JAMES LEVINE AND BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BEGIN TWO-SEASON CYCLE OF JOHN HARBISON'S SYMPHONIES WITH PERFORMANCE OF COMPOSER'S SYMPHONY NO. 3, OCTOBER 14-16, AT SYMPHONY HALL

ONGOING MAHLER CYCLE CONTINUES WITH THE FIFTH SYMPHONY

Performances to take place Thursday, October 14, and Saturday, October 16, at 8 p.m., and Friday, October 15, at 1:30 p.m.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Music Director James Levine open their second program of the 2010-11 season, October 14-16, with John Harbison's Symphony No. 3, initiating a two-season survey of the composer's symphonies. Following intermission, Maestro Levine and the BSO continue their ongoing cycle of Mahler symphonies with a performance of the composer's mercurial Symphony No. 5.

For complete programs, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here: www.bso.org/presskit.

THE BSO'S TWO-YEAR CYCLE OF SYMPHONIES BY JOHN HARBISON

This season's BSO programming will also feature Harbison's symphonies 1 (Nov. 26-30) and 2 (Dec. 2-4), with the cycle culminating in 2011-12 with the world premiere of Harbison's Sixth Symphony, newly commissioned by the BSO, as well as performances of the composer's fourth and fifth symphonies.

According to John Harbison, the Symphony No. 3, composed in 1990, springs from widely contrasting influences including a carillon melody associated with a church near Genoa, Italy, and a drum pattern reminiscent of the Baltimore swing musician Chick Webb. He wrote in a program note that he hopes listeners will hear a “fluid psychological progression, with its momentary victories and defeats, and its release at the end.”
A longtime faculty member at MIT and at Tanglewood, the Pulitzer Prize-winning, Boston-based Harbison is one of today’s most significant composers. His Symphony No. 1, a BSO Centennial Commission, was premiered by Seiji Ozawa and the BSO in 1984; the Symphony No. 5, a BSO 125th Anniversary Commission, was introduced by James Levine and the BSO in 2008. It was also Maestro Levine, a longtime champion of Harbison’s music, who in 1999 led the world premiere of his acclaimed opera, *The Great Gatsby*, at the Metropolitan Opera. Other BSO commissions have included his Cello Concerto, *Darkbloom* Overture, and Requiem. More information about John Harbison can be found at [www.bso.org/presskit](http://www.bso.org/presskit) and [www.schirmer.com](http://www.schirmer.com).

**THE BSO’S ONGOING CYCLE OF MAHLER SYMPHONIES**

Mahler’s symphonies 2, 3, and 4 each included vocal music. With his Fifth Symphony, composed in 1901-02, Mahler began a trilogy of powerful instrumental symphonies that benefited from the composer’s study of Bach’s counterpoint. In an effort to describe his music, Mahler wrote of his Fifth Symphony thus: “chaos, which is constantly giving birth to new worlds and promptly destroying them again … primeval noises, this rushing, roaring, raging sea, these dancing stars, these ebbing, shimmering, gleaming waves.” From the outset, musical themes constantly recur and are transformed, creating a sense of unity and fluid forward motion despite the drastic differences in style and mood among the five movements.

Prior to these performances, Maestro Levine will lead the BSO in Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*, October 7-12. Completing the 2010-11 installment of the Mahler cycle, Mr. Levine conducts the orchestra in Mahler’s final completed symphony, the Ninth, February 24-March 1. In past seasons with the orchestra, Maestro Levine has led Mahler’s First, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, and Ninth symphonies, as well as the symphonic song-cycle *Das Lied von der Erde*.

