

PRESS RELEASE  
Wednesday 24 March

## BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONTINUES SYMPHONIC LIVESTREAMS: FURTHER SPRING DATES ANNOUNCED

14 April to 19 May 2021



*Musicians of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan*

- An additional spring series of 6 weekly livestreamed concerts starts 14 April from the Orchestra's base at **Lighthouse, Poole**, thanks to continued support from Series Sponsor, **Investec**.
- Almost **32,000 digital tickets** sold since autumn, with performances reaching greater than concert hall capacity.
- **30% of the Orchestra's digital tickets sold to new customers** during the last 6 months, with 35% of the total audience listening beyond the BSO's home territory.
- Chief Conductor **Kirill Karabits** closes the new series with Sibelius's life-affirming Fifth Symphony.
- **Mark Wigglesworth** returns with two performances, clarinettist **Andreas Ottensamer** makes his UK conducting debut, and **Alexander Soddy** makes his UK symphonic debut.
- Artist-in-Residence **Benjamin Grosvenor** gives recital with duo partner **Hyeyoon Park**.

**Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** announces a further series of six livestreamed symphonic concerts broadcast from its home venue, Lighthouse, Poole, from **14 April to 19 May 2021**.

One of the first UK orchestras to livestream full symphonic performances, the BSO has continued to broadcast each week selling **almost 32,000 digital tickets** since its inaugural series in autumn 2020. Taking into account those who have watched in groups, **the Orchestra reached greater than a sell-out capacity for its livestreamed performances.**

**New customers have accounted for almost 30% of all digital tickets sold** in the past six months, with audiences regularly viewing the livestreams throughout the globe: **35% of the BSO audience is listening beyond the Orchestra's traditional territory** in the South West of England.

Audiences will be able to experience the new series of live performances by digital subscription, which is available for individual concerts or as a season bundle.

**Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits** will close the series with an uplifting programme featuring Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* suite, Scriabin's reflective *Reverie*, and Sibelius's Fifth Symphony. The Ukrainian conductor was with the Orchestra when the UK went into its first lockdown in 2020.

Karabits says, "As we reflect a year on from the announcement of the UK's first lockdown, when it became apparent the arts would suffer greatly, I feel deep pride for what the BSO has achieved in remaining connected with its loyal audiences and supporters in the South West – and now reaching even further afield. I can't wait to be reunited with my colleagues so that we can continue to do what we do: make live symphonic music for our ever-growing musical community."

### **Guest artists**

**Conductor Mark Wigglesworth [Wed 14 Apr; Wed 12 May]** returns to the Orchestra twice in the series: opening with Walton's *Henry V* suite (arr. Mathieson) and Vaughan Williams' Symphony No.5, before conducting Beethoven's Symphony No.6 and Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* suite in May.

Berlin-based clarinettist **Andreas Ottensamer [Wed 21 Apr]** makes his UK conducting debut in a programme of Mozart and Mendelssohn. British conductor **Alexander Soddy [Wed 28 Apr]** – who has been General Music Director of Mannheim National Theater since 2016 – makes his UK symphonic debut with Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* and Brahms' Symphony No.1.

**Artist-in-Residence Benjamin Grosvenor [Wed 5 May]** returns to perform a recital with duo partner, **violinist Hyeyoon Park**; together they perform Cesar Franck's mighty duet, the Sonata in A major, and Clara Schumann's *Romances*. Grosvenor opens the programme with Robert Schumann's *Kreisleriana*, and appears courtesy of Decca Classics.

The Orchestra also welcomes a number of the UK's leading classical music presenters to the team, with **Catherine Bott, Martin Handley** and **Sarah Walker** returning to share the BSO's music-making with audiences.

**BSO Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe**, says, “As a touring ensemble we can’t wait to get back on the road, but, for now livestreaming continues to be a vital lifeline in reaching our valued audiences throughout the South West – and we’re humbled by the response we’ve received.

*“It’s important to us that we present live symphonic music – to support our musicians and freelance community, as well as our audience – and I’m thrilled that we’re also able to welcome back Benjamin Grosvenor in recital with Hyeyoon Park. It may be a year since everything changed, but as we get used to the ‘new normal’ of music-making we can’t wait to share the next instalment of our livestreamed performances.”*

The BSO recently announced further initiatives for all ages, as part of its streamed activity: **Explore the Orchestra [from Saturday 24 April]** is a 5-part interactive series introducing sections of the orchestra and culminating in a specially-composed work by James Redwood. The series is free to view on the BSO website.

The Orchestra also announced an initiative for **GCSE Music pupils**, with almost 3,500 pupils throughout the South West accessing new performances of set works through an online portal to help their exam studies this summer.

