BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

REUNITING IN CONCERT

2021 • 2022 SEASON ANDRIS NELSONS MUSIC DIRECTOR

SEIJI OZAWA MUSIC DIRECTOR LAUREATE

BERNARD HAITINK
CONDUCTOR EMERITUS

THOMAS ADÈS ARTISTIC PARTNER





DEAREST FRIENDS

We are so happy to invite you back to Symphony Hall for the BSO's 2021–22 season and return to our devoted music community. This is a moment we have been longing to celebrate for quite some time—when the musicians of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and I reunite with our devoted audiences. Our time apart has served to strengthen our appreciation not only for music as a necessary source of reflection, inspiration, comfort, and growth, but also for the vital energy we share with our audiences during each and every concert. The prospect of once again sharing music with you fills us with great joy and anticipation.

So many of music's spiritual gifts, including its power to connect us with friends and strangers alike, await us throughout the upcoming season, my eighth as music director. We are especially excited about this season's wide and beautiful palette of music.

The celebratory tone of the season is set with our opening concert, as Anne-Sophie Mutter performs a new violin concerto by John Williams. The first work on that program is Beethoven's *Consecration of the House* overture, which is sure to carry a special significance for everyone present. In the spring, our beloved Tanglewood Festival Chorus will be reunited with the BSO for the first time since March 2020, singing Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* and Britten's *War Requiem*.

In the coming season, my BSO conductor colleagues Thomas Wilkins, Thomas Adès, and Anna Rakitina bring their distinctive musical gifts to the Symphony Hall podium. Other highlights include Berg's Wozzeck, our continued exploration of Shostakovich, six works by Richard Strauss, and the start of a Beethoven piano concerto performance cycle with Mitsuko Uchida. Familiar masterworks will be presented alongside world and American premieres by important composers of our time—including Julia Adolphe, Unsuk Chin, HK Gruber, Bernard Rands, Kaija Saariaho, and Jörg Widmann. Many gifted and acclaimed vocalists, instrumentalists, and conductors will be joining us, with some making exciting debuts and others making highly anticipated return visits.

We also welcome Gail Samuel, who became the new President and CEO of the BSO in June. Gail brings a wealth of experience, a great passion for music and community, and a distinctive and creative approach to collaboration.

As we settle back into the routines of daily life, I believe we must seek out and treasure the activities that bring deep meaning to our lives and nurture our souls. This is how I feel about the return to concertizing with the BSO before its wonderful audiences, who have sustained us in so many vital ways during this past year and always. We are deeply grateful to you, as your support is crucial to the future of the BSO and its music-making.

We are counting the days until we reunite with you at Symphony Hall this fall.

With warm wishes,

Andrs Nelson

Andris Nelsons

Ray and Maria Stata Music Director



REUNITING IN CONCERT WITH ANDRIS NELSONS

Welcoming back live audiences to Symphony Hall after more than a year's absence, Music Director Andris Nelsons leads 13 of the 24 programs in the 2021–2022 season. The season begins with a concert shared with Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams, who leads Anne-Sophie Mutter in his own Violin Concerto No. 2 in its first Boston performances. Maestro Nelsons and the BSO perform Beethoven's *Consecration of the House* Overture, the first work ever performed by the BSO in 1881, and the BSO's most enduring commissioned work, Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra. Andris Nelsons' season also includes the culmination a multi-season exploration Richard Strauss's music as part of a recording project; a concert performance of Alban Berg's great opera *Wozzeck*; and collaborations with some of the great solo artists of the world, including Mitsuko Uchida performing Beethoven concertos in the first program of a multi-year collaboration. The wide-ranging programs feature exciting world premieres by Julia Adolphe, HK Gruber, Kaija Saariaho, and Bernard Rands, and American premieres by Unsuk Chin, and Jörg Widmann. The season also features debuts and welcome returns of many of the world's outstanding guest conductors.

CONCERTS WITH OTHER BELOVED CONDUCTORS

BSO Artistic Advisor for Education and Community Engagement Thomas Wilkins leads composer and electric bass virtuoso Victor Wooten's *La Lección Tres* for electric bass and orchestra, with the composer as soloist alongside works by Coleridge-Taylor and Ellington. Assistant Conductor Anna Rakitina conducts music of Ellen Reid and Sibelius in her first live-audience Symphony Hall program also featuring the BSO debut of Tchaikovsky Piano Competition gold medalist Alexandre Kantorow. BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès and soloist Kirill Gerstein reprise Adès's highly acclaimed Concerto for Piano and Orchestra on a program with works by Berg and Ravel.

THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS RETURNS

The Tanglewood Festival Chorus, James Burton, conductor makes a triumphant return to performing with the BSO in two major works: Janácek's *Glagolitic Mass* in February and, along with the Boston Symphony Children's Choir, Britten's *War Requiem* in March to celebrate the work's 60th anniversary. Soprano Albina Shagimuratova, tenor Ian Bostridge, and baritone Matthias Goerne are soloists in this work that was given its American premiere by the BSO at Tanglewood in 1963. As was conceived for the work's first performances, the soloists in this performance represent the warring powers of Russia, England, and Germany.



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Thursday, September 30, 8pm Saturday, October 2, 8pm Andris Nelsons and John Williams, conductors Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin BEETHOVEN Overture, The Consecration of John WILLIAMS Violin Concerto No. 2 BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra

Led by both Music Director Andris Nelsons and Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams, the BSO presents a special pair of concerts to welcome back live audiences to Symphony Hall after a nearly 20-month absence. Opening the concert, Mr. Nelsons leads Beethoven's Consecration of the House Overture, the first work ever performed by the BSO in 1881. Mr. Williams then takes the podium for the first Boston performances of his own Violin Concerto No. 2, written for superstar violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, which she premiered at Tanglewood in 2021. Completing the program is Bartók's uniquely dramatic Concerto for Orchestra, one of the BSO's most famous commissions, originally premiered by Serge Koussevitzky in 1944.

