

For immediate release Tuesday, July 22 at 12 p.m.

Tanglewood Program Highlights, August 2025

New to the Schedule: Heather Cox Richardson at Tanglewood on Parade (Aug. 5) and Paul Giamatti as celebrity guest on NPR's *Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!* (Aug. 28)



The 2025 summer season is underway at Tanglewood—the famed music and learning campus and summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, situated in the beautiful Berkshire hills of western Massachusetts.

The festival continues through August with a wide variety of concerts, speakers, and events including:

- Past, Present, and Future: What Is Music For?, a humanities series created in partnership with Yo-Yo Ma, encompassing four talks and four musical performances: a special Shed event with pianist Emanuel Ax, violinist Leonidas Kavakos, and violist Antoine Tamestit (Aug. 3); a Prelude Concert of French chamber music featuring Ma and members of the BSO (Aug. 8); Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 with Ma and the BSO led by Assistant Conductor Samy Rachid (Aug. 10); and Ma's guest appearance with the innovative string quartet Brooklyn Rider in their Ozawa Hall recital debut (Aug. 13).
- The returns of favorite BSO guest soloists including violinists Leonidas Kavakos (Aug. 2), Joshua Bell (Aug. 8), and Augustin Hadelich (Aug. 16), and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet (Aug. 17)
- The Tanglewood conducting debuts of Elim Chan (Aug. 2) and Andrés Orozco-Estrada (Aug. 8), the BSO debut of Assistant Conductor Anna Handler (Aug. 16), and the Tanglewood debut of the world-renowned choral ensemble The Sixteen led by Harry Christophers in an Ozawa Hall recital (Aug. 14) and Prelude Concert (Aug. 16)
- The TLI Spotlight Speaker Series, with talks by Yo-Yo Ma and Heather Cox Richardson (Aug. 2), Sebastian Smee, Sam Amidon, and Shahzad Ismaily (Aug. 9), and Vijay Gupta, Steve Lopez, and Lesley Rosenthal (Aug. 23)
- Continuing the season-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Maurice Ravel, the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, TMC Conducting Fellows, and TMC Vocal fellows presenting the composer's opera L'Enfant et les sortilèges in Ozawa Hall (Aug. 4)
- The annual Tanglewood on Parade, offering a full day of music and activities for all ages, culminating with a Shed concert showcasing the best of the BSO, Boston Pops, and TMCO led by Keith Lockhart, Elim Chan, Thomas Wilkins, Samy Rachid, and Na'Zir McFadden and featuring

historian **Heather Cox Richardson** as narrator in Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* (Aug. 5)

- Music for New Bodies, a provocative and moving new theatrical concertopera composed and conducted by Matthew Aucoin, staged by Peter Sellars in his Tanglewood debut, and performed by members of the American Modern Opera Company (Aug. 7)
- The ever-popular *John Williams' Film Night* curated by Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams and conducted by Keith Lockhart (Aug. 9)
- Tasting Notes: The Tanglewood Food and Wine Festival, offering refreshing wine samples and scrumptious morsels from the best local vendors. This special afternoon event takes place under the tent on the Highwood Manor House lawn (Aug. 16).
- A must-see Keith Lockhart 30th Anniversary Celebration with a lineup of favorite Pops guest artists including Ben Folds, Lynn Ahrens, Bernadette Peters, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Time for Three, Mandy Gonzalez, Guster's Ryan Miller, and Jason Danieley turning out to honor Keith's extraordinary impact and revisit highlights of his tenure (Aug. 22)
- The world premiere of Words and Prayers of My Fathers, a BSOcommissioned choral work for the Tanglewood Festival Chorus by Composer Chair Carlos Simon led by James Burton in a BSO program with the celebrated Zubin Mehta conducting Beethoven's Ninth in his BSO debut with soloists Federica Lombardi, Isabel Signoret, Pene Pati, and Ryan Speedo Green (Aug. 24)
- The addition of award-winning actor Paul Giamatti (*The Holdovers,* Sideways, Cinderella Man, John Adams) as celebrity guest on NPR's Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me! with Peter Sagal and Bill Kurtis (Aug. 28)
- The final musical performances of the 2025 Popular Artist series: rock and roll powerhouse Lynyrd Skynyrd (Aug. 30) and 2024 Kennedy Center Honoree and 13-time GRAMMY winner Bonnie Raitt (Aug. 31)
- **Prelude Concerts** performed by members of the BSO, TMC fellows, and special guests at 6 p.m. on Fridays (in Ozawa Hall) and Saturdays (in Studio E of the Linde Center), with general admission indoor and outdoor seating, free for ticketholders to that evening's 8 p.m. Shed performance
- A robust calendar of interdisciplinary humanities-focused programs through the **Tanglewood Learning Institute** complementing performances on

