



BSO Youth Concerts

Something Borrowed, Something True: A Musical Exploration of the Essence of Belonging

Symphony Hall, Boston, MA

Mar 11 - Mar 13

Educator's Guide

THANK YOU TO BSO YOUTH AND FAMILY CONCERT SPONSOR:



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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 through not only 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.

Youth Concerts: An overview

- BSO Youth Concerts introduce students to the unique experience of hearing a live professional orchestra, encouraging an appreciation of orchestral music and a sense of connection to the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Hall. Concerts are about one hour long.
- Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor **Thomas Wilkins designs each concert with 4th-6th-grade students in mind**, speaking directly to youth between pieces to help them understand the music, and delivering positive character development messages throughout the performance.
- **Early elementary students and middle- and high school-aged students may participate**; we encourage group leaders to contact education@bso.org for tips to optimize your students' experience.
- **Inclusion and special education groups are welcome** to attend Youth Concerts. We can make accommodations, including wheelchair seating, noise-reduction headphones, and more – please advise us of your needs when booking your reservation.
- Supplementary materials include lesson plans tied to the concert and biographical information on composers. We encourage educators to use these resources before and after your concert experience.



Symphony Hall code of conduct

- Please enter quietly, keeping noise to a minimum as you enter the hall and find your seats.
- If entering during the pre-rehearsal musician interview or after the rehearsal has started, enter silently so as not to disrupt the pre-rehearsal program.
- Remain seated at all times during rehearsal while musicians are performing.
- Guests may not interfere with performers or events in any way.
- If you must leave before the orchestra's break or the rehearsal's end, please follow the instructions of the BSO usher staff to minimize disruption.
- Mobile phones should be silent and put away during the musician's interview and rehearsal.
- Photography and video are not permitted during the musician interview or rehearsal but are allowed during breaks and after the rehearsal.
- If possible, please wait for a piece to finish before leaving your seats.
- Symphony Hall has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying or harassment of any kind, including but not limited to harassment based on race, national origin, 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.
- Please remember that this is a functional rehearsal for professional musicians. We appreciate you honoring these guidelines to respect the musicians and your fellow audience members.

For more information about the Symphony Hall code of conduct, check out www.bso.org.



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.





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: Wait until the conductor lowers their hands to clap and avoid clapping between movements of a piece.

Dress code: Adhere to your school's dress code policy when attending with your school group.

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

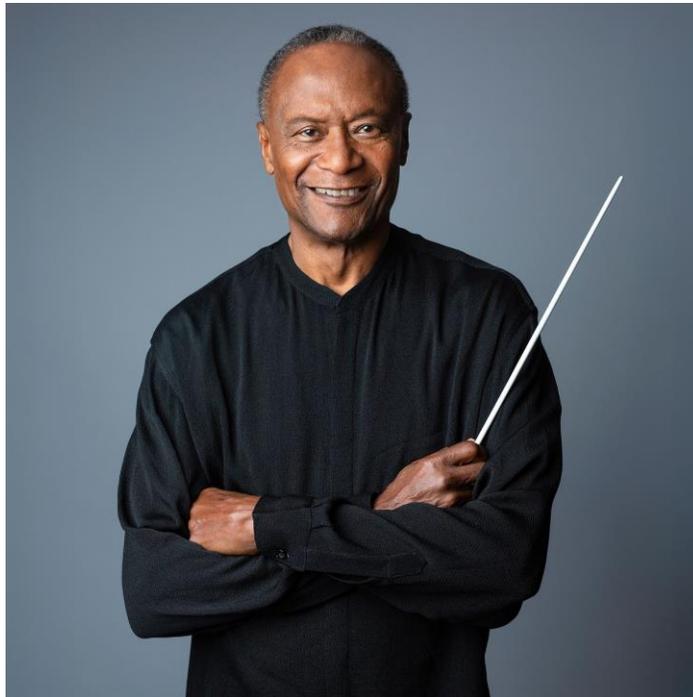
Respectful behavior: Remain seated and maintain silence during the performance. Avoid talking, reaching over the balconies, or making noise that could disturb others.

