

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 10 November 2021

MARK WIGGLESWORTH ANNOUNCED AS BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR



Conductor Mark Wigglesworth ©Sim Canetty-Clarke

- **Mark Wigglesworth** becomes the **BSO's Principal Guest Conductor**, following several highly successful programmes together last season.
- Recognised internationally for his expertise in both the concert hall and opera house, **Wigglesworth joins the BSO for a period of three years.**
- Wigglesworth conducts the Orchestra in **Poole (10 Nov)** and **Portsmouth (11 Nov)** in a programme that includes Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No.2 with **Steven Osborne.**

Conductor Mark Wigglesworth has been announced as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's new Principal Guest Conductor — he joins the Orchestra this season.

The celebrated conductor has worked with the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony, New York Philharmonic and Royal Concertgebouw orchestras, and is known for his work in the world's most prestigious opera houses.

Wigglesworth conducted the Orchestra during its inaugural livestreamed series in 2020/21, giving acclaimed performances of Beethoven, Brahms, Haydn, Vaughan Williams, Wagner, and Walton.

Next spring, he'll conduct the BSO in Poole (Wed 2 Mar) and Portsmouth (Thurs 3 Mar), in a programme of Mozart, Schubert and Jonathan Dove.

Mark Wigglesworth said of the appointment: *"I have so enjoyed working with the wonderful musicians of the Bournemouth Symphony and am delighted to be able to continue to do this on a more regular basis. The magnificent way the orchestra responded to the pandemic revealed very clearly to me the commitment the whole organisation feels to its audience and to music itself. They kept music alive at a time when we all needed it most, and proved beyond doubt what a vital role music plays in helping us all stay connected, inspired, and hopeful."*

Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra said, *"Mark's reputation as a world-leading conductor in both the concert hall and opera house presents a great opportunity for the BSO and its audiences throughout the South West. Whilst the pandemic presented a variety of challenges, forging this close creative partnership has been wonderful – with a clear and evident rapport, together Mark and the Orchestra create music-making of the highest order. We can't wait to get started."*

The BSO continues to broadcast its main season each Wednesday night from Poole – following its inaugural year of livestreamed broadcasts – and resumes its symphonic touring this autumn, with concerts in Basingstoke, Exeter, and Portsmouth.

The Orchestra's Autumn Series of symphonic concerts is supported by Season Sponsor Investec.

Mark Wigglesworth conducts Mahler, Shostakovich and Sibelius with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Lighthouse, Poole (Wed 10 Nov) and Portsmouth Guildhall (Thurs 11 Nov). The livestreamed concert will be available for 30 days. For details visit www.bsolive.com

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

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1. [Images available here](#)
 - a) Mark Wigglesworth ©Sim Canetty-Clarke
 - b) Chief Executive of the BSO, Dougie Scarfe ©Mark Allan
 - c) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan

2. Event listings:

Wed 10 Nov, 7.30pm (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thurs 11 Nov, 7.30pm (Portsmouth Guildhall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Steven Osborne *piano*

Mahler (orch. Matthews) – Nicht zu schnell

Shostakovich – Piano Concerto No.2

Sibelius – Symphony No.1

Tickets: [bsolive.com](https://www.bsolive.com)

Available as digital livestream

3. About Mark Wigglesworth

<https://www.markwigglesworth.com/>

Mark Wigglesworth is recognised internationally for his masterly interpretations both in the opera house and in the concert hall, for his highly detailed performances that combine a finely considered architectural structure with great sophistication and rare beauty. He is an outstanding conductor who has forged many enduring relationships with orchestra and opera companies across the world, conducting repertoire ranging from Mozart through to Boulez.

Wigglesworth has enjoyed a long relationship with English National Opera (Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, *Così fan Tutti*, Falstaff, Katya Kabanova, Parsifal, Force of Destiny, Magic Flute, Jenufa, Don Giovanni, and Lulu), and operatic engagements elsewhere include The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, Rise and Fall of Mahagonny, La Clemenza di Tito), The Metropolitan Opera, New York (The Marriage of Figaro) as well as at The Bavarian State Opera, Opéra national de Paris, Semperoper Dresden, Teatro Real, The Netherlands Opera, La Monnaie, Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne, and Opera Australia. In 2017 he received the Oliver Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera.

On the concert platform, highlights include performances with the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony, and the Sydney Symphony. His recordings include a critically acclaimed complete cycle of the Shostakovich Symphonies with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Mahler Sixth and Tenth symphonies, with the Melbourne Symphony, a disc of English music with the Sydney Symphony, Britten Peter Grimes with Glyndebourne, and the Brahms Piano Concertos with Stephen Hough.

He has written articles for The Guardian and The Independent, made a six-part TV series for the BBC entitled Everything to Play For, and held positions as Associate Conductor of the BBC Symphony, Principal Guest Conductor of the Swedish Radio Symphony, the Adelaide Symphony, Music Director of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and Music Director of English National Opera. His book *The Silent Musician: Why Conducting Matters* was published in October 2018 by Faber & Faber.

4. About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

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 championing the role of culture in people's lives**. With residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth and Poole, it is the largest cultural provider in the South West of England, serving one of the

biggest and most diverse regions.

The Orchestra, under its Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits, is known for pushing artistic boundaries, and its ongoing series of music from former Soviet states, *Voices from the East*, continues to gain praise. Boasting an enviable list of principal conductors, including Marin Alsop, the first female principal conductor of a major UK orchestra, the BSO has given memorable performances worldwide and with regular live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

The Orchestra's inaugural livestreamed series, which featured Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Benjamin Grosvenor and Alina Ibragimova, was widely praised by audiences and critics alike, with **the BSO making history as one of the first British orchestras to return to the stage in 2020**. Horn player Felix Klieser makes his UK concerto debut as the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence, as **the BSO resumes symphonic touring in 2021**.

Committed to new music, the Orchestra celebrates a triptych of contemporary works written by women in its forthcoming season, with premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh and Elizabeth Ogonek. During the pandemic, the BSO also gave premieres by composers Shirley J. Thompson OBE and Magnus Lindberg.

The BSO received the **Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award** in 2019 for its work in improving opportunities for disabled musicians, and **BSO Resound — the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra** — continues to receive international attention for igniting change. Challenging access to high-quality music for all, the BSO leads hundreds of events each year, from award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs.

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