lang and Gina Alice Redlinger, Susan Graham, and Keila Wakao at Opening Night Gala (Sept. 19), followed by Cirque de la Symphonie with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops (Sept. 20), and a free Concert for the City (Sept. 21)

Violinist Nathan Cole will make his Symphony Hall debut as the BSO's newly appointed concertmaster on Opening Night



Single tickets go on sale Thursday, July 25 at 10 a.m. for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's 144th season (September 19, 2024, through May 3, 2025), Music Director Andris Nelsons' tenth anniversary season with the orchestra.

[Click here](#) for the BSO 2024–25 Season Press Kit

Fall 2024 Program Highlights

Opening weekend, September 19–21, showcases the breadth of the upcoming season, with performances by both the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops. Opening Night Gala includes mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham**, husband-and-wife pianists **Lang Lang** and **Gina Alice Redlinger**, and the winner of the BSO's 2023 Concerto Competition, **Keila Wakao**. The program features the first commission (*Festive Overture and Fanfare*) of the BSO's new Composer Chair, **Carlos Simon** in celebration of Music Director **Andris Nelsons'** tenth anniversary and the first official Symphony Hall concert with newly appointed Concertmaster **Nathan Cole** (Sept. 19). The weekend continues as talented circus performers tumble to the music of the Pops led by **Keith Lockhart** in

Cirque Goes to the Cinema (Sept. 20), and we once again welcome audiences across Greater Boston to Symphony Hall for a free **Concert for the City** (Sept. 21).

The 2024–25 season builds upon the BSO's legacy of commissioning and championing new music, reflecting "the sense of innovation that is at the core of the BSO," as CEO and President Chad Smith told the New York Times in [recent interview](#). Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Tania León** premieres BSO co-commission *Time to Time* for the season's second weekend (Sept. 26–28), and Assistant Conductor **Samy Rachid** and the BSO revisit **Michael Gandolfi's** *Ascending Light* (Oct. 10–12), first performed by the orchestra in 2015. Composer Chair Carlos Simon curates an all-American concert with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players on Sept. 29.

In early October, Nelsons conducts **Mahler's** ambitious Eighth Symphony, the so-called "Symphony of a Thousand" for eight soloists, large chorus, children's chorus, organ, and orchestra (Oct. 4–6). Other programmatic highlights this fall include **Franz Liszt's** dramatic Piano Concerto No. 2 with soloist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** (Oct. 24–26), a tribute to the groundbreaking **Duke Ellington** (Nov. 7 & 9), and Kevin Puts' song cycle *The Brightness of Light* with soprano **Renée Fleming** and baritone **Rod Gilfry** (November 21–23).

Thematic concerts with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops punctuate this BSO season. Pre-season Pops activity celebrates the music of John Williams, with ***Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert**** (Sept. 5–6) and ***A Grand Suite from Harry Potter*** (Sept. 7–8). For Halloween, organist **Brett Miller** provides live accompaniment to the 1922 silent horror classic ***Nosferatu*** (Oct. 30), and Lockhart and the Pops present ***Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert**** (Oct. 31, Nov. 2). The Pops honor Mexican tradition with their first-ever ***Día de Muertos*** (Day of the Dead) concert at Symphony Hall (Nov. 1).

The BSO continues to offer free events throughout greater Boston and the Berkshires, building community through music. In addition to the free **Concert for the City** (Sept. 21), the BSO also will offer **Community Chamber Concerts** in venues throughout the state (dates to be announced), participate in the Fenway Alliance's **Opening Our Doors Festival** (Oct. 14), and offer free tickets to High School Open Rehearsals and Youth & Family concerts to students and teachers from Boston Public Schools. As Yo-Yo Ma said in a [recent interview](#), "This belief

— that music is service — is in the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s founding DNA, and it’s a purpose that I see guiding the BSO today.”