August Classical Concerts in the Shed: Acclaimed Guest Conductors and Artists

The first woman to win the prestigious Donatella Flick Conducting Competition, rising star **Elim Chan** makes her Tanglewood debut conducting Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 and Korngold's virtuosic Violin Concerto with acclaimed violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** (Aug. 2). TMC fellows perform a Prelude Concert with Bacewicz's Piano Quintet No. 2 and Shostakovich's Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57.

Chan returns on August 5 to conduct the evening *Tanglewood on Parade* concert alongside Boston Pops conductor **Keith Lockhart**, BSO Youth and Family Concerts conductor **Thomas Wilkins**, BSO Assistant Conductor **Samy Rachid**, and 2024 TMC Conducting Fellow **Na'Zir McFadden**, who made his BSO debut at Symphony Hall last November. The American-centric program includes music by Samuel Barber and Duke Ellington, as well as William Schuman's *New England Triptych* and Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* with historian **Heather Cox Richardson** narrating. Tchaikovsky's *1812* Overture concludes the program, with fireworks to follow (Aug. 5).

In a highlight of the season, a star-studded quartet comprised of pianist **Emanuel Ax**, violinist **Leonidas Kavakos**, violist **Antoine Tamestit**, and cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** perform a special Shed concert of Beethoven's music (Aug. 3). On the program are the composer's popular Trio No. 4 in B-flat for piano, violin, and cello, as well as Shai Wosner's transcriptions of his *Leonore* Overture No. 3 and Symphony No. 3, *Eroica.* This concert is a sequel to an all-Beethoven chamber program performed by Kavakos, Ma, and Ax in 2023 to a sold-out Shed.

Colombian conductor **Andrés Orozco-Estrada**, principal conductor of the RAI National Symphony Orchestra in Italy, conducts Dvořák's much-beloved Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*, in his Tanglewood debut. The inimitable **Joshua Bell** joins to play Lalo's spirited *Symphonie espagnole*, continuing the violinist's long history of summer appearances at Tanglewood, having performed there each year since 1989 (Aug. 8). The evening's Prelude Concert is an all-French program with special guest **Yo-Yo Ma** joining members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, **Samy Rachid** (playing cello), and pianist **Solon Gordon**. **Orozco-Estrada** also conducts the TMCO in a program of Carlos Simon's *Four*

Black American Dances, Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1, *Classical*, and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* alongside the TMC Conducting Fellows in Ozawa Hall (Aug. 11).

Following his highly acclaimed Tanglewood debut last summer, BSO Assistant Conductor **Samy Rachid** conducts a crowd-pleasing program featuring the American premiere of French composer Camille Pépin's *Un Monde nouveau,* Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3, *Scottish,* and Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 with **Yo-Yo Ma** (Aug. 10). It will be the first time at Tanglewood that Ma performs the cello concerto, the piece he performed with the Boston Pops in his 1971 Symphony Hall debut as a 15-year-old prodigy.

BSO Assistant Conductor **Anna Handler** makes her Tanglewood and BSO debuts the following weekend, conducting three major works from the Western classical tradition: Brahms' *Tragic* Overture, Schumann's Symphony No. 4, and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with GRAMMY-winning German-American violinist **Augustin Hadelich** (Aug. 16). Members of **The Sixteen** join TMC Fellows for a Prelude Concert featuring Palestrina's *Ave maris stella*, J.S. Bach's Lutheran Mass in G, BWV 236, and Aria from *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5, a 1938 work by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos that draws inspiration from Baroque counterpoint and Brazilian traditional music.

Perennial favorite **Dima Slobodeniouk** returns to Tanglewood to conduct three programs over the course of four days, beginning with Caroline Shaw's *Entr'acte*, for string orchestra, Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme with cellist **Jean-Guihen Queyras**, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 (Aug. 15). **Samy Rachid** conducts members of the BSO in a Prelude Concert performance of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du soldat*, with BSO President and CEO **Chad Smith** narrating. On August 17, superstar pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** joins to perform Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 on a program that also features two works by Sibelius (*Valse triste* and Symphony No. 3) and *Threnody*, an homage to the Finnish composer by William Grant Still. For his final program, Slobodeniouk will conduct the TMCO alongside the two TMC Conducting Fellows in two works inspired by dance (John Adams' *The Chairman Dances*: Foxtrot for Orchestra and Bartók's *Dance Suite*) and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 (Aug. 18).

