

Boston Symphony Orchestra 2023–24 Subscription Season

All programs and artists are subject to change

* BSO debut

^ Symphony Hall subscription debut

° Koussevitzky 150

Pre-Season Concerts: A Celebration of John Williams

Boston Pops Orchestra

John Williams Tribute

Friday, September 22, 8pm

Saturday, September 23, 2pm

Keith Lockhart, conductor

Superman March

Main Title and Overture from *Heidi*

Theme from *Jaws*

Main Title to *The Towering Inferno*

Sayuri's Theme from *Memoirs of a Geisha*

Excerpts from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

Harry's Wondrous World from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Olympic Fanfare and Theme

The 1960s: The Turbulent Years from *Nixon*

Theme from *JFK*

Theme from *Schindler's List*

Devil's Dance from *The Witches of Eastwick*

The Imperial March from *The Empire Strikes Back*

Yoda's Theme from *The Empire Strikes Back*

Rey's Theme from *The Force Awakens*

Main Title from *Star Wars*

Experience the awe and excitement of cinema's greatest music featuring the scores of the Boston Pops' own John Williams, led by Keith Lockhart and including film excerpts and exclusive interview footage featuring John Williams discussing his work.

Boston Pops Orchestra

Star Wars: The Story in Music

Saturday, September 23, 8pm

Sunday, September 24, 2pm

Keith Lockhart, conductor

TBD, narrator

Star Wars Main Title

Episode I: *The Phantom Menace*

The Flag Parade

Anakin's Theme

Duel of the Fates

Episode II: *Attack of the Clones*

Across the Stars

Episode III: *Revenge of the Sith*

General Grievous

Enter Lord Vader

Episode IV: *A New Hope*

Princess Leia's Theme

Binary Moon

Cantina Band arr. Ramin

Episode V: *The Empire Strikes Back*

The Asteroid Field

Yoda's Theme

The Imperial March

Episode VI: *Return of the Jedi*

Jabba the Hutt

Luke & Leia

Parade of the Ewoks

The Forest Battle

Episode VII: *The Force Awakens*

March of the Resistance

Rey's Theme

Scherzo for X-Wings

The Jedi Steps

Episode VIII: *The Last Jedi*

Chrome Dome

The Rebellion is Reborn

Episode IX: *The Rise of Skywalker*

The Speeder Chase

Farewell The Rise of Skywalker

The Rise of Skywalker

Episode IV: *A New Hope*

Throne Room Ending

Join Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops as they perform the most extraordinary music from all nine *Star Wars* movies—tracing the sprawling saga, gripping adventure, and unforgettable characters.

Boston Symphony Orchestra Subscription Season

Thursday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6, 1:30 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano

BEETHOVEN *Consecration of the House Overture*

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488

Arturs MASKATS *Tango*

STRAUSS Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*

Music Director Andris Nelsons joins Rudolf Buchbinder in Mozart's light and lyrical Concerto No. 23. Richard Strauss's 1911 opera *Der Rosenkavalier* lovingly evokes the grace and elegance of Mozart's Vienna. Next to its lilting waltzes is Latvian composer Arturs Maskats' *Tango*, a rich orchestral tribute to the dance. Beethoven's *Consecration of the House Overture* masterfully raises the curtain on the season.

Saturday, October 7, 6 p.m.

Opening Night at Symphony Gala

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano

Aaron Diehl Trio (Ellington)^

BEETHOVEN *Consecration of the House Overture*

MOZART Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488

ELLINGTON *New World A-Coming*, for piano and orchestra

Carlos SIMON *Four Black American Dances*

American pianist Aaron Diehl and his Trio play the American master Duke Ellington's tone poem *New World A-Coming*, and the Austrian Rudolf Buchbinder plays the Viennese Mozart in the Opening Night Gala, and the Viennese Beethoven's *Consecration of the House Overture* speaks across centuries to Atlanta-raised Carlos Simon's exuberantly varied *Four Black American Dances*.

Thursday, October 12, 10:30 a.m. (High School Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 13, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 14, 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 15, 2:00 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

HAYDN Symphony No. 22, *Philosopher*

SHOSTAKOVICH Cello Concerto No. 2

Iman HABIBI *Zhiân* (BSO commission)

SHOSTAKOVICH Cello Concerto No. 1

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma brings his unsurpassed passion to *both* of Shostakovich's powerfully emotional cello concertos, written originally for Mstislav Rostropovich. These performances are part of the BSO's multi-season survey of Shostakovich's

symphonies and concertos. Haydn's stately Symphony No. 22, nicknamed *Philosopher*, is paired with Iman Habibi's *Zhiân*, a BSO commission for summer 2023, to complete the evening.