Fall BSO Programs Under the Direction of Andris Nelsons

- **September 26–28:** BSO Music Director **Andris Nelsons** leads an all-American program including a world premiere of BSO co-commission *Time to Time* by the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Tania León** and *Wake Up: A Concerto for Orchestra* by inaugural BSO Composer Chair **Carlos Simon**. BSO Principal Clarinet **William R. Hudgins** is soloist in Aaron Copland’s Clarinet Concerto, contrasting with Samuel Barber’s soulful Adagio for Strings.
- **October 4–6:** For his first time at Symphony Hall, **Nelsons** conducts Gustav Mahler’s Eighth Symphony, the so-called “Symphony of a Thousand,” for eight soloists, large chorus, children’s chorus, organ, and orchestra. Soloists **Latonia Moore**, **Christine Goerke**, **Ying Fang**, **Mihoko Fujimura**, **Gerhild Romberger**, **Andreas Schager**, **Michael Nagy**, and **Ryan Speedo Green** are joined by the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** and the **Boys of the St. Paul’s Choir School** for this epic, oratorio-like work.
- **November 21–23:** Opening with two Mozart works (Overture to *The Abduction of Seraglio* and Symphony No. 36, *Linz*), Nelsons conducts a program highlighted by star soprano **Renée Fleming** and talented baritone **Rod Gilfry** performing Kevin Puts’ *The Brightness of Light*. A BSO commission composed for Fleming, the piece recounts the love story of painter Georgia O’Keeffe and her husband Alfred Stieglitz through music and projections by **Wendall K. Harrington**.
- **November 29–30:** Nelsons and the two summer 2024 Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Fellows, **Ross Jamie Collins** and **Na’Zir McFadden**, jointly conduct this concert of Norwegian and Finnish works. Argentine pianist **Sergio Tiempo** is soloist in the Norwegian Edvard Grieg’s fiery Piano Concerto, paired with the composer’s Baroque-inspired *Holberg Suite*. Two works by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, the much-beloved

Finlandia and late single-movement Seventh Symphony, complete the program.

Fall BSO Programs with Guest Conductors

- **October 10–12:** BSO Assistant Conductor **Samy Rachid** makes his BSO subscription debut in a program that opens with Berlioz's romantic *Waverly Overture* and features the glorious Symphony Hall Aeolian-Skinner organ. **Olivier Latry**, organist at Paris's Notre Dame Cathedral, performs in Michael Gandolfi's *Ascending Light*, a BSO-commission premiered in 2015 as tribute to Armenian culture on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Latry is also featured in Saint-Saëns' majestic Symphony No. 3 (*Organ*).
- **October 17–19:** Beginning with an Open Rehearsal on the 17th, **Xian Zhang**, Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony, makes her Symphony Hall debut leading Pulitzer Prize-winning Chinese-born composer Chen Yi's *Landscape Impression*. American pianist **Jonathan Biss** is the soloist in Robert Schumann's lyrical Piano Concerto. The program concludes with Mozart's elegant Symphony No. 39, the first of his final trilogy of symphonies.
- **October 24–26:** Italian-British conductor **Sir Antonio Pappano** conducts a powerful program opening with the American premiere of Hannah Kendall's *O flower of fire*, inspired by the work of Guyanese-British poet Martin Carter. French pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** brings dazzling elegance to Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2, which distills the turbulent essence of Romanticism. Richard Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*, with its immediately recognizable opening "sunrise," is a musical response to Friedrich Nietzsche's eponymous metaphysical novel.
- **November 7 & 9:** BSO Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor **Thomas Wilkins** conducts the BSO in a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of Duke Ellington's death. The program features three of his symphonically ambitious "Tone Parallels": *Three Black Kings*, *New World A-Coming* (with six-time Grammy-nominated pianist **Gerald Clayton** as soloist), and *Night Creature*, as well as selections from the composer's *Sacred Concerts*.

- **November 14–16:** Canadian pianist **Jan Lisiecki** is the soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K.466. Swiss conductor **Phillipe Jordan** conducts the dramatic concerto, in addition to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's poignant Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique*, the final work the composer completed before his death.
-

Fall Programs with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops

- **September 5 & 6:** Lockhart and the Pops present ***Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert****, accompanying the 2015 film with a live performance of John Williams' iconic score.
 - **September 7 & 8:** Actress **Paula Plum** narrates ***A Grand Suite from Harry Potter***, which recounts the story of “the boy who lived” using music from throughout the magical series.
 - **September 20:** In ***Cirque Goes to the Cinema***, the peerless artistry of the Boston Pops meets the athletic elegance of talented circus performers as they tumble and fly to a soundtrack featuring timeless tunes from the silver screen.
 - **October 30:** Organist **Brett Miller** provides live organ accompaniment to F.W. Murnau's 1922 genre-defining horror classic silent film ***Nosferatu*** (this program does not include orchestra).
 - **October 31 & November 2:** The Pops present ***Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in Concert****, which follows the earnest-but-misguided adventures of Jack Skellington, Halloween Town's beloved Pumpkin King.
 - **November 1:** In ***Celebrating El Día de Muertos – The Day of the Dead***, the Pops honor the Mexican tradition, which intertwines life and death in a beautiful tapestry of remembrance and reverence.
-