Kazuki Yamada, Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, leads a program of Holst's iconic suite *The Planets* (Aug. 23) and Poulenc's emotionally evocative *Gloria* with the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus** and soprano soloist **Raquel González** in her BSO debut. The *Gloria* performance will be dedicated to Adele Addison, a Springfield-born soprano who debuted the work with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1961 and turns 100 this year. Please note this performance does not include a Prelude Concert.

For the BSO's final performance of the season, esteemed conductor and 1958 TMC alumnus **Zubin Mehta** makes his BSO debut and returns to the Shed for the first time since 2001 to conduct the customary Beethoven Symphony No. 9 with soloists **Federica Lombardi, Isabel Signoret, Pene Pati,** and **Ryan Speedo Green** and the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus.** The symphony is paired with the world premiere of *Words and Prayers of My Fathers*, a BSO commission for choir by Composer Chair **Carlos Simon**, conducted by **James Burton** (Aug. 24).

August Boston Pops and Popular Artists in the Shed

The Pops kicks off August at Tanglewood with *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert,* performing composer John Williams' venerated score live to the film. The concert will be led by **Damon Gupton** who is making his Tanglewood debut (Aug. 1). Members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra perform the evening's Prelude Concert with string quartets by Debussy and Beethoven.

Keith Lockhart and the Pops also take part in both *Tanglewood on Parade* (Aug. 5) and the ever-popular *John Williams' Film Night* curated by Williams, his predecessor as Pops conductor (Aug. 9). The Prelude Concert for Film Night, performed by TMC fellows, brings Sextet for Strings, Op. 10 by Erich Korngold, whose film scores influenced Williams, as well as Joan Tower's *Into the Night*.

Lockhart appears for a one-on-one conversation with Anthony Fogg for TLI **Talks** and **Walks** (Aug. 21) on the eve of *The Keith Lockhart 30th Anniversary Concert* (Aug. 22), which brings special guests Lynn Ahrens, Jason Danieley, Ben Folds, Mandy Gonzalez, Bernadette Peters, Guster's Ryan Miller, John Pizzarelli, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Time for Three, to celebrate the joy, connection, and unforgettable moments Keith has brought to our orchestra and our community since 1995. Video tributes and archival film, interspersed during the concert, promise a memorable night of musicmaking with Keith and his guests. The evening's Prelude Concert offers members of the BSO performing Reinecke's Trio for clarinet, horn, and piano, Op. 274 and Beethoven's Quintet in E-flat for piano and winds, Op. 16.

At the end of the season, *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!*, NPR's popular news quiz program, returns live with host **Peter Sagal**, judge-scorekeeper **Bill Kurtis**, and

award-winning actor **Paul Giamatti** as celebrity guest (Aug. 28). Nominated for an Academy Award in 2023 for his lead role in *The Holdovers*, Giamatti can currently be seen in Season 7 of Netflix's *Black Mirror* and will star opposite Julianne Moore in the forthcoming feature film *No One Cares*.

Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame band behind "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Free Bird," makes its Tanglewood debut. With a catalog of over 60 albums, billions of streams, tens of millions of records sold, and the introduction of Hell House whiskey, Lynyrd Skynyrd remains a cultural icon that appeals to all generations (Aug. 30).

Thirteen-time GRAMMY winner **Bonnie Raitt** returns to close the season. Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000, Raitt was also named one of *Rolling Stone*'s "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time" and "100 Greatest Singers of All Time." Known for her lifelong commitment to social activism, she was a Kennedy Center Honoree last year in recognition of her indelible impact on the nation's performing arts and culture (Aug. 31).

Please note that John Legend's concert on Sept. 5 has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. Refunds have been issued for tickets purchased through bso.org, tanglewood.org and our Box Office.

