



High School Open Rehearsals



BSO High School Open Rehearsal

Ravel Mother Goose Suite and Rachmaninoff Symphonic Dances

April 16, 2026

Educator's Guide

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OFFICIAL HOTEL

High School Open Rehearsals



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Introduction

Welcome to the BSO!

We are so glad you are here. 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.

High School Open Rehearsals: An overview

High School Open Rehearsals invite students in grades eight through twelve to sit in on a BSO rehearsal, offering a unique glimpse into the inner workings of a world-class orchestra.

- Groups may participate in an interactive pre-concert interview from 9:30-10:00am.
- The rehearsal starts at 10:30am, when students will get an intimate look at the rehearsal process assisted by the Conductor Cam, a live recording that lets the audience see the conductor from the orchestra's point of view.
- High School Open Rehearsals are scheduled from 10:30am-1:00pm, but they may end before 1:00pm. The orchestra typically takes a short break about midway through the rehearsal.



High School Open Rehearsal program

The conductor typically rehearses in program order, but this order is subject to change on the rehearsal day without advance notice.

9:30-10:00am Pre-rehearsal talk

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

10:30am Rehearsal

- RAVEL *Mother Goose Suite*
- Andrew NORMAN *Split*, for two pianos and orchestra (world premiere; BSO co-commission)
- RACHMANINOFF *Symphonic Dances*

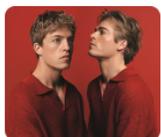
Featuring



Boston Symphony Orchestra



Susanna Mälkki
conductor



Lucas and Arthur Jussen
Pianos



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.

High School Open Rehearsals



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.

sign





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.





Teaching Resources

Grades 8 - 12



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

Aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks



Teaching resources

Please use these resources to prepare students and chaperones for their experience at Symphony Hall.

Get to Know Symphony Hall

- [Social Narrative](#) – Available on the BSO website
- [Virtual Video Tour](#) - Explore Symphony Hall before you visit!

Lesson Plans & Slideshow Presentations

- RAVEL *Mother Goose Suite*: [Lesson Plan](#) / [Slide Deck](#) / [Activity](#)
- Andrew NORMAN: [Lesson Plan](#) / [Slide Deck](#)
- RACHMANINOFF *Symphonic Dances*: [Lesson Plan](#) / [Slide Deck](#)

Activities (Download and print)

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



Listen and watch

- [BSO Performs Ravel's Mother Goose Suite \(Sir Mark Elder, conductor\)](#)



About the conductor, **Susanna Mälkki**



Susanna Mälkki is widely regarded as one of the leading conductors of her generation, with a career spanning the world's foremost orchestras and opera houses. She served as Chief Conductor of the Helsinki Philharmonic from 2016 to 2023 and now holds the title of Chief Conductor Emeritus. Earlier, at the invitation of Pierre Boulez, she led the Ensemble intercontemporain as Music Director (2006–2013), and later served as Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In 2025, she was appointed Professor of Orchestral Conducting at the Sibelius Academy.

Renowned for her precision, expressive clarity, and strong theatrical sensibility, Mälkki has become a compelling force in opera. In the 2025–26 season, she returns to the Gran Teatre del Liceu for Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* and to The Metropolitan Opera for Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence*. Her operatic work has also

been featured at leading stages such as Teatro alla Scala, The Royal Opera House, and Opéra national de Paris, spanning repertoire from Mozart and Wagner to contemporary works.

Alongside her operatic achievements, Mälkki maintains a distinguished presence on the symphonic stage, collaborating with ensembles including the Berliner Philharmoniker, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and New York Philharmonic. Her contributions to music have earned international recognition, including Finland's Order of the Lion, France's Légion d'honneur, and the Nordic Council Music Prize, underscoring her lasting impact on the global musical landscape.¹