Thursday, October 7, 8pm Friday, October 8, 1:30pm Saturday, October 9, 8pm Tuesday, October 12, 8pm **Andris Nelsons, conductor** Lucas and Arthur Jussen, pianos STRAUSS 'Love Scene' from Feuersnot STRAUSS Death and Transfiguration MOZART Concerto in E-flat for two pianos, K.365 Andris Nelsons is joined by the Dutch brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen for Mozart's Concerto in E-flat for two pianos. Mozart probably wrote this elegant and brilliant concerto for himself and his sister Nännerl to play in about 1779; they had been performing together as siblings since early childhood. Maestro Nelsons continues his multi-season exploration of Richard Strauss's music with both the BSO and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. A rarely heard scene from the composer's legend-based 1901 opera Feuersnot music not performed by the BSO since 1911—opens the program, followed by the composer's beautiful and profound symphonic poem Death and Transfiguration.

Thursday, October 14, 8pm Friday, October 15, 1:30pm Saturday, October 16, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor Lisa Batiashvili, violin STILL Threnody: In Memory of Jan Sibelius STRAUSS Symphonic Fantasy on Die Frau ohne Schatten SIBELIUS Violin Concerto

Acclaimed Georgian violinist Lisa Batiashvili returns to Symphony Hall for performances of Jean Sibelius's Violin Concerto. A violinist himself, Sibelius employed his distinctive, Finnish folk music-influenced style in this fiery and lyrical concerto, the final version of which was premiered under Richard Strauss's direction in 1905. Strauss's own Symphonic Fantasy on Die Frau ohne Schatten ("Woman Without a Shadow") is a 1946 distillation of his fabulist 1919 opera; the BSO hasn't played music from the opera since the 1960s under Erich Leinsdorf. The concert opens with the great American composer William Grant Still's Threnody: In Memoriam Jan Sibelius, composed in 1965. Though from very different traditions, Still and Sibelius were known to admire one another's music.

Tuesday, October 19, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor STILL Threnody: In Memory of Jan Sibelius STRAUSS Symphonic Fantasy on Die Frau ohne Schatten BARTÓK Concerto for Orchestra

Andris Nelsons and the BSO continue their multi-season focus on music of Richard Strauss with his own Symphonic Fantasy on Die Frau ohne Schatten ("Woman Without a Shadow"), a 1946 orchestral distillation of his fabulist 1919 opera. The BSO hasn't played music from the opera since the 1960s under Erich Leinsdorf. The concert opens with the great American composer William Grant Still's Threnody: In Memoriam Jan Sibelius, composed in 1965. Though from very different traditions, Still and Sibelius were known to admire one another's music. Closing this single-concert program is perhaps the BSO's most famous commissioned work: Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra, music premiered by the BSO under Serge Koussevitzky's direction in December 1944.

Thursday, October 21, 8pm Friday, October 22, 1:30pm Saturday, October 23, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor Sofia GUBAIDULINA The Light of the End **RACHMANINOFF Symphony No. 3**

This all-Russian program led by Andris Nelsons opens with a BSO-commissioned piece by Sofia Gubaidulina, premiered by the orchestra under Kurt Masur's direction in 2003. The work's uniquely colorful harmonies and instrumental colors create its expressive drama. The title refers to the bright sound of antique cymbals at its conclusion. These performances celebrate Sofia Gubaidulina's 90th birthday on October 24, 2021.

Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 3 dates from 1936, falling between the Paganini Rhapsody for piano and orchestra and Symphonic Dances. Like those works, the symphony is characterized by scintillating orchestration and Rachmaninoff's noted gift for long-spun melody and compelling musical narrative.









Thursday, October 28, 8pm Friday, October 29, 8pm (Casual Friday) Saturday, October 30, 8pm Sunday, October 31, 3pm Thomas Wilkins, conductor Victor Wooten, electric bass COLERIDGE-TAYLOR Suite from the ballet Hiawatha Victor WOOTEN La Lección Tres, for electric bass and orchestra **ELLINGTON Suite from The River**

BSO Artistic Advisor for Education and Community Engagement Conductor Thomas Wilkins is joined by composer and electric bass virtuoso Victor Wooten making his BSO debut. A multi-Grammy winner consistently ranked among the greatest bassists in the world, Wooten puts his own eclectic chops to the test in his concerto La Lección Tres, which continues the musical-philosophical journey of his book *The Music Lesson*. Anglo African composer Samuel Coleridge Taylor came to international prominence with his 1898 cantata on Longfellow's epic poem The Song of Hiawatha. In 1912, Coleridge-Taylor recast this popular work as a ballet score; it was his last completed piece. Duke Ellington's 1970 ballet The River, commissioned by the American Ballet Theatre for choreographer Alvin Ailey, follows an allegorical river's changing nature from its source to the sea—i.e., from birth to "the heavenly anticipation of rebirth.

Thursday, November 4, 8pm Friday, November 5, 1:30pm Saturday, November 6, 8pm Dima Slobodeniouk, conductor Beatrice Rana, piano TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1 DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 7

Exciting Italian pianist Beatrice Rana plays the towering Piano Concerto No. 1 in her BSO debut in concerts led by Russian conductor Dima Slobodeniouk. One of the most popular and evergreen concertos in the repertoire, Tchaikovsky's piece never fails to please with its combination of virtuoso fireworks and soaring melody. The concert concludes with Dvořák's darkly majestic Symphony No. 7, which reveals both his love for his native Bohemia and the influence of his mentor, Johannes Brahms.