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





About the conductor, Maestro Thomas Wilkins



Artistic Partner, Education and Community Engagement, Boston Symphony Orchestra
Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor, endowed in perpetuity

Devoted to promoting a life-long enthusiasm for music, Thomas Wilkins brings energy and commitment to audiences of all ages. He is hailed as a master at communicating and connecting with audiences. Mr. Wilkins is the Boston Symphony's Artistic Partner and Community Engagement and Germeshausen Youth and Family Concert Conductor. Other posts include Principal Conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Virginia Symphony. Mr. Wilkins holds Indiana University's Henry A. Upper Chair of Orchestral Conducting established by the late Barbara and David Jacobs as a part of that University's "Matching the Promise Campaign." After completing his long and successful tenure as Music Director of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra at the close of the 2020/2021 season, he became that orchestra's Music Director Laureate. Other past positions have included resident conductor of the Detroit Symphony and Florida Orchestra (Tampa Bay), and associate conductor of the Richmond (VA) Symphony. He also has served on the music faculties of North Park University (Chicago), the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Following his highly successful first season with the Boston Symphony, the *Boston Globe* named him among the "Best People and Ideas of 2011." In 2014, Wilkins received the prestigious "Outstanding Artist" award at the Nebraska Governor's Arts Awards for his significant contribution to music in the state while in 2018 Thomas Wilkins received the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society conferred by Boston's Longy School of Music. In 2019 the Virginia



Symphony bestowed Thomas Wilkins with their annual Dreamer Award. And in 2022 the Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards presented him with their Lifetime Achievement Award for Music, the Boston Conservatory awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Arts, and he was the recipient of the League of American Orchestras' Gold Baton Award.

During his conducting career, he has led orchestras throughout the United States, including the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the National Symphony to name a very few.

His commitment to community has been demonstrated by his participation on several boards of directors, including the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the Charles Drew Health Center (Omaha), the Center Against Spouse Abuse in Tampa Bay, and the Museum of Fine Arts as well as the Academy Preparatory Center both in St. Petersburg, FL. Currently he serves as chairman of the board for the Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund and as national ambassador for the non-profit World Pediatric Project headquartered in Richmond, VA, which provides children throughout Central America and the Caribbean with critical surgical and diagnostic care.

A native of Norfolk, VA, Thomas Wilkins is a graduate of the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He and his wife Sheri-Lee, are the proud parents of twin daughters, Erica and Nicole.¹

²

¹ *Thomas Wilkins*. BSO. (1970, March 11). <https://www.bso.org/profiles/thomas-wilkins>

² Anna Handler: Assistant Conductor, Boston Symphony Orchestra. (1970, February 5). <https://www.bso.org/profiles/anna-handler>



Youth Concert Program

What is American music? Our national soundscape is rich in diversity: diversity of style, of language, and of cultural contexts. It is indeed this diversity that makes something "American." Together, we observe the beauty of unity as opposed to uniformity.

10:30-11:00am Pre-rehearsal talk

- Interview with BSO Program Manager Zoe Murphy and a special guest

11:00am Concert Repertoire

- **JENKINS (orch. Wilson OCHOA) *American Overture***
 - [Lesson Plans](#) / [Slide Deck](#)
- **SOUSA *The Thunderer March***
 - [Lesson Plans](#) / [Slide Deck: Rhythms Cut Time](#) / [Slide Deck: Rhythms 2/4](#)
- **Roberto SIERRA – *Sinfonia No. 3: I. Tumbao***
 - [Lesson Plans](#) / [Slide Deck](#)
- **Jerod Impichchaachaaha' TATE *Chokfi'***
 - [Lesson Plans](#) / [Slide Deck](#)
- **Adolphus HAILSTORK *Symphony No. 1: II***
 - [Lesson Plans](#) / [Slide Deck](#)
- **GERSHWIN/ROSE - *Overture to Girl Crazy***
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- **Mason BATES *B-Sides: Warehouse Medicine***
 - [Lesson Plans](#) / [Slide Deck](#)
- **BERNSTEIN *Overture to Candide***
 - [Lesson Plans](#) / [Slide Deck](#)



Digital and supplementary materials

Grades 4-6 • *Something Borrowed, Something True*



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**



Word Search

Grades 4-6 • Sinfonia No. 3: *I. Tumbao*

by Roberto Sierra

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

Words to Find

BRASS CLAVE COMPOSER DYNAMICS FUSION GROOVE MELODY MONTUNO MOTIF
ORCHESTRA OSTINATO PERCUSSION RHYTHM SIERRA SINFONIA STRINGS SYNCOPATION
TEMPO TIMBRE TUMBAO



ANSWER KEY: Sinfonía No. 3 — I. Tumbao

by Roberto Sierra

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

Words Found:

FUSION GROOVE MELODY MONTUNO MOTIF OSTINATO RHYTHM SIERRA SINFONIA STRINGS



Additional resources

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

Prepare for your visit

- [Social Narrative](#) – Available on the BSO website
- [Virtual Tour of Symphony Hall](#) – Video

Activities (PDF – download and print)

- [Word Search](#)
- [Word Search Answer Key](#)
- Scan the QR code to learn about the [history of the BSO](#).



Listen and watch

- [Gershwin: Selections from *Girl Crazy Overture*](#) performed by the Boston Pops
- [Bernstein: "Candide" Overture](#) performed by the Boston Pops
- [Sousa: *The Thunderer March*](#) performed by the Boston Pops (starts at marker 2:45)