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**Baltimore School for the Arts Announces Partnership  
with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**

*– Collaboration will provide mentorship to students while driving Baltimore’s arts industry forward –*

**BALTIMORE (December 4, 2023)** – [Baltimore School for the Arts](#) (BSA), one of the top public performing arts high schools in the country, has announced one of its largest partnerships to date with the [Baltimore Symphony Orchestra](#) (BSO) beginning this academic year. Through this partnership, the organizations will collaborate on several different initiatives that provide BSA students with hands-on mentorship and learning experiences with BSO’s professional artists.

BSO’s recently named Music Director Jonathon Heyward, the only black American conductor leading a major U.S. symphony orchestra and just the second in history, and BSA’s Executive Director Rosiland (“Roz”) Cauthen, first woman of color to lead the institution, envision a partnership that will pour into the city’s arts industry as a whole.

“It’s with great honor and excitement we announce this partnership with one of the country’s most-renowned orchestras,” said Baltimore School for the Arts’ Executive Director Roz Cauthen. “Jonathon’s heart for sparking change in our city through the arts is palpable and in total alignment with our mission at BSA. Our students are getting exposure to such a high caliber of talent and professionalism through this partnership, as it provides them with an invaluable opportunity to hone their crafts, network with artists, dream big, and truly visualize success.”

As part of the partnership, BSA students will be debuting performances of their annual December show, *The Nutcracker: A Magical Tale in Mount Vernon*, at BSO’s Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Dec. 6 — marking the first time students will be performing the *Nutcracker* with a live, professional orchestra in nearly 10 years.

Additionally, BSO Composer-in-Residence James Lee III is writing a composition inspired by BSA alumna Quinn Bryant’s painting “Heaven in Hell,” and is slated to be performed by the BSO in the Spring. The two organizations are also working on implementing a young composer’s workshop

for BSA students, and in September, BSA students attended BSO's 2023 Gala Celebration featuring members of NYC-based professional ballet company [Dance Theatre of Harlem](#), where Harlem dancers met with BSA dancers.

"Partnering with the BSA community was a no-brainer for our orchestra, as there's nothing more inspiring than championing the next generation of artists through educational outreach," said the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Music Director Jonathon Heyward. "BSA students invigorate our musicians with their talent and ambition, and I can speak for all of us at BSO when I say we're learning just as much from them as they are from us."

**About Baltimore School for the Arts**

*The Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) is a nationally-recognized Baltimore City Public School that provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance, and the visual arts. Additionally, the BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to 700 city elementary and middle school children from schools across Baltimore, as well as other outreach initiatives to thousands more. Founded in 1979, the school is an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.*

**About The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**

*For over a century, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has been recognized as one of America's leading orchestras and one of Maryland's most significant cultural institutions. The orchestra is internationally renowned and locally admired for its innovation, performances, recordings, and educational outreach initiatives including OrchKids. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performs annually for more than 275,000 people throughout the State of Maryland. Since 1982, the BSO has performed at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, and since 2005, with the opening of The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, MD, the BSO became the nation's first orchestra performing its full season of classical and pops concerts in two metropolitan areas. In July 2022, the BSO once again made musical history with its announcement that Jonathon Heyward would succeed Music Director Laureate and OrchKids Founder Marin Alsop as the Orchestra's next Music Director. Maestro Heyward began his inaugural season in September 2023. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is a proud member of the League of American Orchestras. More information about the BSO can be found at [BSOmusic.org](#).*

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