YO-YO MA JOINS THE BSO AND GUEST CONDUCTOR JUANJO MENA FOR DVOŘÁK’S CELLO CONCERTO

MAESTRO MENA ALSO LEADS THE ORCHESTRA IN BARTÓK’S THE WOODEN PRINCE

Performances to take place Thursday, October 13, Saturday, October 15, and Tuesday, October 18, at 8 p.m., and Friday, October 14, at 1:30 p.m.,

with an Open Rehearsal Thursday, October 13, at 10:30 a.m.

Spanish conductor Juanjo Mena, who led the BSO at Tanglewood this past summer, makes his Symphony Hall debut with the orchestra October 13-18. On the first half of the program, he is joined by the inimitable cellist Yo-Yo Ma for Dvořák’s Cello Concerto, one of the great concertos for the cello and the composer’s finest concerto for any instrument. The orchestra takes the spotlight for the second half of the program in Bartók’s ballet The Wooden Prince, which he described not as a ballet, but as “a symphonic poem to be danced to.” Infused with fairy-tale elements as well as Bartók’s intense love of nature, The Wooden Prince tells the fanciful story of a prince who attempts to woo a princess from a neighboring kingdom through the use of a magic puppet.

For complete programs, ticket information, photos, and artist bios, click here:

www.bso.org/presskit
PROGRAM DETAILS

For years, despite being asked by many soloists, Dvořák refused to write a cello concerto, saying that the instrument had a nasal high register and a mumbling bass, and was insufficient as a solo instrument. While living in the United States, after hearing Victor Herbert’s new cello concerto in 1894, Dvořák finally decided to try his own hand. The result is one of the greatest works for the instrument. Dvořák’s concerto is an ardent work, full of tuneful melody and impassioned music and infused with the Slavic flavor present in all the composer’s music. The solo part is extremely demanding and an excellent showcase for all aspects of a cellist’s skill. When Brahms heard the work for the first time in 1896, he is reported to have said, “If I had known that it was possible to compose such a concerto for the cello, I would have tried it myself!”

In the years encompassing his composition of The Wooden Prince, Béla Bartók was an aspiring young composer in Budapest, struggling for appreciation amongst the chaos and distraction of political turmoil and World War I. Determined to make his mark with a large-scale piece for the stage, Bartók began work in 1914 on The Wooden Prince. The music bears the tool marks of Bartók’s unique idiom, tinged throughout with the composer’s fascination with folk styles, including the recurring Hungarian-verbunkos-dance-inspired music that represents the princess’s character. And for all its elaborate orchestration, there are moments, like the spasmodic music that depicts the princess’s attempts to revive the puppet when it goes awry, that display the early signs of Bartók’s angular, hyper-modern style characteristic of his later masterpieces.

JUANJO MENA

Juanjo Mena makes his BSO subscription debut with these performances. He made his BSO debut at Tanglewood in 2010, filling in for James Levine on a program featuring Berg’s Three Pieces for Orchestra, Strauss’s Four Last Songs, and Mahler’s Symphony No. 4.

Currently Principal Guest Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway and Chief Guest Conductor at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, Juanjo Mena has appeared with many of the principal symphony and chamber orchestras of his native country. Mr. Mena has also served as Music Director of the Bilbao Symphony, Artistic Director of the Jesús Guridi Chamber Orchestra, and Associate Conductor of the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra in Spain. Mr. Mena’s North American debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra resulted in an ongoing relationship, making annual appearances with the orchestra since 2006. Other recent and upcoming debuts include the Atlanta Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Houston Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Oregon Symphony, and The Philadelphia Orchestra. Born in Spain in 1965, Juanjo Mena began his musical training at the Vitoria-Gasteiz Conservatory, studying composition and orchestration. He studied conducting at the Royal Higher Conservatory of Music in Madrid and continued his studies in Munich.

YO-YO MA

Yo-Yo Ma last performed with the BSO at Tanglewood on August 13, 2011, in a performance of Schumann’s Cello Concerto, led by Christoph von Dohnányi. His last performance with the with the orchestra at Symphony Hall January 6-12, 2010, in a program of Haydn, C.P.E. Bach, and Schubert, led by Ton Koopman.

