



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

2025-26 season

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Boston Symphony Chamber Players to Perform at Casals Festival in Puerto Rico on May 31



The **Boston Symphony Orchestra** announces that the **Boston Symphony Chamber Players (BSCP)**, an ensemble comprised of the BSO's first-chair string

and wind players, will perform at the Casals Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Sunday, May 31 at 4 p.m.

Named for the great cellist, composer, and conductor, the Casals Festival celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, which also marks the 150th anniversary of Pablo Casals' birth. The two-week Festival (May 23–June 6), an annual highlight of classical music in Puerto Rico, features the Orquesta Sinfónica de Puerto Rico, which performed for the first time in Boston's Symphony Hall last November in a co-presentation with Boston-based **Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción** (IBA) that was part of the BSO's yearlong *E Pluribus Unum* celebration of American music. Founded in 1964, the BSCP has toured extensively worldwide, and the ongoing IBA-BSO collaboration inspired the plan for what will be the ensemble's first visit to Puerto Rico.

The BSCP program, which will take place in Pablo Casals Symphony Hall, features Samuel Barber's *Summer Music* for wind quintet, Carlos Simon's *Gardner Suite*, and Anton Dvořák's String Quintet No. 2 in G. The BSCP performed the world premiere of Simon's work in January at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall in Boston. Simon, who was appointed to a three-year term as BSO Composer Chair in 2024, wrote the piece after visiting the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

Three of the BSCP players, concertmaster and principal violin Nathan Cole, principal flute Lorna McGhee, and principal horn Richard (Gus) Sebring, will also give master classes with local music students as part of their visit. The other BSO principals in the ensemble are: Steven Ansell (viola), Blaise Déjardin (cello), John Ferrillo (oboe), William R. Hudgins (clarinet), Haldan Martinson (second violin), Caleb Quillen (double bass), and Richard Svoboda (bassoon).

Statement from Nathan Cole, BSCP artistic director and BSO concertmaster:

"It is a great honor for us to take part in this year's Casals Festival, marking the festival's 70th year and the 150th anniversary of Casals' birth. The Boston Symphony Chamber Players has toured widely all over the world since its founding in 1966 but has never before had the opportunity to perform in Puerto Rico, so this will be an exciting first for the ensemble. Our May 31 concert program includes a new work by Carlos Simon, the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Composer Chair, as well as chamber works by Dvořák and Barber. We also are excited to be able to work with students at Escuelas Libres de Música and the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico during our visit."

Tickets

Tickets to attend the May 31 BSCP concert and other performances at the Casals Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico are available [here](#).

The next BSCP concert in Boston takes place Friday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Symphony Hall and features BSO Assistant Conductor Samy Rachid leading Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale (L'Histoire du soldat)*. Bill Barclay directs, Karen MacDonald narrates, and Caleb Mayo and Daniel Berger-Jones voice the Soldier and the Devil, respectively. [More information and tickets here](#).

About the Boston Symphony Chamber Players

One of the world's most distinguished chamber music ensembles sponsored by a major symphony orchestra and made up of principal players from that orchestra, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players include first-chair string and wind players from the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The BSCP was founded in 1964 during Erich Leinsdorf's tenure as BSO music director. The flexibility of the ensemble ensures that it can perform virtually any work within the vast chamber music literature, expanding their range by calling upon other BSO members or enlisting the services of guest artists, who include such performers as pianists Thomas Adès, Emanuel Ax, and Seong-Jin Cho, violinist Augustin Hadelich, and vocalists Thomas Hampson, J'Nai Bridges, and Sasha Cooke.

This January 2026, the BSCP performed the world premiere of a BSO commission by Composer Chair Carlos Simon titled *Gardner Suite* inspired by works at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Other commissions for the Chamber Players include works by Sebastian Currier, Michael Gandolfi, Osvaldo Golijov, Elena Langer, Eric Nathan, and André Previn. For the ensemble's 50th anniversary season in 2014–15, the BSO commissioned chamber works from Kati Agócs, Han Lash, Gunther Schuller, and Yehudi Wyner.

The Chamber Players present an annual four-concert series in Boston's Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory and perform each season at Tanglewood. The ensemble has toured in Europe, Japan, South America, and the Soviet Union, and in September 2008 performed on the *Queen Mary 2*'s transatlantic

crossing from New York to Southampton, England, sponsored by Cunard® Line. The Chamber Players have recorded many of the great works of the chamber music repertoire, including the Mozart and Brahms quintets for clarinet and strings, Brahms string quintets, Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du soldat*, Debussy chamber music, works by Quincy Porter, Elliott Carter, John Harbison, Aaron Copland, and Leon Kirchner, and much more. Releases on the BSO's own BSO Classics label include Mozart chamber music for winds and strings; American chamber music by William Bolcom, Lukas Foss, Michael Gandolfi, and Osvaldo Golijov; the Grammy-nominated *Profanes et Sacrées*, chamber music by Ravel, Debussy, Tomasi, Françaix, and Dutilleux, and, most recently, serenades by Brahms and Dvořák.

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