**Investec’s series sponsorship** of the Orchestra’s first six months of livestreamed activity has enabled the BSO to be at the forefront of the sector. Investec is a proud partner of the Orchestra and is excited to return as Series Sponsor.

**All performances are livestreamed through the BSO website (bsolive.com) and are available for 30 days. For full details and tickets visit bsolive.com.**

[ENDS]

### **Notes to Editors:**

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*There may be the need to change programmes and/or artists due to safety requirements or changes to government guidelines. If the concert has to be cancelled in its entirety and an alternative livestream is not possible, all ticket money will be refunded.*

1. [Images available here](#)
  - a) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Lighthouse, Poole ©Mark Allan
  - b) Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits ©Konrad Cwik
  - c) Benjamin Grosvenor and Hyeyoon Park ©Andrej Grilc
  - d) Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe ©Corin Messer/Bournemouth Echo
  - e) Conductor Mark Wigglesworth ©Sim Canetty-Clarke
  - f) Conductor Alexander Soddy
  
2. Concert listings and booking link: <https://bsolive.com/whats-on/bso-spring-2021/>  
All performances at **Lighthouse, Poole**

**Wed 14 April**

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*  
Walton — Henry V Suite (arr. Mathieson)  
Vaughan Williams — Symphony No.5

**Wed 21 April**

Andreas Ottensamer *conductor*  
Mozart — Symphony No.35, K.385 'Haffner'  
Mendelssohn — The Hebrides Overture  
Mendelssohn — Symphony No.4 'The Italian'

**Wed 28 April**

Alexander Soddy *conductor*  
Schoenberg — Verklärte Nacht  
Brahms — Symphony No.1

**Wed 5 May**

Benjamin Grosvenor *piano*  
Hyeyoon Park *violin*  
Schumann — Kreisleriana  
C. Schumann — Romances for violin and piano  
Franck — Sonata in A

**Wed 12 May**

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*  
Beethoven — Symphony No.6  
Wagner — Die Meistersinger Suite

**Wed 19 May**

Kirill Karabits *conductor*  
Mendelssohn — A Midsummer Night's Dream Suite  
Scriabin — Reverie  
Sibelius — Symphony No.5

3. **About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**

[www.bsolive.com](http://www.bsolive.com) | @BSOrchestra

Chief Conductor – Kirill Karabits | Associate Guest Conductor – David Hill MBE  
Conductor Emeritus – Marin Alsop | Conductor Laureate – Andrew Litton

One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a professional ensemble known for igniting change both on and off the stage. With residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Poole and Portsmouth it is also the largest cultural provider in the South West of England serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions.

Maintaining the highest artistic ideals the Orchestra remains committed to new and lesser-known repertoire while remaining relevant to its broad audience's tastes. Under Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits the Orchestra's *Voices from the East* series of music from former Soviet countries continues to receive critical acclaim, and its recent recordings of Prokofiev and Walton are outstanding modern performances. The Orchestra is also loved for its performances of film and light music, and its discography charts a number of landmark moments in 20th century music. A commissioner of new music, the Orchestra will give premiere performances of works by Azerbaijani composer Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Shirley J. Thompson and Magnus Lindberg in its 2020/21 season.

Awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award in 2019, for its work in improving opportunities for disabled talent, the BSO continues to explore new territory with BSO Resound – the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra. BSO Participate works with all ages off the stage and is internationally recognised as an act to follow: over 650 community workshops and events take place each year

across the Orchestra's vast region, empowering thousands of lives each year.

Following the longest break in its 127-year history, the Orchestra was one of the first ensembles in the UK to launch a series of full-symphonic performances in 2020.

4. **About Investec**

[www.investecwin.co.uk](http://www.investecwin.co.uk) | **Series Sponsor** of the BSO's livestream series

Part of the Investec group, Investec Wealth & Investment offers wealth management and investment services to private individuals, charities, trusts, international clients and financial advisers. Investec Wealth & Investment has circa 1,400 staff located at its 15 offices across the UK. IW&I had c.£33.1bn of client funds under management as at 31st March 2020.

Services offered by IW&I in the UK include: Discretionary and advisory investment management; Fully comprehensive financial planning capability; Tax, pension, ISA, estate and succession planning; UK and international multi-currency investment portfolios; Onshore and offshore capabilities

In the UK, Investec Wealth & Investment is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The value of your investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount invested. Your capital may be at risk

***“Investec are proud to have been sponsors of the BSO for the past eight years. At a time when the arts sector is under enormous pressure, we feel it's more important than ever to continue this support; to help ensure that future generations can enjoy the magic of the Orchestra's live performances, for many, many years to come.”***

Scott Jones, Investec

5. The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is **BBC Radio 3**
6. The BSO is **Classic FM's** Orchestra in the South of England.