Thursday, November 11, 10:30am (Open Rehearsal) Thursday, November 11, 8pm Friday, November 12, 1:30pm Saturday, November 13, 8pm Ton Koopman, conductor William R. Hudgins, clarinet **MOZART Clarinet Concerto** BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 2

A champion of the Baroque and Classical repertoire, Dutch conductor Ton Koopman returns to the BSO podium to lead BSO Principal Clarinet William Hudgins in Mozart's beloved Clarinet Concerto. One of Mozart's last major works, the concerto was written for his clarinetist friend Anton Stadler, perhaps the greatest master of the instrument of his time. The piece set the standard for all future clarinet concertos. Mozart, along with Beethoven's teacher Haydn, were Beethoven's clear touchstones, but in his Symphony No. 2 he began to depart radically from those Classical models. Written during a dark period his life, the Second Symphony is nonetheless one of the composer's warmest and sunniest works.

Thursday, November 18, 8pm Friday, November 19, 1:30pm Saturday, November 20, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor Håkan Hardenberger, trumpet Jörg WIDMANN Towards Paradise (Labyrinth VI), for trumpet and orchestra (American premiere; BSO co-commission) MAHLER Symphony No. 1

Adventurous Swedish trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger has collaborated frequently with Andris Nelsons and the BSO in a range of exciting works. This season he plays the American premiere of a BSO co-commissioned work by Jörg Widmann—the second BSO commission from the prominent German composer. Widmann, himself a noted clarinetist, creates imaginatively dramatic works with deep roots in music history.

The first of Mahler's nine symphonies employs folk-music references and a conventional four-movement form that have their foundations in Haydn's time. Its expanded scope and instrumentation are evidence of the genre's 19th-century transformation as well as Mahler's own stretching of the form.

Tuesday, November 23, 8pm Friday, November 26, 1:30pm Saturday, November 27, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor **ALL-BRAHMS PROGRAM** Serenade No. 2 Symphony No. 1

Andris Nelsons leads an all-Brahms program pairing early and mid-career orchestral works. Concerned with living up to Beethoven's precedent in the genre, Brahms labored on his First Symphony for twenty years before finally allowing it to see the light of day in 1876. With references to Beethoven, Brahms clearly places himself in the great German symphonic tradition. The warm and idyllic Serenade No. 2, written in 1859, is a five-movement work that omits violins, creating strong contrasts between strings and woodwinds. This lovely piece was dedicated to Brahms's lifelong friend Clara Schumann.

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Thursday, January 6, 8pm Friday, January 7, 1:30pm Saturday, January 8, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor Hilary Hahn, violin

HK GRUBER Short Stories from the Vienna Woods (world premiere; BSO co-commission) MOZART Violin Concerto No. 5 in A, K.219 PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5 Andris Nelsons leads a world premiere originally scheduled for spring 2020, the Viennese composer HK Gruber's *Short Stories from the Vienna Woods*, a BSO co-commission with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. This orchestral score is a suite of music from the composer's opera Tales from the Vienna Wood, based on the socially critical play by the same name by Ödön von Horváth. The title's reference to the famous Strauss waltz mirrors the wideranging popular and classical variety of Gruber's music.

Though he would later be the embodiment of the Viennese Classical composer, Wolfgang Mozart was still living in Salzburg when he wrote all five of his violin concertos. Beloved American violinist Hilary Hahn plays Mozart's Concerto No. 5, from 1775, which in addition to its energy and elegance is notable for its unusual finale, which features the surprising "Turkish" episode that gives the concerto its nickname.

The BSO under Serge Koussevitzky gave the American premiere of Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 in 1945. Written in 1944, the symphony looks beyond the turmoil of World War II to celebrate the nobility of the human spirit.

Thursday, January 13, 8pm
Friday, January 14, 1:30pm
Saturday, January 15, 8pm
Sunday, January 16, 3pm
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Mitsuko Uchida, piano
Julia ADOLPHE Makeshift Castle (world premiere;
BSO co-commission)
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 2
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4

One of the finest pianists of the Classical repertoire, Mitsuko Uchida joins Andris Nelsons and the BSO for two very different Beethoven concertos, the start of a multi-season Beethoven collaboration with Ms. Uchida. The Concerto No. 2 was actually composed before the work we know as No. 1, but Beethoven published them in reverse order. Completed by about 1795, the piece is strongly rooted in the Viennese style of Mozart. The Concerto No. 4 dates from a decade later. It opens, unusually, with a few bars of solo piano, a chordal passage that introduces the work's overall lyrical and elegant character. Opening these concerts is the world premiere of a BSO co-commissioned work by the New York City-born Julia Adolphe, one of the most vibrant and accomplished young composers in the U.S. The composer states, "Makeshift Castle pivots between a world rooted and firmly grounded and a sense of upheaval and limitless space."

Thursday, January 20, 10:30am (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, January 20, 8pm
Friday, January 21, 1:30pm
Saturday, January 22, 8pm
Elim Chan, conductor
Igor Levit, piano
BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 2
Brian Raphael NABORS Pulse
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 2, Little Russian

Hong Kong-born conductor Elim Chan, chief conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, makes her BSO debut and acclaimed Russian-German pianist Igor Levit makes his BSO subscription series debut in these concerts. Mr. Levit performs Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2, a work of grand scope and widely varying character and requiring great virtuosity. The young Alabama-born composer Brian Raphael Nabors's orchestral work *Pulse* aims to suggest, in several contrasting episodes, the unifying energy of many different facets of life on earth. The nickname of Tchaikovsky's colorful and dynamic *Little Russian* Symphony refers not to his homeland, but to a part of the Ukraine then known as "Little Russia"; the nickname comes from the Ukrainian folk melodies used in the piece.

Friday, January 28, 1:30pm
Saturday, January 29, 8pm
Thomas Adès, conductor
Kirill Gerstein, piano
BERG Three Pieces for Orchestra
RAVEL Piano Concerto in D for the left hand
Thomas ADÈS Concerto for Piano and Orchestra
RAVEL La Valse

Thursday, January 27, 8pm

BSO Artistic Partner Thomas Adès is joined by pianist Kirill Gerstein in reprise performances of Adès's own Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, a BSO-commissioned work written for Gerstein and premiered at Symphony Hall in 2019. Gerstein and Adès have since performed the concerto worldwide to great acclaim, and the BSO's recording of it was nominated for a Grammy Award. Gerstein also performs Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, which Ravel completed in 1930 for the pianist Paul Wittgenstein, who lost his right arm due to an injury in World War I. Ravel's fascination with jazz shows up in the concerto's syncopated rhythms and energy. Exhibiting stark differences as well as fascinating similarities, both Ravel's La Valse and Berg's Three Pieces for Orchestra—written a few years apart during and after World War I—seem to be modern commentaries, both admiring and critical, of the music and society of a bygone 19th century Europe.









