



2025-26 season



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

where music lives

Boston Family Days

2025-26

BSO Family Guide

CITY of BOSTON



**Barr
Foundation**

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Introduction

About the BSO

The Boston Symphony Orchestra gave its inaugural concert in 1881, and the rest is [history](#). Led by Music Director Andris Nelsons since 2014, today the BSO reaches millions of listeners not only through its concert performances in Boston and at Tanglewood, but also via educational and community programs, radio, television, recordings, and tours.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra's mission is to foster and maintain an organization dedicated to the making of music consonant with the highest aspirations of the musical art, creating performance, and providing educational and training programs at the highest level of excellence.

Boston Family Days: An Overview

The **Boston Family Days** program offers PK-12 students who live in Boston, along with two guests, free access to many of the city's world-class cultural institutions, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

At the BSO, every Boston resident aged 5-19 and enrolled in grades K-12 is eligible for free admission.

“At the BSO, access to arts and culture is a fundamental value, and we are proud to stand with the mayor and our peer organizations in ensuring that kids and their families across our city can enjoy the singular experience of live performance.”

— Chad Smith, CEO and President, Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall Information

Children at Symphony Hall

The BSO is excited to welcome Boston residents who are K-12 students aged 5-19 years old to Boston Family Days, along with two guests. Please sign in at the welcome table at the Massachusetts Avenue entrance and enjoy the pre-concert activities available before the show!

Boston Symphony Orchestra Events

To minimize disruptions, children younger than 5 years old will not be admitted to Boston Symphony Orchestra events.

Boston Pops Events

All patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket. In consideration of all patrons, please note that children under the age of 4 are not permitted at evening Pops performances. Children under the age of 2 receive a free ticket for 11:00am Holiday Pops Kids' Matinees. Please call Ticketing and Customer Service (888-266-1200) for free kids' tickets. They need to be assigned a seat even if they will be held on your lap.

Food and Drink in the Hall

No outside food and beverages (except bottled water), including leftovers and restaurant to-go bags, are permitted. If food is required due to a medical condition, please see security or another staff member for accommodations.

Health and Safety

Please read our [health and safety protocols](#) before visiting Symphony Hall.

Information for Accessible Seating and Services

Symphony Hall is fully accessible through the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue and through the Box Office on Massachusetts Avenue. Large-print programs, assistive listening devices, accessible restrooms, and elevators are available at both entrances.

If you or anyone in your party will remain in a wheelchair or other mobility device during the concert rather than transfer to a seat, please contact CustomerService@bso.org to reserve accessible seating. We are happy to accommodate any special seating needs. **[Read more information about accessibility.](#)**

Late Arrivals

For the comfort of our artists and other audience members, late seating takes place during the first pause in the program.

Lost and Found

All lost and found items are turned into our security desk after each performance. If you have lost or found something, call 617-638-9333 and we will be happy to assist you. The security desk is open 24 hours a day.

Ordering Group Tickets

Groups of 20 or more receive discounted tickets to most [Boston Symphony Orchestra](#) and [Boston Pops](#) concerts. Other group benefits include special event planning, personalized service, and flexible payment plans. For more details, call the Group Sales Office at 617-638-9345 or 800-933-4255.

Symphony Hall Code of Conduct

By entering Symphony Hall, you agree to the following code of conduct:

- Audio, video recording, and flash photography are generally not permitted during concerts in Symphony Hall. More specifically...
 - **BSO concerts:** Taking photos or videos during the performance is prohibited.
 - **Holiday Pops concerts:** Cell phone photos and videos of these performances are allowed for personal use only, including posting on social media. The use of flash is prohibited.
 - **Spring Pops:** Taking photos or videos during the performance is prohibited.
- Bag searches and a security check are required to enter. Bags larger than the standard backpack size of 22" x 14" x 9" will not be permitted.
- Guests may only sit in their ticketed seats and must show their tickets when requested. Every guest must have a ticket.
- No smoking or vaping of any substance will be permitted in the hall.
- Guests are expected to drink responsibly. Intoxication will not be tolerated. Intervention with an impaired guest will be handled in a prompt and safe manner, which may include ejection from the premises.
- Guests must comply with requests from Symphony Hall staff regarding operations and emergency response procedures.
- All guests under the age of 15 must have a guardian present.
- Latecomers must comply with being seated at the discretion of staff.
- Guests may not interfere with performers or events in any way.
- Symphony Hall has a zero-tolerance policy for harassment of any kind, including but not limited to race, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender presentation, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion, and citizenship. Harassment includes but is not limited to stalking, verbal or physical intimidation, offensive verbal comments, physical assault and/or battery, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome physical attention. If you are made to feel uncomfortable or unsafe, please immediately report any concerns to Symphony Hall staff or security personnel so appropriate action can be taken. Such acts of harassment or discrimination may lead to ejection from the premises.