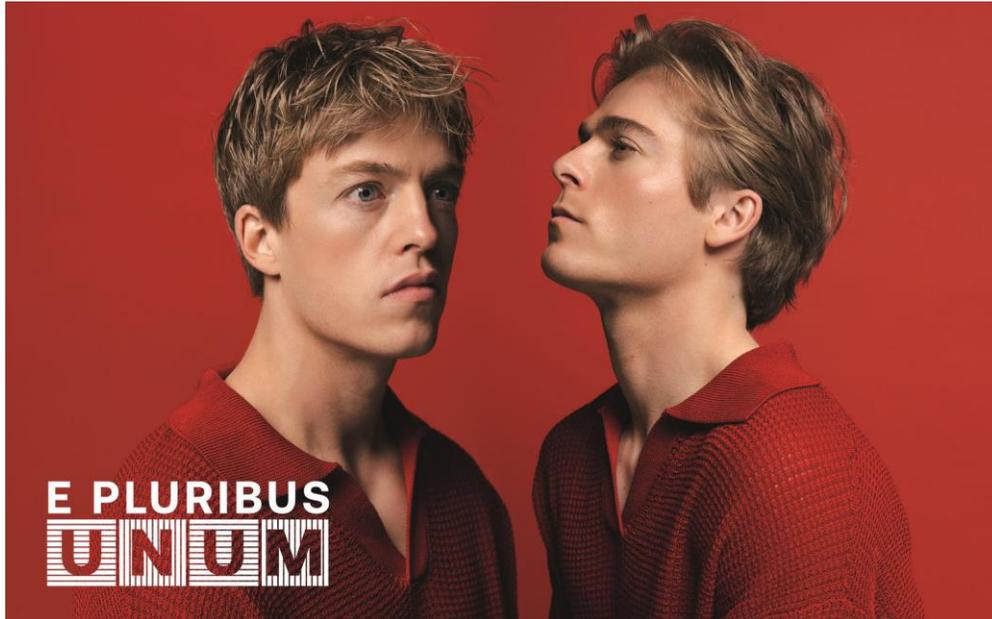
¹ BSO. "Susanna Mälkki." BSO, 2025, www.bso.org/profiles/susanna-malkki. Accessed 19 Mar. 2026.

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About Lucas and Arthur Jussen, pianos



Lucas and Arthur Jussen

Lucas Jussen and Arthur Jussen are among today's most celebrated piano duos, widely recognized as leading ambassadors of classical music from the Netherlands. Known for their remarkable synchronicity, expressive energy, and refined sound, the brothers have captivated audiences and critics worldwide. They have performed with major orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, collaborating with distinguished conductors such as Andris Nelsons and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Highlights of their recent seasons include an artist residency with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, performances across Europe and Asia, and debuts with leading orchestras in Chicago, Stockholm, and Tel Aviv.

Recording exclusively with Deutsche Grammophon since 2010, the Jussen brothers have built an acclaimed discography spanning Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, Bach, and contemporary repertoire, earning both platinum and gold certifications along with multiple Edison Klassiek Awards. Trained from an early age in Hilversum and mentored by renowned artists including Maria João Pires, they have developed into globally respected artists. Their debut with the



Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2019, performing Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos under Nelsons, marked another milestone in their distinguished international career.²

About Andrew Norman, Composer



Andrew Norman

Andrew Norman (b. 1979) is a Los Angeles–based composer known for his dynamic orchestral, chamber, and vocal works that blend avant-garde experimentation with classical tradition. His music often explores storytelling through sound, drawing inspiration from the non-linear structures of film, television, and video games to reshape traditional symphonic forms. Critics have praised his vivid, high-energy style for its bold contrasts, imaginative scope, and distinctive wit.

Norman's works are performed by leading ensembles worldwide, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and championed by prominent conductors such as Gustavo Dudamel and Sir Simon Rattle. The world premiere of his new work, *Split*, was co-commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

² BSO. "Lucas and Arthur Jussen." BSO, 2025, www.bso.org/profiles/lucas-and-arthur-jussen. Accessed

19 Mar. 2026.



A recipient of major honors including the Grawemeyer Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, he is also a dedicated educator, serving on the faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music and mentoring young composers through the Los Angeles Philharmonic.³

³ Boston Symphony Orchestra. "EAM: Andrew Norman." *Eamdc.com*, 2016,

www.eamdc.com/composers/andrew-norman/bio/. Accessed 19 Mar. 2026.

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