**JAMES LEVINE**

Now in his seventh season as music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, James Levine is the BSO’s 14th music director since the orchestra’s founding in 1881 and the first American-born conductor to hold that position. Maestro Levine made his BSO debut in April 1972 and became music director in the fall of 2004, having been named music director designate in October 2001. Highlights of his 2010-11 BSO programs (three of which go to Carnegie Hall) include an Opening Night all-Wagner program with bass-baritone Bryn Terfel; Mahler’s Second, Fifth, and Ninth symphonies, continuing a Mahler symphony cycle marking the 150th anniversary of the composer’s birth and the 100th of his death; John Harbison’s First, Second, and Third symphonies, initiating a Harbison symphony cycle to be completed in 2011-12 with the world premiere of Harbison’s BSO-commissioned Sixth Symphony; a program pairing Stravinsky’s oratorio *Oedipus Rex* with Bartók’s opera *Bluebeard’s Castle*, Schumann’s Second and Third symphonies, marking the 200th anniversary of the composer’s birth; and concerto collaborations with violinist Christian Tetzlaff (including the world premiere of Harrison Birtwistle’s BSO-commissioned Violin Concerto) and pianist Maurizio Pollini. Mr. Levine’s programming each year balances orchestral, operatic, and choral classics with significant music of the 20th and 21st centuries, including newly commissioned works from such leading American composers as Babbitt, Carter, Harbison, Kirchner, Lieberson, Schuller, and Wuorinen. His recordings with the orchestra on BSO Classics, all drawn from live performances at Symphony Hall, include Brahms’s *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Ravel’s complete *Daphnis et Chloé*, Mahler’s Symphony No. 6, a two-disc set of Mozart symphonies, and William Bolcom’s Eighth Symphony and *Lyric Concerto*.

James Levine is also music director of the Metropolitan Opera, which this season celebrates the 40th anniversary of his 1971 Met debut. In 2010-11 he conducts new Met productions of Wagner’s *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* initiating a new complete *Ring* cycle and revivals of Berg’s *Wozzeck*, Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*, and Verdi’s *Simon Boccanegra* and *Il trovatore*, as well as concerts at Carnegie Hall with the MET Orchestra and MET Chamber.
Ensemble. Also a distinguished pianist, Maestro Levine is an active chamber music and recital collaborator, especially in Lieder and song repertoire with the world’s great singers.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the regular-season Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings are priced from $29 to $108, Friday afternoons, are priced from $29 to $103; concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings are priced from $31 to $118. Tickets may be purchased by phone through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), online through the BSO's website ([www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)), or in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston). There is a $5.50 service fee for all tickets purchased online or by phone through SymphonyCharge. American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, and Discover, and cash (in person only) are all accepted at the Symphony Hall Box Office.

A limited number of rush tickets for Boston Symphony Orchestra subscription concerts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons are set aside to be sold on the day of a performance. These tickets are sold at $9 each, one to a customer, at the Symphony Hall Box Office on Fridays beginning at 10 a.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 5 p.m. $20 tickets are available during the BSO season for patrons under 40 years of age. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis for both the orchestra and balcony levels. There is a limit of one pair of tickets per performance. The $25 College Card allows students to attend up to 26 BSO programs at no additional cost. BSO College Card tickets will be available – one per cardholder, student ID required – on a first-come, first-served basis at the Symphony Hall Box Office beginning the Monday of the week of each concert date. High school students can attend up to 26 BSO programs for only $15 with the Young Musicians Club Card. Young Musicians Club tickets may be picked-up on a first-come, first-served basis at the BSO Box Office at Symphony Hall beginning the Monday of the week of each concert date.

Gift certificates are available in any amount and may be used toward the purchase of tickets (subject to availability) to any Boston Symphony Orchestra or Boston Pops performance at Symphony Hall or Tanglewood. Gift certificates may also be used at the Symphony Shop to purchase merchandise.

Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Massachusetts Avenue lobby or the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue. An access service center, accessible restrooms, and elevators are available inside the Cohen Wing entrance. For ticket information, call the Access Services Administrator at 617-638-9431 or TDD/TTY 617-638-9289.

**EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AT SYMPHONY HALL**

As part of the BSO's ongoing initiative to make classical music programming and education widely available to listeners, the orchestra is offering three new adult educational initiatives for the 2010-2011 season.