Thursday, February 3, 8pm Friday, February 4, 1:30pm Saturday, February 5, 8pm Jakub Hrůša, conductor Kateřina Kněžíková, soprano Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano Brandon Jovanovich, tenor Adam Plachetka, bass Paul Jacobs, organ Tanglewood Festival Chorus, James Burton, conductor DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 6 JANÁČEK Glagolitic Mass

In this all-Czech program, the highly praised Czech conductor Jakub Hrůša is joined by the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, James Burton, conductor, in its first BSO concerts since February 2020, with one of the most significant and unusual works of the 20th-century chorus-andorchestra repertoire. Leoš Janáček's Glagolitic Mass is an affirmation of the composer's deep-seated identity as a Czech composer and as a Slav. The 1926 work, sung in Old Church Slavonic, is written in a musical style colored by Slavic traditional and sacred music and sounding both ancient and very modern. Opening the program is Janáček's great Czech predecessor Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 6. One of the finest of Romantic symphonies, it was written for the prestigious Vienna Philharmonic and conductor Hans Richter, though in the event it was premiered in Prague in 1881.

Thursday, February 10, 8pm Friday, February 11, 1:30pm Saturday, February 12, 8pm Sunday, February 13, 3pm Philippe Jordan, conductor Yefim Bronfman, piano BORODIN Overture to Prince Igor RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3 PROKOFIEV Suite from Romeo and Juliet

Swiss-born conductor Philippe Jordan, music director of the Vienna State Opera, makes his BSO debut in this all-Russian program alongside a BSO audience favorite, Israeli-American pianist Yefim Bronfman, Bronfman is soloist in one of the most beloved and challenging concertos in the repertoire, Rachmaninoff's sparkling and lush Piano Concerto No. 3. Opening and closing the program is colorful music from the stage. The brilliantly orchestrated overture to Borodin's incomplete opera *Prince Igor* (1887) evokes the dramatic sweep of the Russian legend and history that are the opera's foundation. One of Prokofiev's most recognizable and popular scores, the Shakespearean ballet Romeo and Juliet features character pieces from the delightful to the threatening, here distilled into an orchestral suite.

Thursday, February 17, 8pm Friday, February 18, 1:30pm Saturday, February 19, 8pm Herbert Blomstedt, conductor Martin Helmchen, piano MOZART Piano Concerto No. 17 in G, K.453 BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4, Romantic

The prominent American-born Swedish conductor Herbert Blomstedt, a frequent and welcome guest of the BSO, is joined by Swiss pianist Martin Helmchen for one of Mozart's most joyous concertos, No. 17 in G. One of few Mozart piano concertos he probably didn't write for himself to play, No. 17 may have been written for and premiered by his student Barbara Ployer in June 1784. Bruckner wrote his warm, majestic Fourth Symphony in 1874, but like many of his works the composer subjected it to extensive revision. The 1880 version of the score premiered by Hans Richter in Vienna in 1881 was one of the greatest success of Bruckner's life.

Thursday, February 24, 8pm Friday, February 25, 8pm (Casual Friday) Saturday, February 26, 8pm Tuesday, March 1, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor Baiba Skride, violin Anu Komsi, soprano Arvo PÄRT Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten SHOSTAKOVICH Violin Concerto No. 1 Kaija SAARIAHO Saarikoski Songs (world premiere of orchestral version; BSO co-commission) (February 24, 26, March 1) STRAVINSKY Suite from The Firebird (1919 version)

BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons is joined by his compatriot, violinist Baiba Skride, for Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1, which was written in the late 1940s but only premiered in 1955, after Stalin's death helped relax the constraints on artistic expression in the USSR. The concerto contains a version of the composer's musical "signature," suggesting that was a work of powerful personal importance. It was composed for and dedicated to David Oistrakh. Opening the program is the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's poignant homage to Shostakovich's great friend, the English composer Benjamin Britten.

Finnish soprano Anu Komsi makes her BSO debut in the world premiere of Kaija Saariaho's own orchestrations of her song cycle on poems of the great 20th century Finnish poet Pentti Saarikoski. Saariaho wrote the original piano and voice versions of these songs for Anu Komsi. The Suite from Stravinsky's 1909 ballet score *The Firebird* closes the program. The composer's astonishingly imaginative orchestration perfectly captured the magical atmosphere of this Russian legend, and the Ballets Russes premiere in Paris swept the composer to worldwide fame.

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Thursday, March 3, 10:30am (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, March 3, 8pm
Friday, March 4, 1:30pm
Saturday, March 5, 8pm
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Leonidas Kavakos, violin
IVES The Unanswered Question
Unsuk CHIN Violin Concerto No. 2,
Scherben der Stille (Shards of Silence)
(American premiere; BSO co-commission)
BERLIOZ Symphonie fantastique

Music Director Andris Nelsons is joined by one of his frequent collaborators, violinist Leonidas Kavakos, for the American premiere of celebrated Korean-German composer Unsuk Chin's Violin Concerto No. 2, *Scherben der Stille* ("Shards of Silence"). Co-commissioned for Mr. Kavakos by the BSO, Gewandhaus Orchester Leipzig, and the London Symphony Orchestra, the concerto receives its U.S. premiere in March 2022 at Symphony Hall. Chin won the prestigious Grawemeyer Award in 2004 for her first violin concerto. A staple of the BSO's repertoire for generations, Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* virtually defined the emotional intensity of musical Romanticism while also vastly expanding orchestral virtuosity. Opening the program is the American composer Charles Ives's mysterious, innovative tone poem *The Unanswered Question* (1908), which features a striking solo trumpet part.

