

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 4 November 2021

WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW WORK BY COMPOSER CARMEN HO TO BE PERFORMED AT LIGHTHOUSE, POOLE



Composer Carmen Ho ©BSO

- Carmen Ho is a young composer and the winner of the **Royal Philharmonic Society's Composition Prize 2018** as well as recent finalist of the **Toru Takemitsu Composition Award**.
- Her new work, *Unforged*, has been commissioned for Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's autumn season. The piece will be performed on **Wednesday 24 November (Lighthouse, Poole)** under the baton of the BSO's Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits.
- The piece is part of a **triptych of new works written by women** which features across the Orchestra's 2021/22 season.

The winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society's Composition Prize in 2018, Carmen Ho was a recent finalist of the Toru Takemitsu Composition Award. Her work has been performed by the BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble 360,

Hong Kong Philharmonic, and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. Carmen recently completed her PhD at the University of Bristol and is Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Assistant Librarian.

The world premiere of *Unforged* takes place on Wednesday 24 November at Lighthouse, Poole. The performance will also be **livestreamed to a global audience and available to view for 30 days**, presented by broadcaster Martin Handley.

Carmen's new work is part of a triptych of new pieces written by women being celebrated by the BSO this year: the Orchestra performs material by **Elizabeth Ogonek** and **Franghiz Al-Zadeh** later in 2021/22.

Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive of the BSO said, *"We're thrilled to commission this new piece, Unforged, and can't wait to hear its world premiere in Poole under the baton of Kirill Karabits. Carmen is an up-and-coming young composer whose work has been garnering international attention — and we're especially proud that she's a member of staff here at the BSO!"*

Composer, Carmen Ho said, *"For me, the title Unforged means authenticity, originality and possibility, and the piece begins with a minimal idea before expanding and evolving into a rich and complex sound world. I'm really happy that the BSO has commissioned this piece and that its world premiere will be performed here in Poole, where I'm currently based!"*

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. Carmen Ho's new commission has been generously supported by Terence and Annette O'Rourke.

Carmen Ho's *Unforged* will be performed on Wednesday 24 November at Lighthouse, Poole. 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) Carmen Ho © BSO
 - b) Chief Executive of the BSO, Dougie Scarfe ©Mark Allan

c) Conductor Kirill Karabits ©Mark Allan
d) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan

1. Event listings:

Wed 24 Nov, 7.30pm (Poole, Lighthouse)

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Ning Feng *violin*

Brahms Violin Concerto

Ho *Unforged* (world premiere)

Schumann Symphony No.4 (Original Version)

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

Available as digital livestream

2. **About Carmen Ho**

<https://www.carmenho.co.uk/>

Carmen Ho (b.1990) is a composer of orchestral, instrumental and choral music based in the UK. She has received numerous awards including the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize in 2018 and most recently 4th prize in the Toru Takemitsu Composition Award 2020.

Carmen has worked with musicians such as BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Bristol Ensemble, Bristol University Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble 360, Ensemble Variances, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Kokoro, Musikfabrik, Riot Ensemble, The Bach Choir and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. She has participated in the Summer School at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (2016), Kyiv Contemporary Music Days (2016), Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Composers' Day (2017) & (2019), Bristol New Music (2018) and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Composers Scheme (2019/20). Carmen has completed her PhD in composition at University of Bristol, under the supervision of Professor John Pickard.

3. **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.

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