Thursday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 20, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 21, 8 p.m.

Andris Nelsons

Paul Lewis, piano

Thomas Warfield, narrator (Oct. 21)

Complete Beethoven Piano Concertos + Oct. 19 :

Hannah KENDALL *The Spark Catchers*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3

Oct. 20:

Hannah KENDALL *The Spark Catchers*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 2

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4

Oct. 21:

Hannah KENDALL *The Spark Catchers*

James LEE III *Freedom's Genuine Dawn*, for narrator and orchestra (BSO co-commission)

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5

Experience a musical and stylistic journey as English pianist Paul Lewis performs all five of Beethoven's piano concertos over three concerts. These performances are paired with two poetic journeys: Hannah Kendall's *The Spark Catchers*, inspired by imagery from Lemn Sissay's poem by the same name, and James Lee III's *Freedom's Genuine Dawn*. This BSO commission sets texts by the 19th-century African American orator and activist Frederick Douglass.

Thursday, November 2, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 3, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, 8 p.m.

Joana Mallwitz, conductor*

Anna Vinnitskaya, piano*

KODÁLY *Dances of Galánta*

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1

SCHUBERT Symphony in C, *The Great*

German conductor Joana Mallwitz and Russian pianist Anna Vinnitskaya, both in their BSO debuts, perform Tchaikovsky's beloved Piano Concerto No. 1, which was premiered in Boston. The Hungarian Kodály's *Dances of Galánta* (1933) is steeped in folk music of the composer's home region. Schubert wrote the towering Symphony in C, *The Great*, near the end of his life; its public premiere was led by Mendelssohn a decade after Schubert's death.

Thursday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 10, 8 p.m. (Casual Friday)
Saturday, November 11, 8 p.m.

Hannu Lintu, conductor

Leonidas Kavakos, violin

LIEBERSON *Drala* (Nov. 9 & 11 only)

BERG Violin Concerto

SCHUMANN Symphony No. 4

Finnish conductor Hannu Lintu leads BSO frequent guest Leonidas Kavakos in Alban Berg's final finished piece. Quoting poignantly from Bach, this haunting 1935 Violin Concerto was written in response to the death of a friend's daughter. Commissioned and premiered by the BSO, American composer Peter LieberSON's *Drala* (1986) takes as its title a Tibetan Buddhist term relating to one's perception of the world. Robert Schumann's majestic Symphony No. 4 was influenced by Beethoven's Fifth Symphony in its use of recurring thematic ideas to tie together the work's four movements.

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 18, 8 p.m.

Thomas Adès, conductor

Kirill Gerstein, piano

Ligeti 100

LISZT *Les Préludes*

LIGETI Piano Concerto

STRAVINSKY *Orpheus*

Thomas ADÈS *Tevot*

English composer Thomas Adès and Russian-American pianist Kirill Gerstein celebrate the centennial of Hungarian composer György Ligeti with his kaleidoscopic Piano Concerto. Adès calls his "single-movement symphony" *Tevot* a journey in which there are "sudden and instant changes of landscape." Stravinsky's ballet score *Orpheus* (1947) retells the Classical myth in music as pure and movingly elegant as anything the composer wrote. It contrasts sharply with the alternately stormy and lyrical Romantic lushness of the Hungarian Franz Liszt's symphonic poem *Les Préludes* (1854).

Friday, November 24, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 25, 8 p.m.

Earl Lee, conductor

Steven Banks, saxophone*

FRANCK *Le Chasseur maudit*

TOMASI Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

BSO Assistant Conductor Earl Lee leads French composer Henri Tomasi's sultry, atmospheric 1949 Saxophone Concerto. Making his BSO debut, American Steven Banks is one of leading ambassadors for the classical saxophone. French composer César Franck's *Le Chasseur maudit*—

"The Cursed Hunter"—is based on a ballad in which a hunter sins by hunting on the Sabbath and is doomed to being himself chased eternally by demons. The emotional turmoil of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 (1878) is sweetened by his great gift for beautiful melody. The symphony opens with the famous "Fate" motif.

Thursday, January 11, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 12, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 13, 8 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Seong-Jin Cho, piano

Tania LEÓN New work (world premiere; BSO co-commission)

RAVEL Piano Concerto for the left hand

STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring*

Tania León, recent Pulitzer Prize winner and Kennedy Center honoree, draws on her Cuban heritage and her long association with dance for music rich with rhythmic vitality and scintillating instrumental colors. Superstar Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho plays Ravel's dramatic Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, composed for pianist Paul Wittgenstein, who lost his arm during World War I. Closing the concert is Stravinsky's ballet score *The Rite of Spring*, a work of primal power and one of the most influential pieces in history.

