



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

2026-27 SEASON



For immediate release
Tuesday, August 11 at 12 p.m.

Boston Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons Appoint Kip Zimmerman as BSO's New Associate Principal Oboe

**Zimmerman will also become principal oboe of the
Boston Pops**



The **Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** and Music Director **Andris Nelsons** announce the appointment of **Kip Zimmerman** as the orchestra's new associate principal oboe, beginning in the 2026–27 season. He will occupy the Farla and Harvey Chet Krentzman chair, succeeding Keisuke Wakao, who retires at the end of the 2026 Tanglewood season after 36 years as the BSO's assistant principal oboe. With this appointment, Zimmerman also becomes principal oboe of the Boston Pops.

Zimmerman has performed in the woodwind sections of such ensembles as the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. He was the winner of the 2016 International Double Reed Society Young Artist Competition, a participant in the 2015 NYO-USA residency and China tour, and a fellow in the Verbier Festival Orchestra from 2020-2023. Zimmerman's primary teachers have included Richard Woodhams at the Curtis Institute of Music, BSO principal oboe John Ferrillo at the New England Conservatory, and Robert Walters at Oberlin Conservatory.

Beyond his work as a performer, Zimmerman brings to the stage a uniquely technical perspective from a now decade-long collaboration and apprenticeship with the oboe maker Covey and Ramsay. For the last several years he has performed exclusively on oboes of his own acoustical specification and handiwork as well as on restorations of exceptional instruments from the early 20th century which serve to inform his modern builds. Zimmerman is thrilled to bring this work to Boston, a city known for its deeply academic culture and history as a major center of musical instrument manufacturing in the United States. His bio and headshot are available [here](#).

Quote from Andris Nelsons, BSO Music Director:

"Kip Zimmerman is an exceptional musician, whose artistry and dedication to his craft stood out to us immediately. He is following in the footsteps of Keisuke Wakao, who has contributed so much to the Boston Symphony Orchestra over nearly four decades. We are deeply grateful to Keisuke for his extraordinary service. I am confident that Kip will build on this legacy, while bringing his own unique voice and musical personality to the orchestra. We are delighted to welcome him to Boston and look forward to making music together."

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Brief Information About the BSO

Led by Music Director Andris Nelsons, the Boston Symphony Orchestra performs a full season in its acclaimed home of Symphony Hall, at its summer home of Tanglewood, and on tour. Long established as one of the world's finest orchestras, The BSO works with the finest international conductors, soloists, and brightest young stars, performing newly commissioned works from today's most inspired composers alongside the masterpieces of the past. The orchestra is dedicated to expanding the reach and audience of classical music through the Boston Pops, Youth and Family Concerts, community chamber music series, and educational programs throughout Greater Boston and Western Massachusetts. The BSO's Tanglewood Music Center is a premier summer training program for young professional musicians. Adding to its long and rich recorded legacy, BSO releases have earned five Grammy Awards in the past 10 years, including two in 2026. The BSO gave its inaugural concert in 1881 and will begin its 146th season in September.

Sponsorships

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is grateful to our longtime Supporting Season Sponsors **Arbella Insurance Foundation** and the **Fairmont Copley Plaza**, our official hotel.

We are also delighted that **Bank of America** has focused their longtime season support as the BSO Youth and Family Programs Sponsor, providing access to the arts with family-friendly programming throughout the BSO season.

Press Contact

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More BSO News

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Symphony Hall | 301 Massachusetts Avenue | Boston, MA 02115 | [Box Office Hours](#)

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