Thursday, March 10, 8pm
Saturday, March 12, 8pm
Andris Nelsons, conductor
Cast to include
Bo Skovhus, baritone (Wozzeck)
Christine Goerke, soprano (Marie)
Sasha Cooke, mezzo-soprano (Margret)
Christopher Ventris, tenor (Drum Major)
Mauro Peter, tenor (Andres)
Franz Hawlata, bass (Doctor)
BERG Wozzeck

Andris Nelsons and the BSO continue the orchestra's tradition of presenting great operatic works in concert with Alban Berg's modernist masterpiece *Wozzeck*, which follows recent performances of early 20th-century operas by Richard Strauss and Puccini as well as complete acts from Wagner's music dramas. First performed in 1925 and based on Georg Büchner's mid-19th century play, *Wozzeck* uses a kaleidoscopic variety of musical means to relate the story a lowly soldier whose anxious, introspective humanity conflicts tragically with the circumstances of his life. The title role is sung by an acknowledged champion of the role, Danish baritone Bo Skovhus. The outstanding cast also includes soprano Christine Goerke as Marie.

Concert performance, sung in German with English supertitles

Friday, March 11, 8pm (Casual Friday)
Andris Nelsons, conductor
IVES The Unanswered Question
BERLIOZ Symphonie fantastique

Music Director Andris Nelsons leads two very different works that we both innovative and experimental for their time. A staple of the BSO's repertoire for generations, Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* virtually defined the emotional intensity of musical Romanticism while also vastly expanding orchestral virtuosity. Its five movements describe an artist's emotional turmoil, ranging from blissful to unhinged, as he daydreams about his lover. Much more abstract and metaphysical is the American composer Charles Ives's mysterious and questing tone poem *The Unanswered Question* (1908), which features a striking solo trumpet part against ensembles of strings and winds.

Thursday, March 31, 8pm
Friday, April 1, 1:30pm
Saturday, April 2, 8pm
Sir Antonio Pappano, conductor
Albina Shagimuratova, soprano
lan Bostridge, tenor
Matthias Goerne, baritone
Tanglewood Festival Chorus and
Boston Symphony Children's Choir,
James Burton, conductor
BRITTEN War Requiem

2022 marks the 60th anniversary of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, which was commissioned to mark the consecration of the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral in London, destroyed during a bombing raid in World War II. Britten's piece takes a firm pacifist stance, setting World War I-era poetry by Wilfred Owen—sung by the two male soloists—interleaved with his setting of the traditional Latin mass for the dead. The Boston Symphony Orchestra gave the American premiere of this great work at Tanglewood in 1963 under Erich Leinsdorf. As was conceived for the work's first performances, the soloists in this performance represent the warring powers of Russia, England, and Germany. British-Italian conductor Antonio Pappano conducts this concert also featuring the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and Boston Symphony Children's Choir.







Thursday, April 7, 8pm Friday, April 8, 1:30pm Saturday, April 9, 8pm Anna Rakitina, conductor Alexandre Kantorow, piano TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 2 Ellen REID When the World as You've Known It Doesn't Exist SIBELIUS Symphony No. 7

Having made her Symphony Hall debut in the BSO's streamed concerts of 2020-21, Assistant Conductor Anna Rakitina conducts her first live-audience Symphony Hall program featuring the BSO debut of French pianist Alexandre Kantorow. The grand prix winner in the 2019 Tchaikovsky Competition performs Tchaikovsky's rarely heard Piano Concerto No. 2, an attractive work long overshadowed by the composer's immensely popular Concerto No. 1. Tennessee-born composer Ellen Reid won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her opera prism. Her 2019 orchestral score When the World as You've Known it Doesn't Exist revels in energy and pure orchestral sound; the instrumental ensemble is enhanced by the earthy sounds of three soprano voices. Sibelius's one-movement Symphony No. 7, one of his last completed works, was an entirely personal reinvention of the genre that had occupied him for almost forty years and which was closely tied to landscape and culture of Finland.

Thursday, April 14, 10:30am (Open Rehearsal) Thursday, April 14, 8pm Friday, April 15, 1:30pm Saturday, April 16, 8pm Alan Gilbert, conductor Joshua Bell, violin Bernard RANDS Symphonic Fantasy (world premiere; BSO co-commission) DEBUSSY La Mer **BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto**

Superstar violinist Joshua Bell joins conductor Alan Gilbert for Beethoven's expansive Violin Concerto, one of the most popular violin concertos of all time. Composed almost simultaneously with his opera Leonore, the concerto features some of the composer's warmest and most lyrical music. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Bernard Rands's music has been championed by the BSO over the course of his career; the orchestra most recently premiered his Concerto for Piano with soloist Jonathan Biss in 2014. The premiere of his Symphonic Fantasy was originally scheduled for summer 2020. Completing the program is Claude Debussy's picturesque, symphony-like masterpiece La Mer, in which the composer paints a musical picture of the sea's many moods and colors. The BSO gave the American premiere of *La Mer* in 1907.

Thursday, April 21, 8pm **Andris Nelsons, conductor** Lise Davidsen, soprano **ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM** Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks Four Last Songs Symphonia domestica

Andris Nelsons' multi-season focus on the music of Richard Strauss with both the BSO and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig culminates in two concerts at the close of the 2021–2022 season. The celebrated Norwegian soprano Lise Davidsen sings the composer's final musical statements, his powerful and gorgeous Four Last Songs—a lasting tribute to his wife, the singer Pauline de Ahna. The symphonic poem Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks follows the madcap and sometimes tender antics of the title character, based on a famous rogue in German history. Strauss's own family are the stars of his Symphonia domestica, which manages to elevate to artistry the musical depiction of a day in the life of two busy parents by turns quarrelsome and loving—and their exuberant young son.

