

HARK! THE HERALD **THE SOUTH COAST SINGS...**

Celebrate the festive season in song before swirling into the New Year
with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra



Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra players gear up for the festive season ©BSO

- **Tchaikovsky's** *Nutcracker Suite* opens the BSO's festive season in a concert featuring Latin Grammy-winning pianist Gabriela Montero
- Join the singalong in a Celebration of Christmas Carols at Lighthouse, Poole
- Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits conducts festive favourite **Handel's** *Messiah*
- Dance in the aisles as West-End star Michael D. Xavier performs Christmas hits from *Sleigh Ride* to *Beauty and the Beast*
- An afternoon of family fun with hits from *Frozen* to *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*
- Swirl into the New Year with the sparkle of the Viennese Dance Hall in **New Year's** Johann Strauss Gala concerts

From traditional Christmas **carols** and **Handel's** *Messiah* to a family-friendly sparkling matinee, there is something for all ages from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra this festive season.

Tchaikovsky Magic (Poole – 4 Dec. Exeter – 5 Dec.) features Gabriela Montero — the Venezuelan pianist who sets the globe alight with her visionary improvisations — performing **Mozart's** stormy **Piano Concerto No.24**. Kirill Karabits conducts **Tchaikovsky's** ever-popular *Nutcracker Suite*, which will delight all with its famous melodies *Waltz of the Flowers* and the witty *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*.



Herald the start of the festive season with [Christmas Starts Here \(Poole – 14 Dec\)](#), in an afternoon of music for all ages. The concert of Christmas favourites includes *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *The 12 Days of Christmas* and *Winter Wonderland*, as well as an exciting selection of Disney songs from *Beauty and the Beast* and *Frozen*, and music from *Home Alone* by John Williams. BSO Voices appear alongside the Orchestra under the baton of Pete Harrison.

The BSO are joined by a stellar line-up, including Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, to perform firm festive favourite [Handel's Messiah \(Poole – 18 Dec\)](#) under the baton of Kirill Karabits. Featuring the famous *Hallelujah Chorus*, it'll be a first for the Orchestra's Ukrainian Chief Conductor. He says, "In my 11th season with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra I think it's time for me to conduct *Messiah*. This will be my personal dedication and Christmas present to the loyal audiences and supporters of the BSO without whom this world-class orchestra wouldn't be able to exist!"

West-End star Michael D. Xavier returns to thrill audiences in [Last Night of the Christmas Proms \(Exeter- 20 Dec, Poole- 21 Dec, Portsmouth- 22 Dec\)](#). Michael, who has starred in many West End hit musicals including *Sunset Boulevard*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Oklahoma!* will be singing a variety of hit songs and Christmas classics, including *Soliloquy* from *Carousel*, *The Music of the Night*, *All I Want for Christmas is You* and another riotous rendition of *The 12 Days of Christmas*. With plenty of opportunities to join in with the fun and frolics, this concert will once again have audiences raising the roof and dancing in the aisles.

Join the BSO and Bournemouth Symphony Chorus for a traditional festive singalong, [Celebration of Christmas Carols \(Poole- 23 Dec\)](#). The concert will feature favourite Christmas hymns and songs, including *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Hark the Herald* and *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. Immerse the Christmas spirit with this evening of festive music, hearing favourite carols as never before, with full symphonic sounds from the BSO and spectacular choral richness from the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Celebrate the start of 2020 with [New Year Johann Strauss Gala \(Poole- 1 Jan, Exeter- 2 Jan, Cheltenham- 4 Jan, Taunton- 9 Jan, Torquay- 10 Jan, Weymouth- 11 Jan\)](#), featuring an uplifting selection of waltzes, marches, polkas and arias by the King of Waltz, Johann Strauss and his contemporaries. The full symphonic forces of the BSO will be joined by outstanding soprano Soraya Mafi in an afternoon of swirling melodies into the glamour and sparkle of Viennese Dance Halls. Works include the *Fledermaus Overture*, waltzes from *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Tritsch-Tratsch Polka*, *Emperor Waltz* and, of course, *The Blue Danube!*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform: *Tchaikovsky Magic* (Poole – 4 Dec, Exeter – 5 Dec); *Christmas Starts Here* (Poole – 14 Dec); ***Handel's Messiah*** (Poole – 18 Dec); *Last Night of the Christmas Proms* (Exeter – 20 Dec, Poole – 21 Dec, Portsmouth – 22 Dec); *Celebration of Christmas Carols* (Poole – 23 Dec); *New Year Johann Strauss Gala* (Poole – 1 Jan, Exeter – 2



