

A Star Line-Up: Karabits Brings Hidden Musical Gem to UK

- UK premiere of Liszt's melodrama *Vor hundert Jahren* comes to Poole and London
 - Actors Jemma Redgrave and Sara Kestelman in leading roles
- Dramatic conception by renowned composer and writer Gerard McBurney
- Chicago-based projection designer Mike Tutaj creates enchanted forest of light



Sara Kestelman [© Samuel Black Photography] and Jemma Redgrave [© Charlie Carter]
perform with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Kirill Karabits in October

A Weimar-themed programme featuring the **UK premiere** of Liszt's melodrama *Vor hundert Jahren* opens **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's season, the eleventh** with Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits at the helm.

Performances will take place at Lighthouse, Poole (2 Oct) and Cadogan Hall, London (4 Oct), with pre-concert talks given by writer and composer Gerard McBurney.

Two popular actors will take the leading roles: Olivier award-winning actor **Sara Kestelman**, who is best-known to music lovers for her performance as Princess Carolyn in Ken Russell's 1975 film *Lisztomania*, performs as Germania; and **Jemma Redgrave**, whose recent stage credits include *Mood Music* (Old Vic) and is best known for roles in *Doctor Who*, *Holby City* and the film *Love and Friendship*, will perform the role of Poesie. Students from the BA (Hons) Acting course at Arts University, Bournemouth also feature.

"I'm honoured and excited to be participating in the UK premiere of this unique and intriguing work" – Sara Kestelman

Liszt's *Vor hundert Jahren* sits between works by R Strauss and Hummel. All three composers held Kapellmeister roles in Weimar during the 19th-century: Hummel, as Grand Ducal Kapellmeister from 1819-37; Liszt from 1848-58; and R Strauss as second Kapellmeister from 1889-94. Kirill Karabits was General Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Deutsches Nationaltheater and Staatskapelle Weimar from 2016-19.

The work will be performed in English, using a translation by the renowned German Lieder specialist, Richard Stokes.

Internationally renowned composer and writer **Gerard McBurney** is working with the BSO to realise the dramatic conception of this unpublished work. He described it, "*Vor hundert Jahren was composed as part of the pan-Germanic celebrations in 1859 marking the centenary of the birth of Friedrich Schiller. Familiar to music lovers as the author of 'Ode to Joy', Schiller was not only a great poet and playwright, but a political philosopher who had a deep influence on the new dream of German Unification. For this melodrama for actors and symphony orchestra, Liszt's friend and colleague, Friedrich Halm, created a high-flown libretto, in which the tragic character of 'Germania', left alone in the mountains, bewails the pitiful state into which the German people and their culture have fallen, before the figure of Poetry appears, to take her on a tour of Schiller's works, showing how they offer comfort and inspiration for the nation's future.*"

Kirill Karabits, Chief Conductor of the BSO said, "*I've been looking forward to bringing this unpublished work by Liszt to the BSO after finding the score in Weimar last year, and I can't think of a better way to open the season.*"

Weimar Connections will feature works by Hummel, Liszt and R Strauss and will take place at Lighthouse, Poole (2 Oct) and Cadogan Hall, London (4 Oct). For more visit bsolive.com.

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Notes to Editors:

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1. Images [available here](#)
 - 1) Kirill Karabits, Chief Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Konrad Cwik
 - 2) Projection design by Mike Tutaj ©Mike Tutaj
 - 3) Sara Kestelman ©Samuel Black Photography
 - 4) Jemma Redgrave ©Charlie Carter

5) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra players ©Patrick Baldwin

2. **Performances: Wed 2 Oct (Lighthouse, Poole), Fri 4 Oct (Cadogan Hall, London)**

Hummel Freudenfest Overture

Liszt Vor hundert Jahren

R Strauss Der Rosenkavalier Suite

Kirill Karabits *conductor*, Gerard McBurney *dramatic conception*

Sara Kestelman *Germania*, Jemma Redgrave *Poesie*

Students from the BA (Hons) Acting course, Arts University Bournemouth

3. Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a world-class ensemble known for spearheading change both on and off the stage since 1893. Highly regarded for its ambitious programming and recordings, its Prokofiev cycle and survey of Eastern European music under the baton of Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits has received critical acclaim.
4. The BSO serves a 10,000-square mile region, touring around 140 performances each year to audiences in South West England and beyond; it also offers a number of smaller ensembles, including BSO Resound, the disabled-led ensemble pushing the boundaries of performance practice, and Kokoro, a contemporary chamber ensemble.
5. A bold champion of new talent the BSO boasts an enviable list of principal conductors, from Marin Alsop – the first female principal conductor of a major UK orchestra – to Constantin Silvestri, Paavo Berglund and Andrew Litton. It has given memorable performances at Carnegie Hall, the Musikverein, and Rudolfinum, and gives regular live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.
6. As a registered arts charity the BSO is increasingly reliant on the support of individuals, charitable trusts and companies. The income earned from ticket sales, commercial activity and grants from **public funding sources help the Orchestra greatly and is increasingly invaluable in supporting BSO's** on-going mission to enrich and inspire the cultural lives of many.
7. **The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is BBC Radio 3**
8. The BSO is **Classic FM's** Orchestra in the South of England.