Friday, April 22, 8pm (Casual Friday) Saturday, April 23, 8pm Tuesday, April 26, 8pm Andris Nelsons, conductor **ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM** Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks (April 23, 26) Symphonic Fantasy on Die Frau ohne Schatten Symphonia domestica

Andris Nelsons' multi-season focus on the music of Richard Strauss with both the BSO and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig culminates in two concerts at the close of the 2021–2022 season. The symphonic poem Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks follows the madcap and sometimes tender antics of the title character, based on a famous rogue in German history. Strauss's own family are the stars of his Symphonia domestica, which manages to elevate to artistry the musical depiction of a day in the life of two busy parents—by turns quarrelsome and loving—and their exuberant young son. Strauss's own Symphonic Fantasy on Die Frau ohne Schatten ("Woman Without a Shadow") is a 1946 distillation of his fabulist 1919 opera

Thursday, April 28 Friday, April 29 Saturday, April 30 Andris Nelsons, conductor Marlis Petersen, soprano **ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM** 'Dance of the Seven Veils' and Final Scene from Salome An Alpine Symphony

The final program of the 2021–2022 season is the culmination of Andris Nelsons' and the BSO's multi-season exploration of Richard Strauss's music. Soprano Marlis Petersen sings the role of Salome in the psychologically intense final scene of Strauss's opera, in which Salome, transported by her own sensual power, addresses the decapitated head of John the Baptist. Preceding this chilling scene is the wild and exotic Dance of the Seven Veils, the means by which she seduces her stepfather Herod into promising her John the Baptist's head on a silver platter. Strauss's absolute mastery of the orchestra is put to very different use in the tone poem An Alpine Symphony, which musically illustrates nature in all its glory via the climb and descent of a mountain in the Alps.

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- 10% discount off single ticket prices for any additional BSO tickets
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- Reserved priority seating for as long as you renew your series (*** For subscribers who do not wish to renew for the 2021–22 season due to current circumstances, you can opt to have your subscription seats held for the 2022–23 season.)
- Vouchers for discounts on Symphony Shop and Symphony Café purchases, based on number of years subscribed (exceptions may apply; use dependent on availability of services)
- \$30 ticket voucher to use toward BSO, Pops, or Tanglewood tickets (excludes Holiday Pops) when you renew before the Friday, August 6th deadline
- Parking and Friday afternoon bus service options will be announced at a later date

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TUESDAY

TUESDAY-C (5 Concerts) \$585, \$455, \$359, \$242, \$202, \$182, \$157

Tuesday, October 12Nelsons, Lucas & Arthur Jussen STRAUSS, MOZART

Tuesday, October 19 Nelsons STILL, STRAUSS, BARTÓK

Tuesday, November 23Nelsons
ALL-BRAHMS PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 1Nelsons, Skride, Komsi
PÄRT, SHOSTAKOVICH, SAARIAHO,
STRAVINSKY

Tuesday, April 26Nelsons
ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM

THURSDAY

THURSDAY-A (7 Concerts) \$957, \$767, \$614, \$414, \$335, \$293, \$252

Thursday, October 7Nelsons, Lucas & Arthur Jussen STRAUSS, MOZART

Thursday, October 28 Wilkins, Wooten COLERIDGE-TAYLOR, WOOTEN, ELLINGTON

Thursday, November 11Koopman, Hudgins
MOZART, BEETHOVEN

Thursday, January 6 Nelsons, Hahn HK GRUBER, MOZART, PROKOFIEV

Thursday, February 24 Nelsons, Skride, Komsi PÄRT, SHOSTAKOVICH, SAARIAHO, STRAVINSKY

Thursday, March 31 Pappano, Shagimuratova, Bostridge, Goerne BRITTEN

Thursday, April 14 Gilbert, Bell RANDS, DEBUSSY, BEETHOVEN

THURSDAY-B (4 Concerts) \$520, \$421, \$337, \$226, \$181, \$158, \$139

Thursday, October 14Nelsons, Batiashvili
STILL, STRAUSS, SIBELIUS

Thursday, February 10 Jordan, Bronfman BORODIN, RACHMANINOFF, PROKOFIEV

Thursday, March 10 Nelsons, singers BERG

Thursday, April 7 Rakitina, Kantorow TCHAIKOVSKY, REID, SIBELIUS **THURSDAY-C** (7 Concerts) \$991, \$788, \$630, \$426, \$347 \$304, \$257

Thursday, September 30 Nelsons, Williams, Mutter BEETHOVEN, WILLIAMS, BARTÓK

Thursday, October 21 Nelsons GUBAIDULINA, RACHMANINOFF

Thursday, November 18 Nelsons, Hardenberger WIDMANN, MAHLER

Thursday, January 13Nelsons, Uchida
ADOLPHE, BEETHOVEN

Thursday, January 20 Chan, Levit BRAHMS, NABORS, TCHAIKOVSKY

Thursday, February 3 Hrůša, singers DVOŘÁK, JANÁČEK

Thursday, April 21Nelsons, Davidsen
ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM

THURSDAY-D (5 Concerts) \$653, \$522, \$412, \$274, \$219, \$192, \$165

Thursday, November 4 Slobodeniouk, Rana TCHAIKOVSKY, DVOŘÁK

Thursday, January 27 Adès, Gerstein BERG, RAVEL, ADÈS

Thursday, February 17 Blomstedt, Helmchen MOZART, BRUCKNER

Thursday, March 3 Nelsons, Kavakos IVES, CHIN, BERLIOZ

Thursday, April 28Nelsons, Petersen
ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

