

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2023–24 SEASON
ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR



For immediate release
January 18, 2024, 12 p.m.

YOUNG STAR SOLOISTS TAKE THE STAGE FOR BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA DEBUTS THIS FEBRUARY

*27-year-old American violinist **Randall Goosby** plays Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 (Feb. 2 & 3) and 19-year-old South Korean pianist **Yunchan Lim** performs Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 (Feb. 15–18)*

*Other highlights include acclaimed conductor **Karina Canellakis** (Feb. 8–10) leading Bartók's opera Bluebeard's Castle with mezzo-soprano **Karen Cargill** and bass-baritone **Johannes Martin Kränzle** and Haydn's Cello Concerto in C with celebrated cellist **Alisa Weilerstein***

This February, the Boston Symphony Orchestra welcomes two young superstar soloists who will make their BSO debuts: **Randall Goosby** playing Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 with BSO Music Director **Andris Nelsons** (Feb. 2 & 3) and **Yunchan Lim** performing Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with guest conductor **Tugan Sokhiev** (Feb. 15–18). Both soloists first made splashes by becoming the youngest ever to win prestigious music prizes at the time of their victories: Goosby won top prize at the Sphinx Concerto Competition in 2010 and Lim won the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2022.

Another February highlight is the return of internationally acclaimed American conductor **Karina Canellakis** (Feb. 8–10), who will lead a concert performance of

Béla Bartók's chilling one-act opera *Bluebeard's Castle*. German bass-baritone **Johannes Martin Kränzle** (a BSO debut) and Scottish mezzo-soprano **Karen Cargill** play the cruel duke Bluebeard and his inquisitive new wife Judith as they explore Bluebeard's secretive past through seven haunting castle rooms, brought to life by Bartók's thrilling orchestration. Canellakis will also conduct Joseph Haydn's playful Cello Concerto in C with 2011 MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient **Alisa Weilerstein**, performing as a soloist with the BSO for the first time since 2017.

[Click here for a press kit with photos and bios of guest artists and program listings](#)

Feb. 2 & 3: Andris Nelsons Conducts Smyth's Overture to *The Wreckers*, Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5, *Reformation*.

The last Symphony Hall program led by BSO Music Director **Andris Nelsons** until early April spotlights American virtuoso violinist **Randall Goosby**, First Prize Winner in the 2018 Young Concert Artists International Auditions ([see video](#)) as well as winner of the 2010 Sphinx Concerto Competition. Known for both his sensitive musicianship and his education and outreach work, Goosby makes his BSO debut with **Max Bruch**'s romantic Violin Concerto No. 1, a staple of solo violin repertoire. The program opens with the overture to the 1906 opera *The Wreckers* by English composer and suffragist **Dame Ethel Smyth** and closes with **Felix Mendelssohn**'s Symphony No. 5, *Reformation*, which celebrates the Protestant reformation and quotes the familiar hymn "Ein feste Burg."

Feb. 8–10: Karina Canellakis Conducts Haydn's Cello Concerto in C and a Concert Performance of Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*

A 2014 graduate of the Tanglewood Music Center and chief conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, acclaimed guest conductor **Karina Canellakis** made her Symphony Hall with the BSO debut last year, garnering praise for her "clarity, control, and balance" ([Boston Globe](#)). She returns to conduct a concert performance of **Béla Bartók**'s only opera, the dark psychological drama *Bluebeard's Castle*. Inspired by a French folktale, the one-act opera features Scottish mezzo-soprano **Karen Cargill**, German bass-baritone **Johannes Martin Kränzle** (BSO debut), and narrator **Jeremiah Kissel**. It will be sung in Hungarian with English supertitles. Bartók's dramatic orchestration is paired with Joseph Haydn's playful Cello Concerto in C, performed by **Alisa Weilerstein**, one of the foremost cellists of our time. One of Weilerstein's latest projects, "FRAGMENTS," is a multisensory

reimagining of Bach's cello suites, which she performed last summer at Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall.

Feb. 15–18: Tugan Sokhiev Conducts Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with Soloist Yunchan Lim and Chausson's Symphony in B-flat

19-year-old South Korean star pianist **Yunchan Lim** makes his BSO debut playing **Sergei Rachmaninoff's** Concerto No. 3. Lim's now world-famous performance of the virtuosic concerto at the 2022 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition earned him a gold medal, making him the youngest gold medalist in the competition's history, and has [gone viral on YouTube](#) with more than 13.5 million views. He is joined by internationally renowned conductor **Tugan Sokhiev**, who is music director at the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse. Sokhiev also conducts **Ernest Chausson's** passionate Symphony in B-flat, a favorite of former BSO Music Director Charles Munch, composed in 1890 and last performed by the BSO in 1993.

COMPLETE PROGRAM DETAILS, FEB. 2–18

*BSO debut

Friday, February 2, 1:30 p.m.^

Saturday, February 3, 8 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Randall Goosby, violin*

SMYTH Overture to *The Wreckers*

BRUCH Violin Concerto No. 1

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 5, *Reformation*

^Friday Preview talk by former longtime BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel, 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.^

Friday, February 9, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 10, 8 p.m.

Karina Canellakis, conductor

Alisa Weilerstein, cello

Karen Cargill, mezzo-soprano

Johannes Martin Kränzle, bass-baritone*

Jeremiah Kessel, narrator

HAYDN Cello Concerto in C

BARTÓK *Bluebeard's Castle*

Concert performance; sung in Hungarian with English supertitles

^Friday preview talk by scholar and writer Lucy Caplan, 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 16, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 17, 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 18, 2 p.m.

Tugan Sokhiev, conductor

Yunchan Lim, piano*

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3

CHAUSSON Symphony in B-flat

* * *

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