**UnderScore Fridays** is a uniquely formatted three-concert series. Subscribers hear directly from the evening's conductor about the program before the concert and a 7 p.m. concert start-time allows attendees to socialize following the performance. The UnderScore Fridays concert series will feature commentary from Sir Mark Elder (January 14, 2011), Susanna Mälkki (February 11, 2011), and Thomas Adès (March 25, 2011). Ticket prices for the UnderScore Fridays three-concert subscription range from $90.00 to $336.00.

“BSO 101: Are You Listening?,” led by Boston Symphony Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel, consists of four informal sessions designed to enhance patrons’ listening ability while focusing on selected music to be performed by the BSO. Open to all who are interested, the sessions will take place on four Wednesdays at Symphony Hall from 5:30 to 6:45; each session will be followed by a reception offering beverages, hors d’oeuvres, and further time for attendees to share thoughts. There is no admission charge for “BSO 101: Are you Listening?,” though reservations are required and can be made by emailing customerservice@bso.org.

After an initial, introductory session on classic works by Brahms, Mozart, and Haydn (Wednesday, October 27), the remaining sessions will focus on “Schumann as Innovator” (Wednesday, November 10); illustrative music by Delius, Strauss, Scriabin, and Dvořák.
The BSO’s free Digital Music Seminars will assist patrons of all skill levels to harness the advantages of digital music. These 35-minute seminars will teach listeners how to download and play music, understand what music formats best suit their needs, and explore the BSO’s various new media initiatives. Presented by Rich Bradway, the BSO’s Associate Director of E-Commerce and New Media, each digital music seminar will start immediately after the evening’s pre-concert lecture and will end approximately 5 minutes prior to the start of the concert.

Free digital music seminars will take place on Saturday, October 9; Thursday, October 21; Tuesday, October 26; Saturday, October 30; Thursday, January 13; Friday, March 11; and Tuesday, April 12. To reserve a place in one of these free seminars, please contact BSO Customer Service at customerservice@bso.org.

In addition to these new education initiatives, the popular Pre-Concert Talks, which provide valuable insight into the music being performed, will continue to be given by BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel and guest speakers from Boston’s musical community. The BSO offers Pre-Concert Talks at Symphony Hall prior to all BSO subscription-season concerts. Concert Previews are available online as podcasts for most BSO performances.

The evening Pre-Concert Talks run from 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and the doors open at 6:30 p.m. The Friday-afternoon talks run from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Sandwiches and beverages are available for purchase prior to the Friday concerts. Morning Open Rehearsal Talks run from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. with doors opening at 9 a.m. The evening Open Rehearsal Talks run from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the doors open at 6 p.m. The Pre-Concert Talks are supported by New England Coffee.

BSO MEDIA CENTER

The Boston Symphony Orchestra has released a new online Media Center, consolidating its numerous new media initiatives in one location on the orchestra’s website (www.bso.org). Modeled after the Symphony’s iPhone app, the Media Center is available free of charge and accessible from any computer via a web browser. The Media Center makes video content, interactive features, audio and written program notes, and digital music readily available over the internet. The Media Center can be visited by clicking on Media Center at bso.org.

Through the free Media Center, symphony fans can view the BSO’s award-winning Classical Companion, listen in and watch the BSO and Boston Pops Emmy-nominated podcasts, and view select WebTV episodes which offer a virtual concert-going experience. Additionally, users can stream all Saturday-evening broadcasts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops from September through June and all July and August weekend concerts from the Koussevitzky Music Shed at Tanglewood by accessing WGBH’s (www.wgbh.org) broadcast stream link. Sunday-afternoon concerts from Tanglewood are also accessible through WAMC’s broadcast stream link (www.wamc.org).

The Media Center will also offer excerpts from all the albums released on the BSO’s own label, BSO Classics, and links to buy music directly through bso.org. Albums available include the BSO’s recordings of Mozart’s symphonies 14, 18, 20, 39, and 41; Ravel’s complete Daphnis and Chloé, Brahms’s A German Requiem; the Boston Pops’ The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers featuring Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman, and Ed Harris, and The Red Sox Album; as well as the Tanglewood Festival Chorus’s 40th Anniversary CD.

