



**Boston Symphony  
Orchestra**



**New England  
Conservatory**

**For immediate release**

Thursday, February 12, at 11:00 a.m.

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**Boston Symphony Orchestra and New England  
Conservatory Launch Landmark 'BSO x NEC' Alliance**

**First-of-its-Kind Collaboration Unites Two of America's Most  
Prestigious Musical Institutions to Expand Opportunities for  
Artists at Every Stage**

**[Click here](#) for photos of the BSO and NEC**



BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons leads a master class at NEC in October 2025 (Adam Perri, courtesy of NEC)

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The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and New England Conservatory (NEC) today launched the BSO x NEC Alliance that formalizes and expands the artistic collaboration between these two iconic institutions.

Through an integrated approach to artist cultivation, content development, and shared use of campuses and venues, this first-of-its-kind alliance between a major symphony orchestra and a leading conservatory will fuel innovation and excellence in orchestral music in Boston and beyond.

While the Boston Symphony Orchestra and New England Conservatory have a long and storied history of collaboration, this alliance will strengthen programming and create new opportunities for students and artists to develop their talents and collaborate with world-class musicians across diverse settings. The NEC faculty has always included many BSO players (131 over the years), and currently, 50 BSO members have at least one NEC affiliation, whether as an alumnus, a current faculty member, or a parent of an NEC prep or college student.

"This alliance represents the future of classical music," said Andrea Kalyn, President of New England Conservatory. "While our institutions have been deeply connected for over a century, we are now creating intentional pathways for musicians at every career stage, from our youngest prep students to our most advanced artists, to learn from and perform alongside BSO musicians. This is truly transformative for the entire musical community."

"The BSO and NEC have enjoyed a close and long-standing relationship dating back 140 years," said Chad Smith, President and CEO of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. "In launching our new alliance, we are committing to partnering in a variety of ways that will benefit students, musicians, and audiences alike. As a proud NEC graduate and as a steward of the Boston Symphony's legacy, I couldn't be more excited to bring these two great institutions closer together, expanding our reach and impact in ways that are only possible through this alliance."

The BSO x NEC Alliance will be publicly launched on the evening of Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Symphony Hall at the BSO's 7:30 p.m. concert. NEC students are invited to attend and to share in the inaugural moment of a landmark collaboration that expands artistic and educational pathways and affirms a shared commitment to excellence, access, and the transmission of musical tradition in the 21st century. The BSO concert features conductor-composer Esa-Pekka Salonen leading the U.S. premiere of his Horn Concerto with soloist Stefan Dohr (principal horn of the Berlin Philharmonic), Boccherini/Berio's *Ritirata notturna di Madrid*, and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4, *Romantic*. The Salonen program repeats on Friday at 1:30 p.m. and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org).

## **Opportunities Across the Musical Lifecycle**

Through this collaboration, BSO patrons will experience fresh programming featuring emerging talent, while NEC students and alumni gain access to one of the world's great orchestras. The alliance also benefits the broader musical community through youth programs, professional development, and shared use of Boston's most prestigious performance venues.

### **Initial BSO x NEC Alliance Programs Include:**

- Young Artist Spotlight Series to showcase four NEC artists per season across BSO platforms.

- BSO Guest Soloist Pathway for composers and conductors to engage with NEC through masterclasses, lectures, and rehearsals.
- Music Industry Speaker Series at NEC's Jordan Hall featuring visiting managers, artists, and industry leaders.
- A joint Honors Youth Chorus, offered at no cost to families, composed of local students ages 8-13 from the Greater Boston area's children's choirs, to receive exceptional choral training through NEC Prep's Choral Department in preparation for one-of-a-kind performance opportunities with the BSO.
- Ongoing collaborations include the "What I Hear" series, which features free, composer-curated chamber music programs by NEC students and conversations with BSO guest composers and artistic staff.

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## **About Boston Symphony Orchestra**

Led by Music Director Andris Nelsons since 2014, the Boston Symphony Orchestra gave its inaugural concert in 1881 and opened Symphony Hall—widely acclaimed as one of the greatest concert halls in the world—in 1900. Today, the BSO and the Boston Pops (founded in 1885) reach millions of listeners through not only concert performances in Boston and at Tanglewood—the orchestra's summer home in Lenox and Stockbridge, Mass. and the home of the Tanglewood Music Center—but also via educational and community programs, radio, television, recordings, and tours. Further information about the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, Symphony Hall, and Tanglewood may be found at [bso.org](http://bso.org).

## **About New England Conservatory**

Founded by Eben Tourjée in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1867, the New England Conservatory (NEC) represents a new model of music school that combines the best of European tradition with American innovation. The school stands at the center of Boston's rich cultural history and musical life, presenting concerts at the renowned Jordan Hall. As an independent, not-for-profit institution that educates and trains musicians of all ages from around the world, NEC is recognized internationally as a leader among music schools. It cultivates a diverse, dynamic

community, providing music students from more than 40 countries with performance opportunities and high-caliber training from 225 internationally esteemed artist-teachers and scholars. NEC pushes the boundaries of music-making and teaching through college-level training in classical, jazz, and contemporary musical arts. As part of NEC's mission to make lifelong music education available to everyone, NEC's Expanded Education delivers training and performance opportunities for children, pre-college students, and adults.

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