



**Boston Symphony
Orchestra**

2025-26 season

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For immediate release
Thursday, February 5, 11:30 a.m.

**The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons
Announce Two Programs at New York's Carnegie Hall in
April 2027**

**All-Prokofiev program features Japanese violin prodigy
Himari in the Second Violin Concerto, alongside the
composer's popular Fifth Symphony (April 13)**

**Yo-Yo Ma performs Elgar's Cello Concerto on a program
paired with Strauss' epic *Alpine Symphony* (April 14)**

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Yo-Yo Ma, Nelsons, and the BSO at Carnegie Hall in April 2025 (Richard Termine, courtesy of Carnegie Hall)

The **Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** and **Music Director Andris Nelsons** are pleased to announce two programs as part of **Carnegie Hall's 2026–27 season**, each pairing a concerto performance by an acclaimed soloist with a core symphonic work emblematic of the deep relationship that the BSO and Nelsons have developed since he became BSO Music Director in 2014. The 2027 programs continue the BSO's long legacy of performing at the iconic venue since its opening in 1893.

On April 13, 2027, 15-year-old violin sensation **Himari** performs Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto on a program coupled with the Russian composer's towering Fifth Symphony. The next night, cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** deepens his longstanding association with the BSO, joining Nelsons and the orchestra for a performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto. Closing the program is Strauss' monumental tone poem *An Alpine Symphony*, featuring more than 140 players, including wind and thunder machines, cowbells, and offstage horns, trumpets, and trombones.

The BSO will announce complete details of its 2026–27 season on April 7, 2026 (postponed from March 19).

Tuesday, April 13, 2027: Nelsons leads the BSO in an all-Prokofiev program featuring Symphony No. 5 and young violinist Himari in the composer's Violin Concerto No. 2

The first of two programs, this concert spotlights young Japanese violin prodigy **Himari** in her Carnegie Hall debut. Described as a “once-in-a-generation talent,” she became at age 11 the youngest student ever to be admitted to the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. She will make her Boston Symphony Orchestra debut this summer at Tanglewood. This Carnegie appearance features her in one of Sergei Prokofiev’s most lyrical works, the Second Violin Concerto.

The concerto, which was given its American premiere by the BSO, is paired with a Prokofiev symphony that also has a long association with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Music Director Serge Koussevitzky and the BSO gave the first American performances of Prokofiev’s Fifth Symphony in November 1945. At Koussevitzky's invitation, Prokofiev had been a frequent guest performer with the BSO as both piano soloist and conductor in the 1920s and '30s. Aware of the material difficulties under which Russian composers labored, Koussevitzky regularly arranged to have shipments of music paper sent from Boston to the Soviet Composers’ Union, and it gave him particular pleasure to discover that the score of Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, whose manuscript is now in the Boston Public Library, was written on paper that had made the long round-trip from a store on Boylston Street in Boston. To this day, the Fifth remains one of his most popular pieces, what Prokofiev himself said “[crowned] a great period of my work.”

Wednesday, April 14, 2027: Yo-Yo Ma joins Nelsons and the BSO in Elgar's Cello Concerto followed by Strauss' An Alpine Symphony (Eine Alpensinfonie)

On the second evening, the inimitable **Yo-Yo Ma** returns for his sixth appearance with the BSO at Carnegie. Most recently, in 2025, he performed Shostakovich’s First Cello Concerto, recorded with Nelsons and the BSO that same year on the Deutsche Grammophon label. The BSO, Nelsons, and Ma were just awarded the 2026 GRAMMY for Best Classical Instrumental Solo for their recording of *Shostakovich: The Cello Concertos*. This time, he performs with the orchestra Elgar’s elegiac Cello Concerto. Ma’s special relationship with the BSO goes as far

back as 1971, and this summer, it deepens further with a weeklong Tanglewood residency in which he curates programs and performances exploring the American experience.

