

# BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FROM THE ARCHIVES:  
HISTORIC TELECASTS

"I'm thrilled that the Boston Symphony Orchestra's pioneering telecasts from the 1950s and 1960s are finally being made available to the music-loving public. Those telecasts were more than just a means of sharing with a wider Boston-area audience BSO performances under such great conductors as Charles Munch, Pierre Monteux, and Sir John Barbiroli. Together with WGBH-TV, the Boston Symphony Orchestra devoted itself to an even greater purpose, since the telecasts were made available to educational TV stations across the country. These archival telecasts say so much about the BSO's sense of purpose, about the strong BSO tradition that is still so much a part of this orchestra. I'm so happy that we and WGBH have opened their archives to release these performances on DVD by arrangement with Video Artists International. Now music lovers everywhere can enjoy these superb concerts which have gone unseen for so many decades."

—Mark Volpe, Managing Director, Boston Symphony Orchestra



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# BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FROM THE ARCHIVES:  
HISTORIC TELECASTS

**Hector Berlioz**  
Symphonie fantastique, Op. 14a

**Claude Debussy**  
La Mer

**Maurice Ravel**  
Daphnis et Chloë, Suite No. 2

**Boston Symphony Orchestra**  
Charles Munch, conductor

A WGBH live telecast from Sanders Theatre, Harvard University  
April 17, 1962



**VAI**

## Chapter Selection

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### **I** Opening Credits/Introduction

#### **Hector Berlioz**

##### **Symphonie fantastique, Op. 14a**

- 2** I. Rêveries, passions
- 3** II. Un bal
- 4** III. Scène aux champs
- 5** IV. Marche au supplice
- 6** V. Songe d'une nuit de sabbat

#### **Claude Debussy**

##### **La Mer - Three Symphonic Sketches**

- 7** I. De l'aube à midi sur la mer
- 8** II. Jeux de vagues
- 9** III. Dialogue du vent et de la mer

#### **Maurice Ravel**

##### **Daphnis et Chloë - Suite No. 2**

- 10** I. Lever du jour
- 11** II. Pantomime
- 12** III. Danse générale

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Please note: the original videotape master for the second half of this televised program containing the Debussy and Ravel pieces no longer exists. Working with the secondary source materials which were preserved in the WGBH and Boston Symphony Archives, VAI has endeavored to present the program in the best quality possible, despite some flaws in the audio which could not be corrected without adversely affecting the otherwise excellent sound quality.

## Evening at Symphony

### A Brief History of the Boston Symphony Orchestra on Television

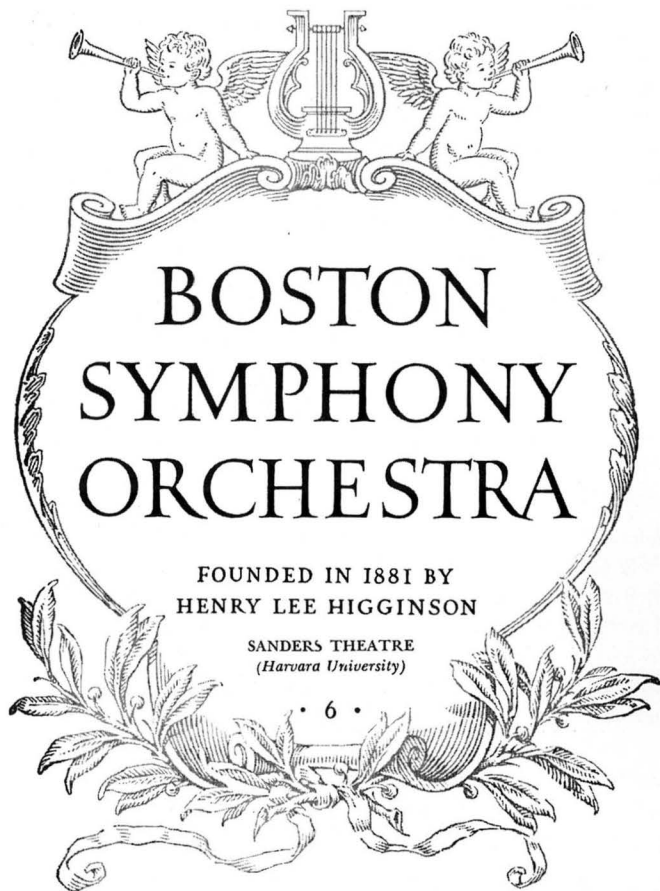
The PBS series that became known in 1974 as "Evening at Symphony" originated with a single telecast by Boston's then new educational television station, WGBH-TV, of a Boston Symphony Orchestra concert from Kresge Auditorium at Massachusetts Institute of Technology on October 3, 1955 – with Charles Munch conducting the BSO in a concert of French music. The Christian Science Monitor reported that "Boston's educational TV station proved that two cameras set high above the stage in the choir and organ lofts of the Kresge Auditorium at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology can bring concerts into the living room with a new dimension. The seeing did not get in the way of the hearing. Rather, it enriched it" (Mary Handy, October 4, 1955).