Jan, Cheltenham — 4 Jan, Guildford — 8 January Taunton — 9 Jan, Torquay — 10 Jan, Weymouth — 11 Jan). Tickets available at bsolive.com

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

For further information, enquiries & requests please contact: Claire Rawles crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk
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1. High-res images available [here](#)
 - a) Kirill Karabits, Chief Conductor of the BSO ©Konrad Cwik
 - b) Players of the BSO ©Patrick Baldwin
 - c) Players of the BSO ©BSO
 - d) Pianist Gabriela Montero ©Shelley Mosman
 - e) BSO Young Conductor in Association **Marta Gardolińska** ©Bartek Barczyk
 - e) Singer Michael Xavier ©MUG photography
 - f) Conductor Pete Harrison ©Andy Holdsworth
 - f) Soprano Soraya Mafi
 - g) Bournemouth Symphony Chorus conductor Gavin Carr

2. Performances — tickets and further information bsolive.com
Tchaikovsky Magic
Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)
*Thur 5 Dec, 7.30pm (Great Hall, Exeter)
Shchedrin *Concerto for Orchestra No.1 'Naughty Limericks'*
Mozart Piano Concerto No.24
Tchaikovsky *The Nutcracker Suite*
Kirill Karabits *conductor*
Gabriela Montero *piano*
**5 Dec is supported by one of the BSO's corporate partners, Tilney Financial Planning and Investment*

Christmas Starts Here: Family Fun with BSO Voices

Sat 14 Dec, 3pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

A family-friendly afternoon of Christmas classics, including: *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *The 12 Days of Christmas* and *Winter Wonderland*.

Pete Harrison *conductor*

BSO Voices

Handel's Messiah

Wed 18 Dec, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Handel *Messiah*

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Rowan Pierce *soprano*

Jake Arditti *countertenor*



Anthony Gregory *tenor*
Jacques Imbrailo *baritone*
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Last Night of the Christmas Proms

Wed 20 Dec, 7.30pm (Great Hall, Exeter)

*Thur 21 Dec, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Fri 22 Dec, 7.30pm (Guildhall, Portsmouth)

Featuring a variety of hit songs and Christmas classics, including *Soliloquy* from *Carousel*, *The Music of the Night*, *All I Want for Christmas is You* and another riotous rendition of *The 12 Days of Christmas*.

Pete Harrison *conductor*

Michael D Xavier *singer*

**21 Dec is supported by one of the BSO's corporate partners, Investec*

Celebration of Christmas Carols

Mon 23 Dec, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Join the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus for a festive singalong to your favourite Christmas hymns and songs.

Gavin Carr *conductor*

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Bournemouth Symphony Youth Chorus

New Year's Johann Strauss Gala

Wed 1 Jan, 3pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Thur 2 Jan, 3pm (Great Hall, Exeter)

Sat 4 Jan, 7.30pm (Town Hall, Cheltenham)

Wed 8 Jan, 7.30pm (G Live, Guildford)

Thur 9 Jan, 7.30pm (The Brewhouse, Taunton)

Fri 10 Jan, 3pm (Riviera Centre, Torquay)

Sat 11 Jan, 7.30pm (Pavilion, Weymouth)

Celebrate the New Year with the full symphonic forces of the BSO and soprano Soraya Mafi in an uplifting selection of waltzes, marches, polkas and arias by the King of Waltz, Johann Strauss and his contemporaries.

Marta Gardolińska *conductor*

Soraya Mafi *soprano*

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.**