Yo-Yo Ma’s multi-faceted career is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences, and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. Whether performing new or familiar works from the cello repertoire, creating educational programs that not only bring young audiences into
contact with music but also allow them to participate in its creation, coming together with colleagues for chamber music, or exploring cultures and musical forms outside the Western classical tradition, Mr. Ma strives to find connections that stimulate the imagination. Yo-Yo Ma maintains a balance between his engagements as soloist with orchestras throughout the world, his recital and chamber music activities, and his work with the Silk Road Project, for which he serves as Artistic Director. He draws inspiration from a wide circle of collaborators, creating programs with such artists as Sergio and Odair Assad, Emanuel Ax, Daniel Barenboim, Christoph Eschenbach, Kayhan Kalhor, Ton Koopman, Bobby McFerrin, Edgar Meyer, Mark Morris, Mark O’Connor, Kathryn Stott, Wu Man, Wu Tong, and David Zinman. Each of these collaborations is fueled by the artists’ interactions, often extending the boundaries of a particular genre. One of Mr. Ma’s goals is the exploration of music as a means of communication, and as a vehicle for the migration of ideas, across a range of cultures throughout the world. To that end, he has taken time to immerse himself in subjects as diverse as native Chinese music with its distinctive instruments and the music of the Kalahari bush people in Africa. Mr. Ma and his wife have two children. He plays two instruments, a 1733 Montagnana cello from Venice and the 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius.

**TICKET, SPONSORSHIP, AND OTHER PATRON INFORMATION**

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Subscriptions for the BSO’s 2011-2012 season are available by calling the BSO Subscription Office at 888-266-7575 or online through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org). Single tickets are priced from $20 to $120, with Open Rehearsals priced at $20 each (general admission). Regular-season Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings are priced from $30 to $110; Friday afternoons are priced from $30 to $105; concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings are priced from $32 to $120. Tickets may be purchased by phone through SymphonyCharge (617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200), online through the BSO’s website (www.bso.org), or in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston). There is a $6.25 service fee for all tickets purchased online or by phone through SymphonyCharge.

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.

The BSO’s **c4o=$20** program allows patrons under the age of 40 to purchase tickets for $20. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis on both the orchestra and balcony levels. There is a limit of one pair per performance, but patrons may attend as many performances as desired.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra offers **groups** advanced ticket reservations and flexible payment options for BSO concerts at Symphony Hall. Groups of 20 or more may take advantage of ticket discounts, backstage tours, clinics, and master classes. Pre- and post-concert dining options and private function space are available. More information is available through the group sales office at groupsales@bso.org.

The **BSO College Card** and **High School Card** are the best way for students and aspiring young musicians to experience the BSO on a regular basis. For only $25 (College Card) or $10 (High School Card) students can attend most BSO concerts at no additional cost by registering the card online to receive text and email notifications of real-time ticket availability.
American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, and Discover, and cash (in person only) are all accepted at the Symphony Hall Box Office. 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 adult educational initiatives for the 2011-2012 season.

**UnderScore Fridays** is a uniquely formatted concert series. Subscribers hear directly from the evening’s conductor, guest artist or other important guest about the program and a 7pm concert start-time allows attendees to socialize following the performance. The UnderScore Fridays concerts series takes place on November 11, November 21, January 13, January 27, February 24, March 2, April 13, and May 4. Tickets for UnderScore Fridays range from $32 to $120.

**BSO 101: Are You Listening?** returns on a regular, expanded basis in 2011-2012 offering sessions on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:45pm. Besides enhancing your listening abilities by focusing on upcoming repertoire, BSO 101 will now also feature presentations of various behind-the-scenes areas of the BSO. Each session is followed by a complimentary reception. “BSO 101: Are You Listening?” will take place on October 19, November 2, November 16, January 11, January 18, February 15 and March 7. No prior musical training, or attendance at any previous session, is required.

