

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday 22 April

BSO VOICES COMMUNITY CHOIR RELEASES NEW PIECE WRITTEN TO MARK EARTH DAY 2021



Composer Teresa Barlow has taken inspiration from nature

- BSO Voices community choir marks Earth Day with a performance of ***Terra Eleison***, the second movement of a new choral work, *Requiem 2020*.
- Written by **composer Teresa Barlow**, the full requiem reflects on major social shifts of the past year, including the climate crisis, COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement.
- Recorded by singers via Zoom, the 2-minute *Terra Eleison* is **released online on 22 April**.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Southampton-based community choir, BSO Voices, releases the premiere performance of *Terra Eleison* this Earth Day. The 2-minute piece — which pays homage to the natural world — is part of a brand-new requiem written to reflect on several major societal shifts of the past year.

Composed by **Teresa Barlow**, the new requiem contains text in both Latin and English. Recorded remotely due to the pandemic, *Terra Eleison* — subtitled ‘Apology to the Earth’ — has been recorded by 40 singers on Zoom and was conducted by Pete Harrison.

Composer Teresa Barlow said: “*It’s been wonderful to work with BSO Voices to record this requiem for Earth Day. It’s not a standard requiem; it’s about hope and unity. I want people to feel encouraged and focussed on the future and in making the world a better place. Rehearsing Terra Eleison with BSO Voices has been easy with the help of technology and the use of silent sectionals via Zoom; the finished result when the recordings come in are as if they were standing next to each other.*”

Lucy Warren, Head of BSO Participate, said: “*BSO Voices is one of our key community groups and we’re so pleased technology has allowed us to continue working with them throughout the pandemic. This new piece is a beautiful work which reflects some of the most prominent issues of the last year. The Orchestra’s digital transformation over the past year has enabled it to livestream symphonic music around the world and to record projects remotely such as this.*”

Terra Eleison repeats the words ‘Terra Eleison, natura Eleison’, translating as ‘Earth have mercy, nature have mercy’. Other movements within *Requiem 2020* include: *Dies Irae*, reflects on climate change and begins with Greta Thunberg’s words in English and later in Latin; *Tuba Mirum* to COVID-19, with the word COVID spelled out in Morse code rhythmically throughout; *Pie Jesu* to the Black Lives Matter movement, the section is 8 min 46 seconds long, the length of time that George Floyd was restrained.

BSO Voices plans to perform the complete work in due course.

***Terra Eleison* will be free to view from Wednesday 22 April, see bsolive.com for further information.**

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

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1. [Images Available](#)
 - a) Composer, Teresa Barlow
 - c) BSO Voices in performance ©BSO
 - d) Head of BSO Participate, Lucy Warren
 - e) Conductor Pete Harrison ©Andy Holdsworth

2. **About BSO Voices and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**

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

BSO Voices is a Southampton-based community choir which rehearses weekly. To find out more about membership contact Ben Jennings bjennings@bsorchestra.co.uk

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.

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.

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