Fall 2024 Boston Symphony Chamber Players

The Boston Symphony Chamber Players open their 2024–25 season on Sunday, Sept. 29 with a special, non-subscription program curated by Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair **Carlos Simon**, drawing from the American canon.

The remainder of the BSCP's fall season will be performed at New England Conservatory of Music's Jordan Hall. On Oct. 27, pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** headlines a French program of Poulenc (the sonatas for flute, oboe, clarinet, with piano), Betsy Jolas (*Music for here*, for bassoon, viola, and cello), and Françaix (the Dixtour for winds and strings). New works by American composers **Kevin Puts** and **Adam Schoenberg** are planned for the concert on Nov. 17 that also features Britten's *Temporal Variations* for oboe and piano and Copland's perennially popular *Appalachian Spring*.

2025 Program Highlights

In January, Nelsons returns for a complete cycle of the **nine symphonies of Ludwig van Beethoven**, performed in order on consecutive programs for the first time since BSO Music Director Serge Koussevitzky did so in March 1927. To complement the BSO's musical programming, the newly established Humanities Institute will focus on the subject of “**Beethoven and Romanticism**” with specific surveys of the rise of heroic narratives, Beethoven's life and inspiration, and his redefining of the symphony for a new generation.

The Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 performances of Erich Korngold's late Romantic masterpiece ***Die tote Stadt*** build on Nelsons and the BSO's recent history of stellar opera performances. In this collaboration with the Boston Lyric Opera, *Die tote Stadt* will feature an extensive all-star cast headed by soprano **Christine Goerke**, tenor **Brandon Jovanovich**, baritone **Elliot Madore**, and the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus**.

On March 21 and 22, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair **Carlos Simon** curates “**Coltrane: Legacy for Orchestra**,” a specially designed program reframing some of jazz saxophonist John Coltrane's most influential works with new, lush orchestrations by Simon. In his BSO debut, **Edwin Outwater** will

conduct this program, accompanied by exclusive and recently-exhibited personal photographs of Coltrane.

In April and May, Nelsons revisits music by Dmitri Shostakovich that has featured throughout his tenure at the BSO, earning three Grammy Awards and a mountain of rave reviews. On a program with Shostakovich's Sixth Symphony on April 26 and 27, Nelsons, the BSO, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus will premiere a new work for chorus and orchestra by **Aleksandra Vrebalov** using the same forces as Stravinsky's choral masterpiece *Symphony of Psalms*. As part of these season-end concerts, Nelsons is also pairing performances of Shostakovich's symphonies with a concerto performance by acclaimed soloists: cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** in Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1; pianist **Mitsuko Uchida** in Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto; and violinist **Baiba Skride** in Shostakovich's First Violin Concerto.

As with the Beethoven symphonies in January, the Humanities Institute will spotlight this monthlong exploration of Shostakovich's music with “**Decoding Shostakovich**,” a series of curated events that will dive into the Soviet composer's biography and examine and contextualize the subversive references employed in some of Shostakovich's music.

For complete descriptions of 2025 programs, please visit [bso.org](https://www.bso.org)

How to Purchase Tickets

Subscriptions to the 2024–25 BSO season are now available to purchase by calling 888- 266-1200 or visiting [bso.org](https://www.bso.org). Single tickets will go on sale Thursday, July 25 at 10 a.m.

The Sept. 19 Opening Gala is a special fundraising event to benefit the BSO. For more information about attending this black-tie dinner and concert program, please contact our Development Events Office at bsorsvp@bso.org.

Details for how to reserve free tickets for the Concert for the City (Sept. 21) will be announced closer to the dates of these performances.