**BSO 101: An Insider’s View** presents four Tuesday evening sessions with BSO administrative staff and musicians in discussions of behind-the-scenes activities including program planning, auditions, and the rehearsal process, as well as player perspectives on performing with the BSO. Each session is followed by a complimentary reception. “BSO 101: An Insider’s View” will take place from 5:30-6:45pm on November 8, February 7, February 28, and April 3.

The popular **Friday Preview Talks**, during which sandwiches and beverages are available for purchase, run from 12:15pm to 12:45pm and the doors open at 11:30am. Morning **Open Rehearsal Talks** run from 9:30am to 10am with doors opening at 9am. The Wednesday evening Open Rehearsal Talks run from 6:30pm to 7pm, and the doors open at 6pm. Given by BSO Director of Program Publications Marc Mandel and Assistant Director of Program Publications Robert Kirzinger, these informative half-hour talks incorporate recorded examples from the music to be performed.

**BSO MEDIA OFFERINGS**

This fall, the BSO will launch a redesigned and updated website at BSO.org. The site’s Media Center, consolidates its numerous new media initiatives in one location. In addition to comprehensive access
to all BSO, Boston Pops, Tanglewood and Symphony Hall performance schedules, patrons have access to a number of free and paid media options. Free offerings include audio concert previews, Emmy Award-winning audio and video interviews with guest artists and BSO musicians, up to 3-minute music excerpts highlighting upcoming programs as well as all self-produced albums by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows, and complete program notes for all performances which can be downloaded and printed or saved offline to an e-reading device such as a Kindle or Nook.

Paid content includes digital music downloads of all self-produced and published content by the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows. Albums available include the BSO’s and James Levine’s most recent recordings of Mozart’s symphonies 14, 18, 20, 39, and 41; the BSO’s Grammy-winning recording of Ravel’s complete Daphnis and Chloe, 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. Digital music is available in standard definition MP3, and select content is also available in high definition (HD) stereo and surround formats. The Media Center can be visited by clicking on Media Center at bso.org.

This Fall the BSO will launch its highly anticipated BSO Kids website. Kids and parents will be able to access a number of educational games and resources designed to be fun and help teach various aspects of music theory and musical concepts. Initial games include “Cue the Conductor,” “Monstument,” “Catchy Tuba,” “Play that Tune,” and “Music Memory.” In addition to games, teachers will have access to a number of resources including lesson plans, curriculum kits, and workshop information.

BSO.org will also be available on in a phone/mobile device format. Patrons can use BSO.org Mobile to access performance schedules, purchase tickets as well as food and beverages to enjoy prior to a performance, download program notes, listen to music clips and concert previews, watch video exclusives and make donations to the BSO all in the palm of their hand.

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 million visitors annually and generating over $66 million in revenue since its launch in 1996. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is on Facebook at Facebook.com/BostonSymphony and on Twitter at Twitter.com/BostonSymphony. Video content from the BSO is also available at YouTube.com/BostonSymphony.

**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. Broadcasts begin with exclusive features and interviews at 7pm, followed by the concert at 8pm.

**FOOD SERVICES AT SYMPHONY HALL**

The Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 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 $39 per person; the cost of lunch is $25. 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](http://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 3pm to 6pm, and from one hour before concert time through. 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](http://www.bso.org).

The Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers offers weekly public and private tours of Symphony Hall during the BSO and Pops seasons. For more information on taking a Symphony Hall tour, please visit us at [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org). You may also email bsav@bso.org, or call 617-638-9390 to confirm specific dates and times. Schedules are subject to change.

**SPONSORSHIPS**

UBS is proud to be the Season Sponsor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and inaugural Lead Sponsor of the BSO Academy School Initiative at the Thomas A. Edison School in Brighton, MA. EMC Corporation is the supporting partner of the 2011-12 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](http://www.bso.org).

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**BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PROGRAM LISTING, OCTOBER 13-18, 2011**

Thursday, October 13, 10:30 a.m. (Open Rehearsal)
Thursday, October 13, 8 p.m.
Friday, October 14, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 15, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, October 18, 8 p.m.
Juanjo Mena, conductor
Yo-Yo Ma, cello

DVOŘÁK Cello Concerto
BARTÓK The Wooden Prince