

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

KARABITS CELEBRATES ARMENIAN MUSIC IN NEW BSO ALBUM

- Kirill Karabits pays homage to Armenian composer Avet Terterian
- Recording of spiritually-infused Symphonies Nos. 3 & 4 released



Traditional Armenian Duduks and Zurnas feature © BSO

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits continue to bring lesser-known repertoire to the fore in a new recording of music by Armenian composer Avet Terterian (1929-1994).

As part of their 'Voices from the East' series the BSO release music by Terterian, a composer who, alongside Khachaturian, is regarded as a giant of 20th-century Armenian music. The recording is released on 1 November on the Chandos label.

Karabits says of the music, "*Terterian's music is both thrilling and deeply moving. Meditating on the human condition, he challenges us throughout with motifs exploring the meaning of life and death — it's been exhilarating to record these works. I met Terterian, as a child, and I've always been inspired by his work. Witnessing the BSO audience's reaction to this music — of excitement and refreshment — was fantastic, and I hope listeners will also feel inspired by our recording*"

Heavily inspired by both Armenian folk culture and ancient liturgical music, Terterian worked in solitude on the shores of Lake Sevan. His later music is punctuated by experimental devices, the use of both electronic and traditional folk instruments, and pays continued reference to the Armenian Genocide.

Written in 1975, **Symphony No.3** explores the frailty and chaos of life. Scored for Armenian folk instruments — a pair of duduks and zurnas, who take centre stage in front of a large symphony orchestra — the work is written in three movements and is dedicated to the memory of the **composer's young brother, Herman**. Recurring themes include the manic laughter of a Japanese toy, meditative Mongolian drumming, and a melancholic soliloquy for solo duduk over a drone.

Terterian's **Symphony No.4**, composed a year later, strips away the recognisable symphonic elements in a single-movement work, and Karabits selects the original version — without bar lines — **for this recording**. The work explores 'sound as part of the universe', in a dreamlike and meditative journey. Terterian said of his symphonies, *"We are all living on the threshold of a terrible apocalyptic judgement. It has always seemed to me that my symphonies are a cry of the soul for salvation and for the forgiveness of sins."*

Avet Rubeni Terterian's Symphonies Nos.3 and 4 will be released by Chandos on 1 November. Visit bsolive.com for more detail.

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

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1. Images [available here](#)
 - 1) Kirill Karabits, Chief Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Konrad Cwik
 - 2) Players of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in recording © Patrick Baldwin
 - 3) Terterian's music features zurnas and duduks © BSO

2. ALBUM DETAIL

Avet Rubeni Terterian Symphonies Nos. 3&4 (CHSA 5241)

Kirill Karabits *conductor*, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra



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.**