Sharing the program with the Elgar concerto is the longest of Richard Strauss' tone poems, *An Alpine Symphony (Eine Alpensinfonie)*, which musically depicts a mountain-climbing expedition from the composer's childhood and reflects his "adoration of eternal, glorious nature." As with Prokofiev, the BSO played a significant role in Strauss' career. In 1904, he undertook a major tour of America that was to leave a lasting mark on the reception of his music in Europe. "The Boston orchestra is wonderful," Strauss wrote to his father the day after his concert. "Its sound and its technique attest to a perfection that I've rarely encountered." He led a few of his own tone poems with the orchestra, going on to tell his father that he had "conducted a wonderful concert here with one of the greatest orchestras in the world."

Since his arrival as music director, Andris Nelsons and the BSO have developed a rich relationship with Richard Strauss' music that includes most of the tone poems and concert performances of three complete operas. In 2022, the BSO—in collaboration with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and all under the baton of Andris Nelsons—released a seven-CD, all-Strauss box set on the Deutsche Grammophon label to critical acclaim. This repertoire remains a cornerstone of Nelsons' tenure at the BSO.

Program Details

Tuesday, April 13, 2027, 8 p.m.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Himari, violin

ALL-PROKOFIEV program

Violin Concerto No. 2

Symphony No. 5

Wednesday, April 14, 2027, 8 p.m.

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Andris Nelsons, conductor

Yo-Yo Ma, cello

ELGAR Cello Concerto

STRAUSS *An Alpine Symphony (Eine Alpensinfonie)*

Ticketing

Tickets for the BSO's April 2027 concerts will be available as part of Carnegie's subscription packages beginning on February 5. Single tickets for 2026–27 performances go on sale to Carnegie Hall subscribers and members on Monday, August 3 at 11:00 a.m., and to the general public on Monday, August 10 at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are available by visiting the Carnegie Hall website, carnegiehall.org, calling 212-247-7800 or at the Carnegie Hall Box Office, 57th Street and Seventh Avenue.

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About Andris Nelsons

In the 2025–26 season, Andris Nelsons marks his 12th season as the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Ray and Maria Stata Music Director, having been appointed the 15th music director in the BSO's history at the start of the 2014–15 season. He made his BSO debut at Carnegie Hall in 2011 leading Mahler's Symphony No. 9. Highlights of the BSO's Carnegie repertoire under Nelsons include concert performances of Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* and Dmitri Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, as well as new and recent works by Thomas Adès, Thierry Escaich, and Tania León. [Full bio.](#)

Coming Soon: BSO Performances at Carnegie in April 2026

Nelsons and the BSO will next perform in Carnegie Hall this spring, pairing vivid works by living composers with core favorites of symphonic repertoire. On April 9, **Renée Fleming** and **Thomas Hampson** join Nelsons and the BSO to offer excerpts from John Adams' *Nixon in China*, reprising their roles from the 2023 Paris Opera production. Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, *From the New World* completes the America-themed program. The following evening (April 10), esteemed pianist **Lang Lang** performs Grieg's Piano Concerto in a program of Nordic music that also includes Outi Tarkiainen's *Day Night Day* (BSO co-commission) and Sibelius' Symphony No. 1. Tickets to the BSO's April 2026 performances are available at carnegiehall.org.

BSO's Longstanding Relationship with Carnegie Hall

Since its Carnegie Hall debut in 1893, the Boston Symphony Orchestra has performed at the venue on more than 960 occasions, the most of any visiting orchestra. Several preeminent musicians—including Sergei Rachmaninoff (in 1909) and Aaron Copland (in 1927)—made their Carnegie Hall debuts with the orchestra. Others, like Sergei Prokofiev, chose the BSO as their primary orchestral collaborator; he performed six times with the orchestra between 1926 and 1933, including the New York premieres of his Second and Fifth piano concertos. Serge Koussevitzky (who led the orchestra 250 times at Carnegie Hall) commissioned Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra and premiered the work at the Hall in 1945 with the composer in attendance.

In all, the BSO has given more than 300 Carnegie Hall premieres, including Copland's *Preamble for a Solemn Occasion* as part of the venue's first televised concert. Many of these works have also been New York premieres, including Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and *Symphony of Psalms*; Richard Strauss' *Don Quixote*; Mahler's Fifth and Ninth symphonies; and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé Suite No. 2*, *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, and Piano Concerto for the Left Hand.

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 to announce 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.

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