Tuesday, January 23, 7 p.m. (Special Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, January 25, 7 p.m.
Saturday, January 27, 7 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Kristine Opolais, soprano (Katerina Izmailova)

Pavel Černoč, tenor (Sergei)

Sergei Skorokhodov, tenor (Zinovy Izmailov)*

Günther Groissböck, bass (Boris Izmailov and Ghost of Boris)

TBD, soprano (Female Convict)*

Michelle Trainor, soprano (Aksinya)

TBD, mezzo-soprano (Sonyetka)*

Matthew DiBattista, tenor (Teacher)

Charles Blandy*, Neal Ferreira, and Yeghishe

Manucharyan*, tenors (Foremen)

Charles Blandy, tenor (Drunken Guest)

Yeghishe Manucharyan, tenor (Coachman)

Alexander Kravets, tenor (Shabby Peasant)*

David Kravitz, baritone (Millhand)

Dmytro Kalmuchyn, baritone (Porter)*

Joo Won Kang, baritone (Steward)*

TBD, bass-baritone (Old Convict)

Patrick Guetti, bass (Officer and Sentry)*

Goran Juric, bass (Priest)*

Anatoli Sivko, bass (Chief of Police)*

Sava Vemić, bass (Policeman)*

Tanglewood Festival Chorus,

James Burton, conductor

SHOSTAKOVICH *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*‡

‡Sung in Russian with English supertitles

The most ambitious endeavor in the BSO and Andris Nelsons' multi-year survey of the works of Dmitri Shostakovich, *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* was also an immense undertaking for its 24-year-old composer. He began the score in late 1930, basing it on Nikolai Leskov's 1865 novella *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, a dark portrayal of Katarina Ismailova, the oppressed, ambitious, and ultimately murderous wife of a provincial merchant. The opera was a worldwide sensation following its 1934 premiere, but after Josef Stalin attended a performance in January 1936, an unsigned *Pravda* editorial titled "Muddle instead of Music" unequivocally damned the piece, putting the composer in real danger. The composer responded by hastily writing the ostensibly heroic, triumphant Fifth Symphony, thereby surviving the first of many confrontations with Stalin and the Soviet regime

Friday, January 26, 8 p.m. (Casual Friday)

Andris Nelsons

Tania LEÓN New work (BSO co-commission°)

STRAVINSKY *The Rite of Spring*

See January 11-13 listing for description

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*

Young American violinist Randall Goosby, youngest-ever winner of the Sphinx Concerto Competition, makes his BSO debut in Max Bruch's spirited Violin Concerto No. 1 under Andris Nelsons. Nelsons opens the program with the overture to the 1906 opera *The Wreckers* by Dame Ethel Smyth, a composer and suffragette who was one of England's leading musicians of her time. Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5, composed in 1830 as part of celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, quotes the familiar hymn "Ein feste Berg" as a link to Reformation leader Martin Luther.

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*

HAYDN Cello Concerto in C

BARTÓK *Bluebeard's Castle*‡

‡Concert performance; sung in Hungarian with English supertitles

American conductor Karina Canellakis returns to lead a concert performance of Bartók's chillingly evocative two-character opera *Bluebeard's Castle*. Based on the fable of the cruel duke whose new wife discovers his terrible past, the opera features some of Bartók's most thrilling orchestral writing, creating the work's seven varied scenes. Scottish mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill returns and German bass-baritone Johannes Martin Kränzle makes his BSO debut in these performances. Also returning to the BSO stage is American cellist Alisa Weilerstein performing Haydn's playful Cello Concerto in C.

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

South Korean pianist Yunchan Lim won the gold medal in the 2022 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, becoming the youngest person ever to do so. He joins returning guest conductor Tugan Sokhiev to perform one of the greatest virtuoso works in the repertoire, Rachmaninoff's immensely popular Concerto No. 3, which the composer himself played with the BSO in 1919 and 1935. Sokhiev also leads a rarity, French composer Ernest Chausson's only symphony and the composer's masterpiece. The passionate Symphony in B-flat (1890) was favored by former BSO Music Director Charles Munch and was last played by the BSO in 1993.

MUSIC OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN FESTIVAL

This two-week celebration of Nordic composers, conductors, and artists takes you on a journey through the epic storytelling and bracing music of Finland, Denmark, and Norway, transporting you to the land of the midnight sun.

Thursday, February 29, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, February 29, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 1, 8 p.m. (Casual Friday)
Saturday, March 2, 8 p.m.