Four new Classical Companion programs will be featured on the BSO’s new Media Center during the 2010-11 BSO season. One of a series of online initiatives in the BSO’s ongoing effort to make classical music programming and education widely accessible for listeners around the world, this season’s Classical Companions will focus on composers John Harbison, Gustav Mahler, Robert Schumann, and music influenced by William Shakespeare. Classical Companion programs incorporate engaging elements such as video lectures, essays, archival photographs, interactive music labs, and biographical information to enrich the concert-going experience. The BSO’s Classical Companion has had 1.5 million visitors to date and can be found online at www.bso.org/classicalcompanion.
The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s extensive website, www.bso.org, is the largest and most-visited orchestral website in the country, receiving more than 7.3 million visitors annually and generating over $60 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. BSO Concert Preview Podcasts, focusing on each of the programs of the BSO’s 2010-2011 season, are available through www.bso.org, Facebook, and iTunes, and the BSO Video Podcasts are available through www.bso.org, iTunes, Facebook, and YouTube.

RADIO BROADCASTS AND STREAMING
BSO concerts are broadcast regularly by 99.5 All-Classical, a service of WGBH. Saturday-evening concerts can be heard live on 99.5 FM, on HD radio at 89.7 HD2, and online at 995allclassical.org (http://995allclassical.org). Broadcasts begin with exclusive features and interviews at 7 p.m., followed by the concert at 8 p.m.

FOOD SERVICES AT SYMPHONY HALL
The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s new catering partner, Boston Gourmet, offers a fresh perspective on the food and beverage options offered at Symphony Hall before concerts, during intermission, and in the popular Symphony Café. Symphony Café offers buffet-style dining from 5:30 p.m. until concert time for all evening Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts. In addition, Symphony Café is open for lunch prior to Friday-afternoon concerts. Patrons enjoy the convenience of pre-concert dining at the Café in the unique ambiance of historic Symphony Hall. The cost of dinner is $34.00 per person; the cost of lunch is $21.00. The Café is located in Higginson Hall; patrons enter through the Cohen Wing entrance on Huntington Avenue. Please call 617-638-9328 for reservations.

Additionally, appetizers will be available at the bars in Symphony Hall's Cabot-Cahners Room and Hatch Room. Patrons can purchase these at bars or pre-order a pre-concert package that features an appetizer and half-bottle of wine through the BSO's website at www.bso.org. BSO patrons can also take advantage of the hall-wide beverage service by purchasing beverage coupons in advance through the Symphony Hall Box Office.

SYMPHONY HALL SHOP AND TOURS
The Symphony Shop, located in the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue, is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and from one hour before concert time through intermission. A satellite shop, located on the first-balcony level, is open only during concerts. Merchandise may also be purchased by visiting the BSO website at www.bso.org.

The Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers offers free public tours of Symphony Hall Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. and the second Saturday of every month at 2:00 p.m. during the BSO season. Tours begin at the Massachusetts Avenue lobby entrance. Schedule subject to change. Please email bsav@bso.org, or call 617-638-9390 to confirm specific dates and times.

SPONSORSHIPS
UBS will continue its partnership with the Boston Symphony Orchestra as its exclusive season sponsor, building on the mutually successful partnership that began in 2003. EMC Corporation is the supporting partner of the 2010-11 BSO season. The Fairmont Copley Plaza Boston, together with Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, is the Official Hotel of the BSO. Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation is the Official Chauffeured Transportation Provider of the BSO. The Evening Open Rehearsal series is supported by Harvard University Extension School and Harvard Summer School.

All programs and artists are subject to change. For current program information, dial 617-CONCERT (266-2378). For further information, call the Boston Symphony Orchestra at 617-266-1492. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is online at www.bso.org.

PRESS CONTACTS:
Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285
BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, OCTOBER 14-16, 2010

Thursday, October 14, 8 p.m.
Friday, October 15, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 16, 8 p.m.

James Levine, conductor

HARBISON Symphony No. 3
MAHLER Symphony No. 5