During the 1957-1958 season, six concerts from the BSO's Tuesday evening series at Harvard's Sanders Theatre and one from Kresge Auditorium were broadcast simultaneously on both radio and television by WGBH-FM/TV; five of these were kinescoped and made available to educational television stations throughout the country by the Educational Radio and Television Center. BSO telecasts continued for several seasons. In 1962 and 1963, twenty-six programs were syndicated for viewing in the United States, Canada, and overseas. In 1963-1964, the Tuesday-evening concerts previously held at Sanders Theatre were moved to Symphony Hall; thus the series of television shows made by WGBH for distribution came to originate from the BSO's home, Symphony Hall. These and many further telecasts set the stage for the award-winning syndicated public television series "Evening at Symphony" in 1974, co-produced by the BSO and WGBH-TV. The series continued production through the BSO's 1978-1979 season.

From 1957 through 1979 more than 175 Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts were produced in conjunction with WGBH-TV for distribution to public television stations. The collection documents, through moving image and sound, the Boston Symphony Orchestra over a span of twenty-one years under music directors as well as eminent and emerging guest conductors. BSO music directors represented in the collection include Charles Munch (1949-1962), Erich Leinsdorf (1962-1969), William Steinberg (1969-1972), and Seiji Ozawa (1973-2002). Guest conductors represented in the collection include Claudio Abbado, Sir John Barbirolli, Pierre Boulez, composer Aaron Copland (conducting a performance of his *Symphony No. 1*), Bernard Haitink, Lorin Maazel, Pierre Monteux, Gunther Schuller, Klaus Tennstedt, and Michael Tilson Thomas. BSO principal guest conductors Sir Colin Davis (1972-1984) and Michael Tilson Thomas (1972-1974) are also well represented in this collection. The repertoire performed by the orchestra includes important BSO commissions from such American composers as Copland, Samuel Barber, David Diamond, Irving Fine, Walter Piston, and William Schuman.

Originally recorded on two-inch videotape and 16 mm kinescopes, a collection of more than 100 of these programs today resides jointly in the Archives of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and WGBH Educational Foundation. Together, these collections comprise one of the most comprehensive collections of symphony-based film and video archives in the United States. With few exceptions, these programs have remained virtually inaccessible to researchers and enthusiasts because of the fragile and deteriorating condition of the original materials. We are delighted that the selected shows have been preserved through reformatting and that they are now available to a much wider audience.

Bridget P. Carr  
Archivist, Boston Symphony Orchestra



EIGHTY-FIRST SEASON  
1961-1962

EIGHTY-FIRST SEASON • NINETEEN HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE-SIXTY-TWO

## *Sixth Program*

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 17, at 8:30 o'clock

BERLIOZ.....\*Fantastic Symphony, *Op. 14a*

- I. Reveries, Passions  
Largo; Allegro agitato e appassionato assai
- II. A Ball  
Waltz: Allegro non troppo
- III. Scene in the Meadows  
Adagio
- IV. March to the Scaffold  
Allegretto non troppo
- V. Dream of the Witches' Sabbath  
Larghetto; Allegro

### INTERMISSION

DEBUSSY.....\*La Mer (The Sea), Three Symphonic Sketches

- I. De l'aube à midi sur la mer (From Dawn to Noon on the Sea)
- II. Jeux de vagues (The Play of the Waves)
- III. Dialogue du vent et de la mer (Dialogue of the Wind and the Sea)

RAVEL.....\*“Daphnis et Chloé,” Ballet, Suite No. 2  
Lever du jour — Pantomime — Danse générale

BALDWIN PIANO

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Photograph by Marsh Photographers, Inc. Courtesy of Boston Symphony Orchestra Archives

## Charles Munch

BSO Music Director, 1949-1962



Born in Strassburg, Germany (now Strasbourg, France), September 26, 1891; Died in Richmond, Virginia, November 6, 1968

Possibly the best-loved of former Boston Symphony leaders, Charles Munch was as valued for his human qualities as for his superior musicianship. His Alsatian background and connection with the celebrated Schweitzer family assured him of a solid grounding in both French and German cultures. Based in Paris from 1933 onward, he directed all of the major French orchestras while cultivating his relationship with the younger French composers, whose work he would introduce to the United States during his thirteen years as BSO Music Director. Boston audiences appreciated the spontaneity of his performances no less than his charm of manner, and also hailed his leadership of the orchestra's first epoch-making tours of Europe in 1952 and 1956, and of Australasia and the Far East in 1960.