

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 16 November 2021

## SWIRL INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AS VIENNESE CONCERTS RETURN



*Musicians of the BSO prepare to celebrate ©Mark Allan*

- Prepare to spin into the New Year with a flourish, as the BSO's famous Viennese concerts return to **Cheltenham, Poole** and **Weymouth**.
- **Soprano Elizabeth Watts** joins **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** and **conductor Michael Seal** in a programme of famous waltzes, polkas and more.
- The family performances take place at **Lighthouse, Poole** (Sat 1 Jan), **Cheltenham Town Hall** (Fri 7 Jan), and **Weymouth Pavilion** (Sat 8 Jan).

**The sound of Vienna comes to the South West as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Day concerts return to Cheltenham, Poole and Weymouth this winter. Suitable for the all the family, the programme promises to herald in the New Year in style.**

Vienna's famous New Year's Day concerts have taken place in the Austrian capital since 1939, and remain one of the most coveted tickets in classical music. Featuring a host of waltzes, marches, galops and polkas, the event remains a highlight of the musical calendar.

Under the baton of conductor Michael Seal, and featuring leading British soprano Elizabeth Watts, the full symphonic forces of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra return with the annual celebration, which will include the Fledermaus Overture, Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Emperor Waltz and, of course, The Blue Danube.

**Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** said, "*The Viennese really know how to start the musical year in style, and we know how much families throughout the South West enjoy marking their New Year together at these special concerts – we can't wait to celebrate with you all!*"

The BSO continues to broadcast a number of its main season concerts from Poole throughout the year – and its symphonic touring continues in the New Year with further concerts in Basingstoke, Exeter, Portsmouth and Truro.

**Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Viennese concerts take place at Lighthouse, Poole (Saturday 1 January), Cheltenham Town Hall (Friday 7 January), and Weymouth Pavilion (Saturday 8 January). For full details visit [www.bsolive.com](http://www.bsolive.com)**

[ENDS]

#### **Notes to Editors:**

**For further information please contact: Claire Rawles [crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk](mailto:crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk) 07860 776646**

1. [Images available here](#)
  - a) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan
  - b) Soprano Elizabeth Watts ©Marco Borggreve
  - c) Conductor Michael Seal ©Eric Richmond
  - d) Chief Executive of the BSO, Dougie Scarfe ©Mark Allan
  
2. Event listings:

**Saturday 1 January, 3pm (Lighthouse, Poole)**

**Friday 7 January, 7.30pm (Cheltenham Town Hall)**

**Saturday 8 January, 7.30pm (Weymouth Pavilion)**

Michael Seal *conductor*

Elizabeth Watts *soprano*

Enjoy a host of waltzes, marches, galops and polkas including the Fledermaus Overture, Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Emperor Waltz and, of course, The Blue Danube!

**Tickets: [bsolive.com](http://bsolive.com)**

***Audience members are asked to adhere to current government safety guidelines in order to help keep everyone safe; there are also a range of seating options available at all BSO venues.***

### 3. About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

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

*Chief Conductor – Kirill Karabits*

*Principal Guest Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth | 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.