John Storgårds, conductor
Pekka Kuusisto, violin*

Outi TARKIAINEN *Midnight Sun Variations*
NIELSEN Violin Concerto
SIBELIUS *The Oceanides* and *The Bard* (Feb. 29 and Mar. 2 only)
SIBELIUS *Tapiola*

Finnish conductor John Storgårds leads the first of two BSO concerts in the *Music of the Midnight Sun Festival*, an exploration of Nordic music and storytelling. Finnish composer Outi Tarkiainen's nuanced and colorful *Midnight Sun Variations* transports you to her homeland and is in many ways a worthy successor to the vivid soundscapes of her compatriot Jean Sibelius. Three of the composer's tone poems based on Finnish legend are performed here, their moods ranging from sweeping power to contemplative mystery. These concerts also feature established Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto in his BSO debut in the orchestra's first-ever performances of the great Danish composer Carl Nielsen's 1911 Violin Concerto.

Thursday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. (High School Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 8, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 9, 8 p.m.

Dima Slobodeniouk, conductor
Georgia Jarman, soprano
Actors from Concert Theatre Works

Tanglewood Festival Chorus
James Burton, conductor

GRIEG *Peer Gynt*

Written and directed by Bill Barclay adapted from the play by Henrik Ibsen

In the second BSO concert of the *Music of the Midnight Sun Festival*, Finland-based Russian conductor Dima Slobodeniouk leads a staged performance with orchestra of director-playwright Bill Barclay's theatrical reimagining of Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen and composer Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt*. This fantastical epic tale, told with actors, singing, and orchestral music, follows Peer from his home village through the Hall of the Mountain King to Northern Africa and back. The BSO's first performances of this production in 2017 were a big success.

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 15, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 16, 8 p.m.

Mark Elder, conductor
Blaise Déjardin, cello
Tanglewood Festival Chorus
James Burton, conductor

RAVEL *Mother Goose* (complete)
Elena LANGER *The Dong with a Luminous Nose*, for cello, chorus, and orchestra (American premiere; BSO co-commission°)
DVOŘÁK *The Noonday Witch*
JANÁČEK Sinfonietta

Eminent English conductor Sir Mark Elder returns to Symphony Hall for the first time since 2011 to lead a program exploring whimsy, fantasy, and folklore. He leads the American premiere of Elena Langer's *The Dong with the Luminous Nose*, a setting of Edward Lear's delightful "nonsense poem," written for the BSO and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, which gave the first performance in March 2023. The BSO performance features BSO principal cello Blaise Déjardin as soloist along with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. Maurice Ravel's *Mother Goose* ballet score began as a suite of children's piano pieces, each movement illustrating an iconic tale. Antonín Dvořák's *The Noonday Witch* is based on a much darker Czech folktale. Czech composer Leoš Janáček's energetically masterful Sinfonietta closes the program.

Thursday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 22, 8 p.m. (Casual Friday)
Saturday, March 23, 8 p.m.

Clark Rundell, conductor*
esperanza spalding, vocalist and bass*
Leo Genovese, piano*

Terri Lyne Carrington, drums*
Dayna Stephens, saxophone*

A Symphonic Celebration: Jazz Legend Wayne Shorter

ALL-WAYNE SHORTER PROGRAM

Causeway, Midnight in Carlotta's Hair, Orbits, Forbidden Plan-iT

Excerpts from ...(*Iphigenia*) (Mar. 21 & 23 only)
Gaia, for jazz quartet and orchestra

Honoring the life and legacy of the great jazz innovator, composer, bandleader, and saxophonist Wayne Shorter, who died in March 2023, these concerts feature five longtime Shorter collaborators in their BSO debuts, including bassist and vocalist esperanza spalding, who also wrote the libretto for Shorter's 2022 opera ... (*Iphigenia*), which was premiered in Boston in 2021 and is based on the ancient Greek tragedy by Euripides.

Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 29, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 30, 8 p.m.

Domingo Hindoyan, conductor*
Pablo Ferrández, cello*

Roberto SIERRA Symphony No. 6 (American premiere; BSO co-commission^o)

ELGAR Cello Concerto

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 7

Venezuelan conductor Domingo Hindoyan makes his BSO debut leading the American premiere of the BSO co-commissioned Symphony No. 6 by Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra, who has an especially fruitful relationship with this conductor. Also making his BSO debut is Spanish cellist Pablo Ferrández in Edward Elgar's regal and impassioned Cello Concerto, often interpreted as a profound reaction to the First World War. One of the repertoire's greatest symphonies, Czech composer Antonín Dvořák's darkly majestic Seventh exudes his love for his native Bohemia as well as the influence of his mentor, Johannes Brahms

MUSIC FOR THE SENSES FESTIVAL

In this multi-sensory festival, music comes alive in front of your very eyes, becoming something you can feel. With music inspired by the rich luminosity of a painting, a synesthetic 20th-century masterwork, and a symphony of light and sound, you will experience an evening in Symphony Hall like none other.