For more information about visiting Symphony Hall, check out www.bso.org

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us create a safe environment at Symphony Hall.

Audience Etiquette

Here are some key points on **symphony etiquette** to keep in mind when attending a BSO performance.

Arrival: Arrive on time. Latecomers may have to wait until a suitable break in the program to be seated.

Clapping: Clapping between movements of a piece is relatively rare during BSO concerts, and many guests avoid it. But sometimes it happens spontaneously, and that's great too! We suggest following your heart.

Dress code: Adhere to Symphony Hall's dress code policy when attending with your family or group.

Silence your devices: Ensure that your phone and other electronic devices are silent or turned off before the performance begins.

Respectful behavior: We ask that guests remain seated during performances and maintain a reasonable level of quiet, so that all may enjoy the music as fully as possible.

These guidelines will help ensure a pleasant experience for you and your fellow concertgoers.



Prohibited Items

- Outside food and beverages (except bottled water), including leftovers and restaurant to-go bags. If food is required due to a medical condition, please see security or another staff member for accommodations.
- Interchangeable lens camera, video, and/or audio recording equipment
- Flashlights and laser pointers
- Illegal substances
- Demonstration signs
- Noise-making devices and fireworks
- All weapons, including firearms, ammunition, knives, swords, scissors, pepper spray, and any dangerous items

All guests will be screened prior to entering Symphony Hall. Items that are confiscated may not be returned. If you are unsure about an item, please do not bring it with you.



Digital and Supplementary Materials

For K-12 students aged 5-19



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

Symphony Hall Word Search

I B T Z V L K X L S G E J V S
A C Z M A B F D C N E H S W Y
Z B G G O A X F K C V T E F M
I W R P T R U S T R I N G S P
Y N O A E H C D G B L T K M H
H G S O S R Z H I E N R N J O
M G C T D S C W E E T X J Z N
A A O O R W R U F S N U Y M Y
E P R B N U I Z S R T C L X W
S P Z B N D M N O S D R E S M
T L K U Z N U E D N I K A D U
R A D T T B Y C N S R O X T S
O U P N J R H L T T P I N L I
A S K J E R R Y E O S H D U C
L E Y V G R R M M X R I T X S

