

**PRESS RELEASE**

Friday 29 November, 09:00

## **DISABLED MUSICIANS RECOGNISED WITH PRESTIGIOUS CLASSICAL AWARD**

- **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra win at Royal Philharmonic Society Awards**
- **The Orchestra's disabled-led ensemble, BSO Resound, recognised for its part in changing perceptions for next generation of talent**



*Members of 6-piece ensemble BSO Resound © BSO*

**Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra has won the Impact Award at the Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Awards, one of the most revered events in the classical music calendar, for its part in improving access and inclusion for disabled musicians.**

The RPS Impact Award is given for an outstanding initiative or positive impact on the lives of people who may not otherwise experience classical music. The Orchestra was recognised for its **BSO Change Makers programme** and disabled-led ensemble, **BSO Resound**; the accolade is a huge coup for the newly-formed ensemble in its second year of existence.

The BSO Change Makers programme was funded by Arts Council England and ran in three parts over an 18-month journey, in which the Orchestra became more inclusive: it provided a training placement for disabled **conductor James Rose**; established the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble, BSO Resound; and conducted a series of organisational change activities, embedding the **Social Model of Disability** at its core.

**Dougie Scarfe**, Chief Executive of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, said of the news, *“Music by its nature is inclusive. So much has been achieved in ensuring that as many people as possible can access performances as audience members, which is a huge leap forward. We hope that this win ignites similar conversations, ensuring more people can access concert platforms and build careers as performers.*

*“We’re thrilled that the BSO has been recognised with one of the highest accolades in classical music; this is an important moment in building a more inclusive profession.”*

BSO Resound is part of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and it’s the second time the 6-piece ensemble has made history. In 2018, it made a high profile debut at the BBC Proms within the Orchestra as the first disabled-led group to perform at the festival’s illustrious 125-year history.

Conductor, **James Rose**, said of the news *“My traineeship kicked-started my conducting career and I’ve learnt so much about what it means to be a musician. It has not been easy because it was not meant to be easy, but it has been a true partnership.”*

It is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards, which have been described by BBC Radio 3 as *‘the Oscars, the BAFTAs and the Grammys all in one’* for classical music, and celebrate the outstanding, the pioneering, and the inspirational for the sector. The RPS Awards are presented in association with **BBC Radio 3**, who will broadcast highlights from the event on **Sunday 1 December** at 8:45pm.

[ENDS]

### **Notes to Editors:**

For further information about BSO Resound please contact: Claire Rawles [crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk](mailto:crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk) 07860 776646 or [Rebecca.Johns@premiercomms.com](mailto:Rebecca.Johns@premiercomms.com) 020 7292 7336

For further information about the RPS Awards please contact: Maddie Castell [maddie@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:maddie@rdmr.co.uk) / 0203 691 7034

1. Images available [here](#):
  - a) BSO Resound perform at the 2018 BBC Proms © BBC Proms/Kirsten McTernan
  - b) Conductor James Rose © Deep South Media
  - c) Players of BSO Resound ©BSO

### **2. About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and BSO Resound**

Empowering lives through music remains at the core of all that Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra does. The Orchestra was Alzheimer’s Society’s ‘Dementia Friendly Organisation of the Year’ in 2017, before presenting the world’s first professional disabled-led ensemble, BSO Resound, at the BBC Proms in 2018. Known for its work in defining the modern symphony orchestra, BSO Participate – who work with all ages off the stage – is internationally recognized as an act to follow. Over 650 community workshops and events take place each year across the BSO’s 10,000-square-mile region, enhancing thousands of lives each year.

The BSO urged business leaders to think differently as it shared insights on improving access and prospects for the next generation of talent, releasing the [BSO Change Makers Report in July](#).

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.

**bsolive.com**

3. Arts Council England's Change Makers campaign offered a catalyst to improve progression paths, create visible role models and professional opportunities within the sector. With a strong record in spearheading change, the BSO was the only disabled-led music programme to receive funding through the scheme.
4. The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is BBC Radio 3
5. The BSO is Classic FM's Orchestra in the South of England.
6. Allianz Musical Insurance is a supporting partner of BSO Resound.

7. **About Royal Philharmonic Society**

For over 200 years, the Royal Philharmonic Society has been at the heart of music, creating opportunities for musicians to excel, championing the vital role that music plays in all our lives. It all began in 1813 when a group of musicians set out to establish a series of orchestral concerts in London. The Society's regular performances attracted world-class artists including Mendelssohn and Wagner, and it commissioned exhilarating new music for an eager public to hear: most famously, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. In its founding gesture, the Society created a lasting culture. Other orchestras found their footing and their music resounds across Britain today. 200 years later, the Society continues to celebrate and empower musicians who – like its founders – strive to enrich society with all that they do. Through grants, commissions, coaching and performance opportunities, the RPS helps exciting young performers and composers find their voice. Through the renowned annual RPS Awards, the Society celebrates the quality, impact and ingenuity of the finest artists and creative forces at work today. Through its Membership, the RPS aims to cultivate national pride and curiosity in classical music, and rouse audiences to recognise the vital and valued role they play in the country's thriving musical heritage. Through all its endeavours, the RPS is dedicated to proving classical music's rightful and powerful place in society.

royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk  
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