FRIDAY FALL-A (5 Concerts) \$655, \$521, \$417, \$290, \$240, \$212, \$182

Friday, October 15, 1:30pm Nelsons, Batiashvili STILL, STRAUSS, SIBELIUS

Friday, November 5, 1:30pm Slobodeniouk, Rana TCHAIKOVSKY, DVOŘÁK

Friday, November 19, 1:30pm Nelsons, Hardenberger WIDMANN, MAHLER

Friday, November 26, 1:30pm Nelsons ALL-BRAHMS PROGRAM

Friday, January 14, 1:30pm Nelsons, Uchida ADOLPHE, BEETHOVEN

FRIDAY SPRING-A (4 concerts) \$505, \$409, \$331, \$226, \$184, \$161, \$145

Friday, February 4, 1:30pm Hrůša, singers DVOŘÁK, JANÁČEK

Friday, February 18, 1:30pmBlomstedt, Helmchen
MOZART. BRUCKNER

Friday, April 1, 1:30pm Pappano, singers BRITTEN

Friday, April 15, 1:30pmGilbert, Bell
RANDS, DEBUSSY, BEETHOVEN

FRIDAY-18
18 Concerts, comprising
Friday-A and Friday-B
\$2301, \$1839, \$1473, \$1020, \$840, \$741, \$645

FRIDAY FALL-B (5 Concerts) \$655, \$521, \$417, \$290, \$240, \$212, \$182

Friday, October 8, 1:30pmNelsons, Lucas & Arthur Jussen
STRAUSS, MOZART

Friday, October 22, 1:30pmNelsons
GUBAIDULINA, RACHMANINOFF

Friday, November 12, 1:30pmKoopman, Hudgins
MOZART, BEETHOVEN

Friday, January 7, 1:30pm Nelsons, Hahn GRUBER, MOZART, PROKOFIEV

Friday, January 21, 1:30pm Chan, Levit BRAHMS, NABORS, TCHAIKOVSKY

FRIDAY SPRING-B (4 Concerts) \$486, \$388, \$308, \$214, \$176 \$156, \$136

Friday, January 28, 1:30pm Adès, Gerstein BERG, RAVEL, ADÈS

Friday, March 4, 1:30pm Nelsons, Kavakos IVES. CHIN. BERLIOZ

Friday, April 8, 1:30pmRakitina, Kantorow
TCHAIKOVSKY, REID, SIBELIUS

Friday, April 29, 1:30pm Nelsons, Petersen ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM

CASUAL FRIDAY

4 Friday evenings at 8pm \$236, \$200, \$144

For these four Friday-evening concerts wear your favorite casual attire and enjoy a slightly shorter concert. This lower-priced series also features a special Tech Section for Conductor-Cam seating, which allows patrons to watch the conductor from the orchestra's perspective on strategically placed screens in a rear section of the floor. Immediately after the performance, stay for a unique and curated Casual Conversation with BSO musicians and featured guests to learn about their experiences.

Friday, October 29 Wilkins, Wooten COLERIDGE-TAYLOR, WOOTEN, ELLINGTON

Friday, February 25 Nelsons, Skride PÄRT, SHOSTAKOVICH, STRAVINSKY

Friday, March 11Nelsons
IVES, BERLIOZ

Friday, April 22Nelsons
ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM

FRIDAY-A9 Concerts, comprising
Friday-Fall A and Friday-Spring A
\$1160, \$930, \$748, \$516, \$424,
\$373, \$327

FRIDAY-B 9 Concerts, comprising Friday-Fall B and Friday-Spring B \$1141, \$909, \$725, \$504, \$416 \$368, \$318









SATURDAY

SATURDAY-C (6 Concerts) \$918, \$730, \$592, \$406, \$340, \$296, \$236

Saturday, October 16 Nelsons, Batiashvili STILL, STRAUSS, SIBELIUS

Saturday, November 20 Nelsons, Hardenberger WIDMANN, MAHLER

Saturday, January 22 Chan, Levit BRAHMS, NABORS, TCHAIKOVSKY

Saturday, February 12Jordan, Bronfman
BORODIN, RACHMANINOFF, PROKOFIEV

Saturday, April 2 Pappano, singers BRITTEN

Saturday, April 16Gilbert, Bell
RANDS, DEBUSSY, BEETHOVEN

SATURDAY-D (6 Concerts) \$844, \$682, \$550, \$376, \$316, \$276, \$216

Saturday, October 9 Nelsons, Lucas & Arthur Jussen STRAUSS, MOZART

Saturday, October 30Wilkins, Wooten
COLERIDGE-TAYLOR, WOOTEN, ELLINGTON

Saturday, November 27 Nelsons ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM

Saturday, January 29 Adès, Gerstein BERG, RAVEL, ADÈS

Saturday, February 26 Nelsons, Skride, Komsi PÄRT, SHOSTAKOVICH, SAARIAHO, STRAVINSKY

Saturday, April 9 Rakitina, Kantorow TCHAIKOVSKY, REID, SIBELIUS **SATURDAY-E** (6 Concerts) \$892, \$716, \$581, \$401, \$338, \$296, \$236

Saturday, October 2 Nelsons, Williams, Mutter BEETHOVEN, WILLIAMS, BARTÓK

Saturday, November 13 Koopman, Hudgins MOZART, BEETHOVEN

Saturday, January 8Nelsons, Hahn
GRUBER, MOZART, PROKOFIEV

Saturday, February 19 Blomstedt, Helmchen MOZART, BRUCKNER

Saturday, March 12 Nelsons, singers BERG

Saturday, April 23Nelsons
ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM

SATURDAY-F (6 Concerts) \$855, \$692, \$560, \$386, \$326, \$286, \$226

Saturday, October 23 Nelsons GUBAIDULINA, RACHMANINOFF

Saturday, November 6 Slobodeniouk, Rana TCHAIKOVSKY, DVOŘÁK

Saturday, January 15 Nelsons, Uchida ADOLPHE, BEETHOVEN

Saturday, February 5 Hrůša, singers DVOŘÁK, JANÁČEK

Saturday, March 5 Nelsons, Kavakos IVES, CHIN, BERLIOZ

Saturday, April 30 Nelsons, Petersen ALL-STRAUSS PROGRAM

NEW THIS YEAR! SUNDAY

SUNDAY (3 Concerts at 3pm) \$455, \$362, \$294, \$202, \$167 \$146, \$123

Sunday, October 31 Wilkins, Wooten COLERIDGE-TAYLOR, WOOTEN, ELLINGTON

Sunday, January 16Nelsons, Uchida
ADOLPHE, BEETHOVEN

Sunday, February 13Jordan, Bronfman
BORODIN, RACHMANINOFF,
PROKOFIEV

SATURDAY-24All 24 Saturday Concerts
\$3337, \$2711, \$2195, \$1508, \$1268,
\$1108, \$878