instruments

conductor

strings

symphony

percussion

woodwinds

maestro

applause

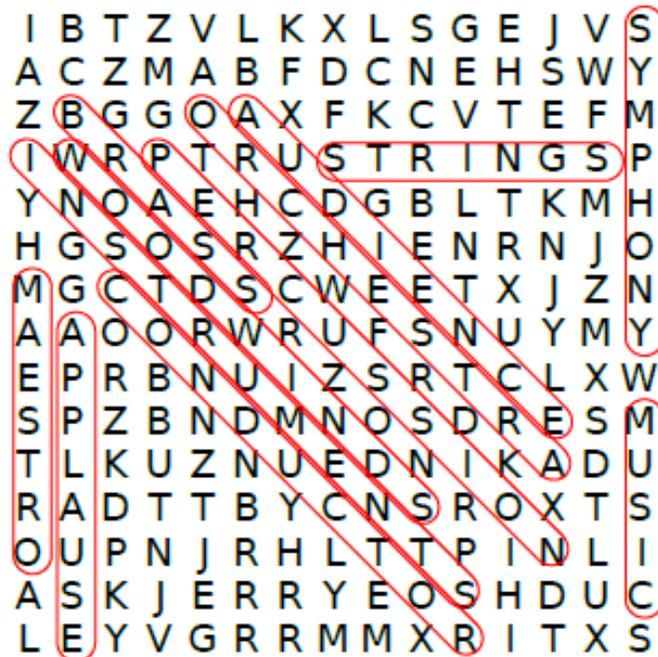
orchestra

audience

brass

music

Symphony Hall Word Search



instruments

conductor

strings

symphony

percussion

woodwinds

maestro

applause

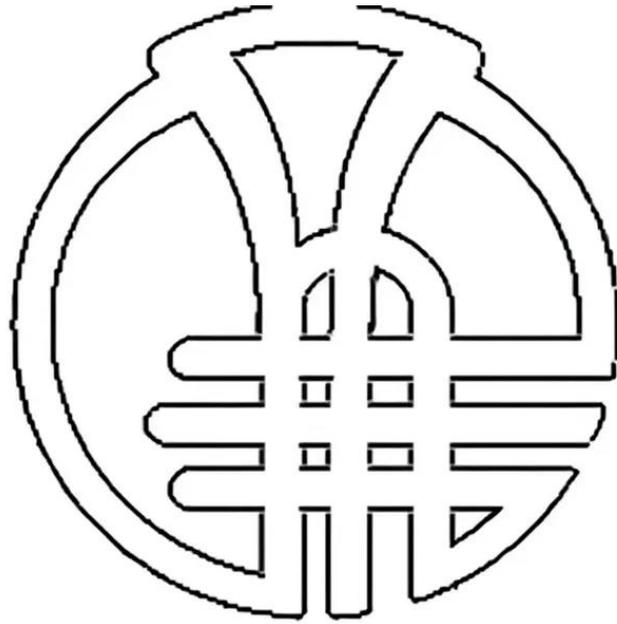
orchestra

audience

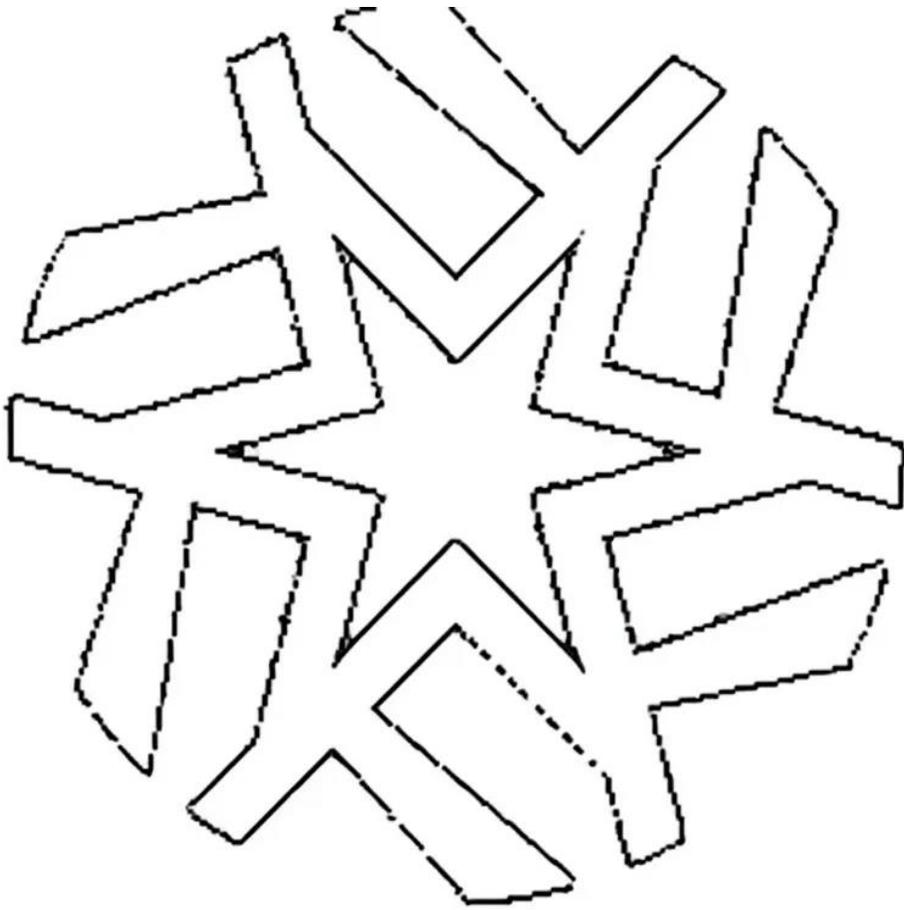
brass

music

Coloring Sheets



Boston Symphony
Orchestra



Boston Pops







Activities

Please use the links below to access quizzes and an editable social story to prepare students and chaperones for their experience at Symphony Hall.

Preparatory Narratives – Also available on our website: [bso.org](https://www.bso.org)

- [Social Narrative](#) (PDF)
- [Virtual Walkthrough](#) (video)

Activities

- [Symphony Hall Word Search](#) (PDF)
- [Symphony Hall Word Search Answer Key](#) (PDF)
- [Word Search & Answer Key](#) (PDF)
- Video Games
 - <https://www.classicsforkids.com/music-games/>
 - <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/orchestra/384648>
 - <https://bso-melody-makers.lovable.app>
- Scan the QR code to learn about the [history of the BSO](#).



Listen and Learn!

- [BSO's history and innovation celebrated as Symphony Hall turns 125](#)
- [Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Pops Perform "Rhapsody in Blue" at Symphony Hall - Full Performance](#)
- **Like, subscribe, share, and follow us on social media!**
 - [BSO's YouTube Channel](#)
 -  facebook.com/bostonsymphony
 -  instagram.com/bostonsymphony
 -  tiktok.com/@bostonsymphony
 -  linkedin.com/company/boston-symphony-orchestra/mycompany
 -  <https://open.spotify.com/artist/0K23lQ2hSQAixSEeZ05bjl>