August Events in Ozawa Hall: Recital Series and Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra

Familiar to Boston audiences for his recent opera *Eurydice*, which was performed at Boston Lyric Opera in 2024, composer and MacArthur Grant Fellow **Matthew Aucoin** has a new staged song cycle, *Music for New Bodies*, which receives its first Tanglewood performance <u>following American Modern Opera Company's</u> <u>summer residency at Lincoln Center</u> (Aug. 7). Based on poetry by Jorie Graham, the piece is a meditation on our times as seen from the perspective of a cancer patient. Staged in collaboration with groundbreaking director **Peter Sellars** and the American Modern Opera Company, the cast includes soprano **Meryl Dominguez**, mezzo-soprano **Taylor Raven**, and tenor **Paul Appleby**. The Aug. 7 production marks the Tanglewood debuts of Aucoin, Sellars, Dominguez, and Raven. Tickets to the opera include free admission to a 6 p.m. "Meet the Makers" session in Ozawa Hall. The groundbreaking string quartet **Brooklyn Rider** makes its Ozawa Hall debut with a deft blend of traditional and new repertoire (Aug. 13). The quartet is composed of founding violinist **Colin Jacobsen**, violinist **Johnny Gandelsman**, violist **Nicholas Cords**, and cellist **Michael Nicolas**. Contemporary works by Reena Esmail and Jacobsen combine with Philip Glass's Third Quartet, based on music written for the 1985 biopic of the Japanese writer Yukio Mishima. Cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** helps close the concert with Schubert's sublime String Quintet in C.

Currently celebrating its 45th anniversary, the British vocal ensemble **The Sixteen** makes its Tanglewood debut, joined by founding director and conductor **Harry Christophers** (Aug. 14). The program, titled "A Deer's Cry," features sacred music by Byrd, Tallis, and Arvo Pärt, including the Estonian composer's mesmerizing *Nunc dimittis*. The performance is in conjunction with the ensemble's weeklong residency with the Tanglewood Music Center, in which members of the group also present a Prelude Concert with music by Palestrina, Villa-Lobos, and J.S. Bach (Aug. 16).

The **Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra** presents multiple programs in Ozawa Hall this August, highlighted by a performance of Ravel's whimsical opera *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* with the TMC Vocal Fellows (Aug. 4). A pre-concert talk with BSO Director of Program Publications **Robert Kirzinger** and TMC Head of the Vocal Arts **Dawn Upshaw** is free for all ticketholders to the opera. Additional performances feature guest conductors **Andrés Orozco-Estrada** (Aug. 11) and **Dima Slobodeniouk** (Aug. 18), who lead orchestral programs alongside 2025 TMC Conducting Fellows **Leonard Weiss** and **Yiran Zhao**.

August Humanities Programs by the Tanglewood Learning Institute (TLI)

Showcasing Tanglewood's prominence as a music and learning campus, the Tanglewood Learning Institute's schedule of humanities-inspired programs offers a rich array of programs, some in partnership with the TMC, including:

The annual TLI Spotlight Speaker Series, which begins with an exploration of 1803, the year of Beethoven's *Eroica* symphony, with Yo-Yo Ma and Heather Cox Richardson (Aug. 2), followed by a dialogue on *How Creativity Happens: The Student and Teacher Dynamic* with Sebastian Smee, Sam Amidon, and Shahzad Ismaily (Aug. 9). The series concludes with a conversation on music and service between innovative violinist Vijay

Gupta and award-winning journalist **Steve Lopez**, moderated by **Lesley Rosenthal** (Aug. 23).

- TLI **Open Workshops**, bringing top musicians and performers to give master classes to TMC fellows, continue with director **Peter Sellars** (Aug. 6) and pianist **Orli Shaham** (Aug. 13).
- TLI Presents: Letters to a Young Poet combining Rainer Maria Rilke's work of the same name with Ravel's only string quartet in a collaboration of the Parker String Quartet (in the group's Tanglewood debut) and Bill Barclay's Concert Theatre Works in Studio E (Aug. 2). Letters to a Young Poet is also the topic of "Meet the Makers" (Aug. 1).
- A TLI Presents world premiere featuring poet Aracelis Girmay, titled "An Experiment in Voices," produced in collaboration with Castle of our Skins and the Authors Guild Foundation (Aug. 9). Girmay also is the featured guest at "Meet the Makers" (Aug. 8).
- On Being Live: Will the Humanities Survive Artificial Intelligence?, a conversation on teaching and hope for the next generation with Peabody Award-winning broadcaster Krista Tippett and Princeton professor Dr. D. Graham Burnett, curated in partnership with Yo-Yo Ma, and in conjunction with his performance of the Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No. 1 the same day (Aug. 10).
- TMC Composition Fellows and musicians again collaborate on two presentations of the ever-popular TLI Silent Film Project (both on August 10). The Silent Film project will travel to the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline.
- Two TLI Presents concerts with internationally acclaimed tenor Nicholas Phan performing selections from his innovative "BACH 52" web series, pairing tenor arias from Bach's church cantatas with interviews with special guests Chad Smith (Aug. 16) and Dr. Lisa M. Wong (Aug. 18), with a "Meet the Makers" on Aug. 15.
- Two TLI Presents performances of "Play with Time" featuring the music of Philip Glass staged by Ensemble for the Romantic Century in collaboration with the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (Aug. 23 & 24, with "Meet the Makers" Aug. 22).
- Weekly Talks and Walks interviews continue with the BSO's VP of Artistic Planning Anthony (Tony) Fogg joined by special guests Andrés Orozco-