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens* in Concert and *Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* in Concert: Presentations licensed by Disney

Discounts and Special Ticket Opportunities

- BSO's highly successful [\\$25 tickets for people under 40](#) returns in 2024–25
- [College Card](#) and [High School Card](#) available throughout the season
- **\$10 Rush Tickets program**, offering significantly discounted tickets to concertgoers on the day of concert, continues for select performances throughout the year
- Discounts for health care professionals, members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, military personnel and veterans, and EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare Card holders
- **Open rehearsals**, for both the public and high school students, continue through the 2024–25 season. The dates for the High School Open Rehearsals are Nov. 27, Feb. 27, and Apr. 10. Open Rehearsals for the public are Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Jan. 16, and Apr. 3. All Open Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
- **A free Concert for the City** performance on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.

Statements from BSO Leaders

Quote from Chad Smith, Julian and Eunice Cohen BSO President and CEO:

“With Tanglewood off and running, it’s hard to believe that another season at Symphony Hall is right around the corner. But we have a lot to celebrate this season—Andris’ tenth anniversary with the BSO, and our first season with Composer Chair Carlos Simon—and all of these elements will be reflected in this season’s programming, beginning immediately with our Opening Weekend. From the Opening Fundraising Gala where Andris and the BSO will premiere the first composition of Carlos’ residency, alongside established and emerging guest stars; to the Cirque de la Symphonie concert, where Keith Lockhart will lead the Boston Pops in a program that will delight the young and young at heart; to the free Concert for the City, where Andris, Keith, and our Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins will perform a special program in collaboration with

our partners throughout the community—there's truly going to be something for everyone."

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

"My first ten seasons as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra have been among the most joyous of my musical career, and I could not be happier about the connections that continue to evolve and deepen within the BSO and between our musicians and our devoted listeners. In this upcoming 2024–25 Season, we are excited to present and discover a range of new works alongside repertoire deeply beloved by the orchestra and are excited to introduce our newly appointed concertmaster Nathan Cole to Symphony Hall audiences. The orchestra and I pledge our absolute commitment to sharing our love of music-making with our dear audiences.

"This season brings so much to nourish our senses, spirits, souls, and hearts, including Erich Wolfgang Korngold's extraordinarily beautiful opera *Die tote Stadt* and Gustav Mahler's colossal Eighth Symphony. The Boston Symphony Orchestra last performed the Mahler at Symphony Hall 20 years ago, and it is thrilling to bring all these musical forces—orchestra, choruses, eight soloists, organ—together again.

"We are also proud to honor the works of Ludwig van Beethoven through performances of the complete symphonies, presented chronologically in consecutive programs, as under BSO Music Director Serge Koussevitzky in March 1927.

"Dmitri Shostakovich's works reflect the deep complexities and abysses of human existence—from anguish and darkness to joy and hope—and his music resonates strongly with us and our times. After presenting the opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* earlier this year, the BSO's Shostakovich recording project—for which the brilliant musicians and recording team have won four Grammys—is nearing its completion. Nonetheless, the journey of discovery and rediscovery always continues, and I am looking forward to our Shostakovich programs at the end of the coming season, followed by a European tour and our participation in the wonderful and ambitious Shostakovich Festival in Leipzig together with the Gewandhausorchester in May 2025.

"This season I am also happy to honor some of our most beloved relationships with return appearances by Renée Fleming, Christine Goerke, Yo-Yo Ma, Baiba

Skride, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Mitsuko Uchida, and so many other wonderful artists. We are also excited to present several artist debuts and new works by gifted composers, such as Tania León, Aleksandra Vrebalov, and our new Composer Chair, Carlos Simon. We very much look forward to our continued collaborations with Carlos these next three seasons as we welcome him to the BSO family. This shared musical journey during this 2024–25 season is extremely meaningful to all of us, and so important for bringing our entire community together—our loyal subscribers, as well as many new concertgoers we are always sincerely joyful to welcome to Symphony Hall.”

Quote from Carlos Simon, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair:

"It's truly a privilege to begin the 2024–25 season as the BSO's inaugural Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair and become part of the Symphony's long history of music making. I am so looking forward to opening the season with a world premiere commission to celebrate Andris Nelsons' tenth year anniversary with the orchestra."

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](https://www.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 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**, and supporting season sponsor **Arbella Insurance Foundation**.

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)

[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](#)