



**For immediate release:**  
Thursday, April 23 at 12 p.m.

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## **Tanglewood Learning Institute Announces Additions to 2026 Spotlight Series**

**Christian McBride with Catherine Burns (July 18) and Jason  
Robert Brown and Georgia Stitt with Elliott Forrest (Aug. 22)**

**Also new since season announcement: Two TLI Open Workshops  
with Emanuel Ax and TMC Piano Fellows focusing on Mozart  
concertos (July 15 & 16) and three TLI Art of Conducting programs  
led by Jim Ross (July 8), Andris Nelsons (July 29), and Esa-Pekka  
Salonen (July 31)**

**Tickets available at [tanglewood.org](https://www.tanglewood.org)**

**[Click here](#) for a 2026 Tanglewood press kit**



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The Tanglewood Learning Institute (TLI) Spotlight Series, which each summer features some of the world's greatest thinkers, artists, and luminaries as they help us explore and understand the world around us, adds two new presentations to this summer's schedule.

The first of these features 11-time Grammy Award-winning bassist **Christian McBride** in conversation with Peabody Award-winning director **Catherine Burns** (Sat., July 18 at 5 p.m.). Through a true, personal story, McBride offers a rare glimpse into his musical inspiration and illustrious career. Then, following a virtuosic live bass performance, the evening continues with a dynamic conversation on artistry and humanity hosted by Burns.

The second new talk brings together two titans of contemporary musical theater writing, husband-and-wife duo **Jason Robert Brown** and **Georgia Stitt**, and Peabody Award-winning WQXR broadcaster **Elliott Forrest** for an afternoon of engaging conversation and creative insight (Sat., Aug. 22 at 2 p.m.). In this wide-ranging discussion about the art of making music, Brown, Stitt, and Forrest provide insights into how music and lyrics are developed for musicals, film, television, and recordings.

Previously announced Spotlight Series talks are historian and author **Heather Cox Richardson** with Equal Justice Initiative founder **Bryan Stevenson** (Sat., Aug. 8 at 5 p.m., part of the *We the People: Our Shared Past, Present, and Future* series curated by Yo-Yo Ma) and multimedia artist **Laurie Anderson** with

director **Peter Sellars** (Sat., Aug. 15 at 2 p.m., part of a weekend of programs curated by Anderson).

## **TLI Open Workshop and Art of Conducting Additions**

The **TLI Open Workshop** series, which offers the public a firsthand look into the educational experience of TMC Fellows, adds two new Mozart Piano Concerto Seminars with **Emanuel Ax** (Wed., July 15 at 1:30 p.m. and Thurs., July 16 at 4 p.m.). A longtime friend of Tanglewood, Ax himself is performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25, K.503 with **Andris Nelsons** and the **BSO** the previous week (Sat., July 11 at 8 p.m.).

The **Art of Conducting** series, which brings some of the field's most celebrated conductors to coach this year's TMC Conducting Fellows **Lauren Smith** and **Julian Gilewski**, also adds three new dates since the season announcement. TMC Conducting Faculty member **James Ross** works with the Fellows on July 8 at 1:30 p.m., and BSO Music Director and Head of Conducting at Tanglewood **Andris Nelsons** leads a session on Wednesday, July 29 at 1:30 p.m. **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, director of this summer's Festival of Contemporary Music, coaches the Fellows on Friday, July 31 at 1:30 p.m. and shares the stage with them in a TMCO concert the following Monday (Aug. 3 at 8 p.m.). Previously announced Art of Conducting sessions are led by **Andris Nelsons** (Sun., July 12 at 11 a.m.) and **Marin Alsop** (Thurs., Aug. 13 at 4 p.m.).

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## **How to Obtain Tickets**

[Tanglewood.org](https://www.tanglewood.org) is the official site for all Tanglewood tickets. All events mentioned in this release are currently on sale through the website.

Tickets also may be purchased by calling 888-266-1200 on Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 12:30-4:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the Symphony Hall Box Office during regular [Box Office hours](#).

## **About Tanglewood**

Tanglewood, one of the country's premier summer music festivals and summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1937, is in the Berkshire Hills of

Lenox and Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Tanglewood is also the home of the [Tanglewood Music Center](#), the acclaimed summer music academy founded by Serge Koussevitzky in 1940. Launched in 2019 with the opening of the Linde Center for Music and Learning, the [Tanglewood Learning Institute](#) in collaboration with the BSO's Humanities Institute, created in 2024, offers a year-round schedule of dynamic and leading-edge performances and events connecting audiences with musicians, artists, students, scholars, and cultural leaders through wide-ranging humanities-focused programs. Tanglewood also presents an annual [Popular Artist Series](#) in the Koussevitzky Music Shed (opened in 1938) and recital and chamber music concerts in Seiji Ozawa Hall (opened in 1994). [Click here](#) for more Tanglewood history.

## Sponsorships

The BSO is proud to welcome back **Berkshire Health Systems** as the Official Health System of Tanglewood.

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## Press Contacts

Jan Devereux, Senior Director of Public Relations & Communications, BSO  
([jdevereux@bso.org](mailto:jdevereux@bso.org))

Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist and Media Relations Lead  
([merikson@bso.org](mailto:merikson@bso.org))

Rena Cohen, Publicist ([rcohen@bso.org](mailto:rcohen@bso.org))

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Tanglewood | 297 West Street | Lenox, MA 01240 | [Box Office Hours](#)

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

Ticketing & Customer Service | 617.266.1200 (M-F: 10-4pm & Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm) Service & Tickets | Subscriptions 888.266.7575

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