Estrada (Aug. 7), **Patrice Jackson** (Aug. 14), and **Keith Lockhart** (Aug. 21).

• **TLI Audubon tours** through the Tanglewood grounds and **TLI Focal Point** workshops, offering hands-on instruction in smartphone and DSLR photography, continue in August.

Other Events

Later this August, Tanglewood presents *Tasting Notes: The Tanglewood Wine and Food Festival*, a special event under the tent on the Highwood Manor House lawn on Saturday, Aug. 16 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy tastes of wines from near and far with deep roots in the world of music, curated by Lenox's own Dare Bottleshop & Provisions. These wines will be paired with complementary bites from the best restaurants throughout the Berkshires like Cello and Doctor Sax House. Tickets to the festival are available at <u>bso.org</u> and include access to the Aug. 16 BSO Open Rehearsal beginning at 10:30 a.m. with conductor **Dima Slobodeniouk** and piano soloist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**.

The BSO once again collaborates with **Mill Town Foundation** for this summer's <u>**Common Ground Festival**</u>, Saturday, August 23 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Bosquet Mountain in Pittsfield, MA. Uniting the Berkshire community with a celebration focused on the arts, music, and outdoor activities, the free event will include a performance by BSO musicians and an instrument playground.

Boston University Tanglewood Institute offers four concerts this August: two free performances by their Young Artists Wind Ensemble (Aug. 3, 1:30 p.m.) and Young Artists Chorus (Aug. 9, 1:30 p.m.), and two ticketed performances by their Young Artists Orchestra (Aug. 2 & 16, 1:30 p.m.). 2024 TMC fellow **Na'Zir McFadden** leads the August 2 program, which features Price's Concert Overture No. 2 and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5.

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How to Buy Tickets

<u>Tanglewood.org</u> is the official site for all Tanglewood tickets. 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. or at the Tanglewood box office (click here for hours).

Tanglewood offers discounts for patrons under 40, military personnel and veterans, members of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and groups of 15 or more (<u>click here</u> for more information). Tanglewood is pleased to offer free lawn tickets to any children under the age of 18. Up to four free children's tickets are available per parent/legal guardian per concert (eligible for BSO, Boston Pops, and Tanglewood Music Center performances).

Accessibility Services

The BSO is committed to providing access to Tanglewood for everyone. For information about accessible seats, parking, programs, and other accommodations, call 617-638-9431, email <u>access@bso.org</u>, or <u>visit our website</u>.

About Tanglewood

Tanglewood, one of the country's premier summer music festivals and summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1937, is in the Berkshire Hills of Lenox and Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Tanglewood is also the home of the <u>Tanglewood Music Center</u>, the acclaimed summer music academy founded by Serge Koussevitzky in 1940. Launched in 2019 with the opening of the Linde Center for Music and Learning, the <u>Tanglewood Learning Institute</u> in collaboration with the newly announced Humanities Institute offer dynamic and leading-edge performances and events connecting audiences with musicians, artists, students, scholars, and cultural leaders through wide-ranging humanities-focused programs. Tanglewood also presents an annual <u>Popular Artist Series</u> in the Koussevitzky Music Shed (1938) and recital and chamber music concerts in Ozawa Hall (1997).

Sponsorships

The BSO is proud to welcome back <u>Genesis</u> as the Official Vehicle of Tanglewood and <u>Berkshire Health Systems</u> as the Official Health System of Tanglewood.

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More BSO News

For more news about the BSO and Boston Pops, <u>read our recent press</u> <u>releases</u> or follow us on social media.



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