

Names

BY MARK SHANAHAN & PAYSHA RHONE

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Levine to have surgery

Boston Symphony Orchestra music director **James Levine** expects to undergo surgery at the beginning of next week to remove a kidney, BSO spokeswoman **Bernadette Horgan** said. Levine will miss the symphony's summer season at Tanglewood to have the procedure, necessitated by an uncomfortable, pressure-causing cyst. Horgan said the conductor's brother, **Tom Levine**, updated the BSO yesterday, explaining the maestro underwent numerous standard tests in the past few days and spoke with his doctors about the best surgical procedures. The surgery couldn't happen right away, due to the shortage of staff at New York hospitals on weekends, Tom Levine said. (No one has disclosed which hospital is treating Levine.) The hospital will keep the conductor for about four days. Then he's expected to recuperate at home for about six weeks in preparation for the BSO's fall season opener. Assistant conductor **Julian Kuerti** will do the Tanglewood honors tomorrow afternoon in a concert featuring pianist **Peter Serkin**.

Sambora's sweet 49th

Bon Jovi guitarist **Richie Sambora** celebrated his 49th birthday a day early on stage at the Garden Thursday night, as **Jon Bon Jovi** led the audience in a rousing "Happy Birthday" chorus. Fancy Boston bakery Sweet did the cake honors, whipping up (on last-minute order) a tower of chocolate cupcakes, frosted with some rockin' purple and silver metallic icing. Of course, it's already a tender YouTube moment.

Big Papi, DMC to rap

Red Sox slugger **David Ortiz** and **Darryl McDaniels** (the DMC of the legendary Run-DMC) are making sweet music together. DMC, who rocked the house at **Josh Beckett's** charity Beckett Bowl Thursday night, recently told **WAAF's Greg Hill** a la the Hill-Man

Looking out for those who look good

A new bill is proposing more work visas be doled out to fashion models. According to a recent piece in *The Economist*, catwalkers and high-tech workers currently compete for the same in-demand temporary work visa for those in specialized occupations — the H-1B. There used to be plenty to go around, but in 2004, the government pulled back. **Anthony Weiner**, a New York congressman, aims to make it all better by reclassifying models into their own category, meaning 1,000 models could strut their stuff on US runways, compared with the mere 349 allowed in 2007. According to the money mag, the bachelor congressman has been accused of using the bill to score himself good.



BILL GREENE/GLOBE

He's got his game face on

Mike Lowell spent yesterday afternoon at Fenway, but baseball wasn't on the agenda. Instead, he played sports of the backyard variety with "Life is good" guys **Bert** and **John Jacobs**. Helping the brothers gear up for their July 19 charity fun — The World's Greatest Backyard Athlete competition on the Boston Common — Lowell (above) tried hard to toss a Frisbee from home plate to the Monster. "He at least got to the outfield, but he was nowhere near the Monster," reported **Jim Delaney**, of Activate Sports & Entertainment. Lowell's posse was a little hesitant to hit the field, but he egged them on. "I said, 'This is my office. C'mon out!'" The third baseman followed up his Frisbee antics with a little bocce and Wiffle ball. "Bocce is not his sport," Delaney said. "But he can crack a Wiffle ball."