

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 2 June 2021

## BSO RESOUND CALLS FOR INCLUSION TO REMAIN CENTRE STAGE AS IT PERFORMS WORLD PREMIERE BY SHIRLEY J. THOMPSON



*Composer Shirley J. Thompson with BSO Resound*

- BSO Resound, the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble embedded in a major symphony orchestra, gives a **world premiere** performance from Lighthouse, Poole.
- **Commissioned by Allianz Musical Insurance, Shirley J. Thompson's *Emanation*** reflects on 60 years of the Independent Living Movement and its impact on the lives of disabled people.
- As audiences return to concert venues **the group calls for inclusion to remain a core focus** for the sector.

**Two forces for positive change in classical music unite to present a world premiere this summer: BSO Resound, the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble embedded in a major symphony orchestra, and the visionary artist and cultural activist, composer Shirley J. Thompson. The new work has been commissioned by Allianz Musical Insurance.**

BSO Resound performs at **Lighthouse, Poole**, on **Thursday 17 June**, to both a socially-distanced physical audience and a livestreamed audience online. The concert forms part of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's new summer series of events, as it welcomes audiences back to the concert hall.

**Emanation — a seven-minute work for chamber ensemble — was commissioned by Allianz Musical Insurance** (AMI) to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary: the work reflects on six decades of social change for disabled people, instigated by the Independent Living Movement.

**Composer Shirley J. Thompson** said, *"Emanation celebrates the journey towards independence for the disabled community, from the pioneering spirit of the 1960s through to the present day. This commission has enabled me to write for the linnstrument, a MIDI-based keyboard instrument that uses assistive technology, and it's opened my eyes to a wonderful new world of sound: I look forward to hearing BSO Resound bring the work to life!"*

**Clarice Goff of Allianz Musical Insurance** said, *"Allianz Musical Insurance is proud to be Supporting Partner of BSO Resound. It's fitting to have marked our 60th anniversary by commissioning this new work by Shirley J. Thompson, which not only reflects on six decades of social change, but will add to the repertoire for disabled-led ensembles of the future."*

**Siobhan Clough, member of BSO Resound** said, *"For me, this piece really does represent a journey: when playing Emanation I can't help but reflect on what has been achieved over the last 60 years for disabled musicians, whilst looking forward to the unknown yet to come. It's a pleasure to explore this celebratory work and draw new perspective from it."*

Performances by BSO Resound also feature as part of the **Parallel Digital Festival of Inclusivity (27 July)** and the **Culture, Health and Wellbeing International Conference (21-23 June)**, when the group gives another world premiere performance, *Cap O'Rushes* by Cevanne Horrocks-Hopayan.

**Lucy Warren, Head of BSO Participate**, said, *"As audiences and musicians return to the concert hall it's more important than ever that inclusivity remains central to the conversation; we're thrilled BSO Resound has been able to safely return to performances this summer, and to give the world premiere of Shirley J. Thompson's Emanation thanks to the generous support of Allianz Musical Insurance."*

BSO Resound is known for spearheading change: in 2019, the six-piece chamber group won the Royal Philharmonic Society Impact Award for its part in improving opportunities for disabled musicians. It also made a high-profile debut at the 2018 BBC Proms as the first disabled-led group to perform at the festival.

**BSO Resound performs *Emanation* on Thursday 17 June. The concert will be available for 30 days online. See [bsolive.com](https://bsolive.com) for tickets and further information.**

[ENDS]

## **Notes to Editors:**

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### **Event details:**

Thursday 17 June, 7pm | Lighthouse, Poole

**Copland** *Variations on a Shaker Melody* (arr. J Moore)

**Mozart** *Flute Quartet No.1 in D major* (arr. P Bailey)

**J. Thompson** *Emanation* (world premiere)

**Rachmaninov** *Vocalise* (arr. M Harrison)

**Mozart** *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (arr. P Howells)

**Bizet** *Carmen: Habanera & Toreadors* (arr. P Bailey)

**BSO Resound** | Sarah Walker, presenter

Tickets £5 (livestream), from £12 (hall)

1. Images available [here](#)
  - a) Composer Shirley J Thompson with members of BSO Resound
  - b) Composer Shirley J Thompson
  - c) Shirley J Thompson in conversation with members of BSO Resound
  - d) Head of BSO Participate, Lucy Warren

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

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

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.

### 1. **About Shirley Thompson** <https://shirleythompsonmusic.com/>

A visionary artist and cultural activist, Shirley J. Thompson's music is often described as 'beautiful and powerful' (*Le Figaro*). Fusing musical elements representative of modern Britain, Thompson's work has featured in numerous national events with highlights including the powerful the 2018 choral work, *Psalm to Windrush: for the Brave & Ingenious*, to mark the Windrush 70th anniversary at Westminster Abbey, and *New Nation Rising: A 21st Century London Symphony* for 200 performers to celebrate London's 1,000-year history as part of the Queen's 2002 Golden Jubilee. Thompson's music has been performed by the Royal Philharmonic, BBC Concert, and Philharmonia orchestras and at the Southbank Centre, Sydney Opera House, and Mariinsky Theatre.

Dr Thompson is Reader in Composition and Performance at the University of Westminster and has also composed extensively for TV/film, theatre and dance production. She is considered to be “...an artist who draws on a range of influences from the classical tradition to modern urban sounds, and in many senses her work is archetypal of the renewed interest in the possibilities and potential of the genre.” RESONANCE FM

2. **About Allianz Musical Insurance** [www.allianzmusic.co.uk](http://www.allianzmusic.co.uk)

Allianz Musical Insurance are the UK's No.1 musical instrument insurer and are proud to have covered musicians of all types since 1960 – longer than any other insurer.

Their cover protects instruments and equipment against accidental damage, loss, theft and more and today insure over 357,000 instruments and over 70,000 musicians.

**Clarice Goff, Marketing Manager at Allianz Musical Insurance**, said: “We’re proud to be a team of music experts who support musicians so they can focus on making music. Our ability to take care of our customers at their time of need and our commitment to the music industry is what sets us apart.”

Allianz Musical Insurance covers all kinds of musical instruments and equipment, from rare makes to everyday classics. It covers musicians of all levels and ages, from students and hobbyists to teachers and orchestras. Allianz Musical Insurance are committed to supporting UK musicians during this time, so are giving all new customers two months free insurance when they buy a policy online. (2 months free only applicable when you buy a policy online. For the first year you will only make 10 payments. Subject to our minimum premium and not valid in conjunction with other offers.)

3. **Further information about the Independent Living Movement**

The Independent Living Movement developed in 1960s America: it presented the perspective that people living with disabilities are the best experts on their needs, and therefore, must feel empowered to take the initiative – both individually and collectively – to create positive change. It is a worldwide movement working toward equal opportunities, self-determination and self-respect.

4. **Allianz Musical Insurance is a supporting partner of BSO Resound.**

5. **The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is BBC Radio 3**

6. **The BSO is Classic FM's Orchestra in the South of England.**