SATURDAY-A 12 Concerts, comprising Saturday-C & Saturday-D \$1762, \$1412, \$1142, \$782, \$656, \$572, \$452

SATURDAY-B 12 Concerts, comprising Saturday-E & Saturday-F \$1747, \$1408, \$1141, \$787, \$664, \$582, \$462

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

BSO YOUTH & FAMILY CONCERTS

BSO Youth Concerts engage students of all ages by sharing positive life messages through a musical lens, and through the unique experience of hearing a live professional orchestra in a program designed specifically for them. Information on how teachers may purchase tickets and receive supplementary materials will be available online at bso.org in the fall.

The BSO's Family Concert Series provides fun and engaging orchestral concert experiences for children and their families. Designed around universal themes, each program encourages an appreciation for live performance, orchestral music and Symphony Hall. More information may be found at bso.org in the fall.

3-Concert Series: \$60 per adult; children 18 and under free

(limit four per family; \$10 per ticket for more than 4 children)

Saturday, November 13, 2021, 12noon

Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) Federico Cortese, conductor PROKOFIEV *Peter and the Wolf*

Saturday, April 23, 2022, 12noon

Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) Marta Żurad, conductor Matt Roberts, magician

Saturday, May 7, 2022, 10am* and 12noon

Boston Symphony Orchestra Thomas Wilkins, Artistic Advisor for Education and Community Engagement/Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor

"So Now What: A Musical Look at Anticipation, Expectation, and a New Certainty Toward the Fulfillment of Our Promise"

*The 10am concert is a Sensory-Friendly performance



OPEN REHEARSALS

Experience a BSO concert in the making. BSO Open Rehearsals offer audience members a unique perspective on the creative dynamic between orchestra and conductor. Gain a better understanding of how the orchestra strives to refine its performance by occasionally repeating passages or focusing on a particular movement. Please note that all seats for Open Rehearsals are ticketed rather than general seating, to provide a better experience for our patrons.

4 Thursday mornings at 10:30am, \$120, \$96, \$72

Thursday, November 11, 10:30am

Ton Koopman, conductor William R. Hudgins, clarinet MOZART Clarinet Concerto BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 2

Thursday, January 20, 10:30am

Elim Chan, conductor Igor Levit, piano BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 2 Brian Raphael NABORS *Pulse* TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 2, *Little Russian*

Thursday, March 3, 10:30am

Andris Nelsons, conductor Leonidas Kavakos, violin IVES *The Unanswered Question* Unsuk CHIN Violin Concerto No. 2, *Scherben der Stille* (*Shards of Silence*) (American premiere; BSO co-commission) BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

Thursday, April 14, 10:30am

Alan Gilbert, conductor Joshua Bell, violin Bernard RANDS Symphonic Fantasy (world premiere; BSO co-commission) DEBUSSY *La Mer* BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto



BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBERS PLAYERS

Founded in 1964, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players combine the talents of BSO principal players and renowned guest artists to explore the full spectrum of chamber music repertoire. The ensemble's four-concert series takes place on Sunday afternoons at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

4 Sunday afternoons at 3pm, \$132, \$95, \$75

Sunday, November 7, 2021, 3pm

Jennifer HIGDON Autumn Music, for wind quintet Marti EPSTEIN Komorebi, for oboe, clarinet, and violin Shulamit RAN Lyre of Orpheus, for string sextet FARRENC Nonet for winds and strings

Sunday, January 23, 2022, 3pm

with Alessio Bax, piano Sophia Burgos, soprano John Brancy, baritone BARTÓK Contrasts, for clarinet, violin, and piano Michael GANDOLFI Cantata, for soprano, baritone, and ensemble (world premiere; BSO commission) DVOŘÁK String Quintet in G, Op. 77

Sunday, February 20, 2022, 3pm

HINDEMITH Octet for winds and strings Yehudi WYNER Concord 7, for flute, oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, and piano MOZART String Quintet in D, K.593

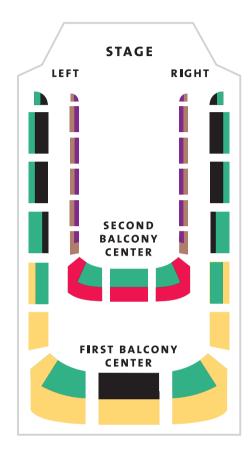
Sunday, April 10, 2022, 3pm

with Inon Barnatan, piano GLINKA Trio pathétique in D minor for clarinet, bassoon, Sofia GUBAIDULINA Sonata for double bass and piano Elena LANGER Five Reflections on Water, for ensemble SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57



TICKETS AND SEATING





1st price-Orchestra
2nd price-Orchestra,
First Balcony
3rd price-Orchestra,
First & Second Balcony
4th price-Orchestra,
Second Balcony
5th price-Orchestra,
First Balcony
6th price-Orchestra,
Second Balcony
7th price-Second Balcony

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We are delighted to welcome our dedicated subscribers back to Symphony Hall for a joyous return to live music. While we were apart, the Friends of the BSO kept the music playing online for all to enjoy and made sure we were ready to open our doors to you once again this fall. Their generosity made our return possible when we could not rely on ticket revenue for more than a year.

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Gail Samuel, Eunice and Julian Cohen President and Chief Executive Officer

Anthony Fogg, William I. Bernell Artistic Administrator and Director of Tanglewood

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