Thursday, April 4, 10:30 a.m. (High School Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 5, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 6, 8 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor
Yefim Bronfman, piano
Anna Gawboy, lighting research*
Justin Townsend, lighting designer*
Tanglewood Festival Chorus,
James Burton, conductor

Anna CLYNE *Color Field*

WAGNER Prelude and Liebestod from

Tristan and Isolde

LISZT *Prometheus*

SCRIABIN *Prometheus, Poem of Fire*^o, for piano, color organ, chorus, and orchestra

The first program in the BSO's *Music for the Senses Festival* centers on Alexander Scriabin's *Prometheus, Poem of Fire*, for which the composer conceived a "light organ" for projecting colors corresponding to his music. *Prometheus* was premiered in 1911 by future BSO Music Director Serge Koussevitzky, whose 150th birthday year we celebrate in 2024. Anna Clyne's *Color Field* was inspired in part by the vibrancy of a Mark Rothko painting. The program concludes with Wagner's ecstatic Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde* and Liszt's *Prometheus*.

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 12, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor
Yuja Wang, piano

Cécile Lartigau, ondes Martenot

MESSIAEN *Turangalîla-symphonie*^o

Andris Nelsons leads a work the BSO premiered under Leonard Bernstein's direction in 1949, the great French composer Olivier Messiaen's *Turangalîla-symphonie*. Messiaen was famously synesthetic, "hearing" colors as harmony and seeing colors in sound. *Turangalîla* summed up the composer's passions for nature, birdsong, Catholicism, Eastern philosophy and music, and romantic love as embodied in the legend of Tristan and Isolde. The brilliant Yuja Wang plays the work's substantial piano part and Cécile Lartigau performs the ondes Martenot, an early electronic instrument. *Turangalîla* was commissioned by Serge Koussevitzky.

Thursday, April 18, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)

Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 19, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 20, 8 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Hilary Hahn, violin

MOZART Symphony No. 33

Anna THORVALDSDOTTIR *Archora*

BRAHMS Violin Concerto

International star Hilary Hahn is soloist in one of the greatest concertos in the repertoire, Brahms's Violin Concerto. Brahms composed this substantial, lyrical work in 1878 for, and with the advice of, his friend Joseph Joachim, a towering virtuoso of the age. Anna Thorvaldsdottir's orchestrally imaginative *Archora* is inspired by the "primordial energy" of her Icelandic homeland. Opening the program is Mozart's charming, lesser-known Symphony No. 33.

Thursday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 26, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 27, 8 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Thomas Rolfs, trumpet

Sofia GUBAIDULINA *Prologue for Orchestra*

(American premiere; BSO co-commission^o)

Detlev GLANERT Trumpet Concerto

PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 4^o

BSO Principal Trumpet Thomas Rolfs is soloist in Detlev Glanert's Trumpet Concerto, a work of immediate impact and eclectic drama, commissioned for and premiered by Rolfs in 2019. A new work by one of the greatest living composers, Sofia Gubaidulina's BSO co-commissioned *Prologue*, is dedicated to Beethoven. Sergei Prokofiev's Symphony No. 4 was commissioned by longtime BSO music director Serge Koussevitzky for the orchestra's 50th anniversary in 1931.

Thursday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 3, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, 8 p.m.

Andris Nelsons, conductor

J'Nai Bridges, mezzo-soprano[^]

Lawrence Brownlee, tenor[^]

John Relyea, bass-baritone

Tanglewood Festival Chorus,

James Burton, conductor

BERLIOZ *Roméo et Juliette*[‡]

[‡]Sung in French with English supertitles

To close the season, Andris Nelsons leads one of Hector Berlioz's most successful and substantial works, *Roméo et Juliette*. Berlioz was deeply influenced by the works of William Shakespeare, and it was the actress Harriet Smithson's performances of Ophelia in *Hamlet* and of Juliet that captivated Berlioz and led to their (ill-fated) marriage. Berlioz called his *Roméo et Juliette* a "symphony with choruses," highlighting the importance of the orchestra and of the work's overall form. These performances celebrate the role of French repertoire in the BSO's rich history: the complete symphony and movements from it were frequently programmed by Pierre Monteux, Serge Koussevitzky, Charles Munch, and Seiji Ozawa.
