

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 20 January 2022

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR ENGAGING YOUNG MUSICIANS KEEN TO LAUNCH A CAREER IN EMPOWERING OTHERS



Two 18-26-year-olds will be supported in leading workshops ©BSO

- **A new bursary-supported training scheme** is set to boost the careers of two aspiring music leaders keen to inspire people of all ages.
- The nine-month **BSO Young Associates** scheme will equip participants with vital skills in leading music projects in a range of **health and social settings**.
- Performing throughout the South West, from **Bournemouth to Bristol, Exeter, Poole and Portsmouth**, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is calling out to **young people who are currently underrepresented** in the UK's arts workforce to apply.

A nine-month pilot programme designed to kick-start the careers of two aspiring community music leaders launches today [Thurs 20 Jan]. Offered by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO), the bursary-supported placements will provide bespoke mentoring and experiences for passionate creatives aged 18-26.

Young people with a gift for music-making — and a passion for helping and inspiring others — will have the chance to put their heart and soul into motivating people all ages: the BSO Young Associates programme is open for applications until Thursday 3 March.

At the last count, it was reported that people who identify as disabled, or who are from Black, Asian or Ethnically Diverse backgrounds, accounted for just 7% and 13% of those working in the UK's creative industries respectively^[1] — alongside this, despite representing just under one-third of the UK's national workforce, those from working class backgrounds accounted for just 16% of those working in the creative sector^[2].

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra has created its BSO Young Associates programme as a direct response, raising funds through the Big Give Christmas Challenge to help support two aspiring musicians who might not otherwise have the opportunity to undertake an internship or placement to launch a career in the arts.

Bea Hankey, Head of BSO Participate said: *“Whether you’re an instrumentalist, producer, or singer-songwriter we want to hear from you! We’re looking for people who are natural communicators, with an unshakable passion for the empowering impact of music and a desire to create positive change at the heart of our communities. In exchange, you’ll receive mentoring from leading practitioners and experiences to help catapult the start of a rewarding arts career.”*

Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra said, *“Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra’s vision is to be the cultural heartbeat at the core of our communities, both in and beyond the concert hall — the launch of the BSO Young Associates programme is an exciting moment and we can’t wait to welcome our new recruits.*

“The programme has been funded by a philanthropic community through the Big Give campaign, and with additional support from Allianz Musical Insurance, showing the depth of desire to ensure that doors are being held firmly open to the next generation of young people looking to create and shape their place within this brilliantly creative industry.”

Challenging barriers 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. The two BSO Young Associates will have the chance to experience the full range of the organisation’s outreach work, helping those both young and old in a variety of projects.

The BSO is known globally for championing the role of culture in people’s lives. It 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.

Allianz Musical Insurance is a Supporting Partner of the BSO Young Associates programme.

The BSO Young Associates programme is open for applications until Thursday 3 March 2022. To find out more www.bsolive.com

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Notes to Editors:

For further information please contact: Claire Rawles crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk 07860 776646 or Rebecca Johns rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com 07715 205196

1. Notes:

- a. [1] “The total percentage figures for the National Portfolio workforce show those who are Black, Asian or Ethnically Diverse at 13%, Female at 50%, Disabled people at 7% and LGBT at 8%. These compare to the Office of National Statistics for the percentage of the working age population in England: 17% ethnic minorities, 50% female, 22% Disabled people and 2% LGBT.” **Taken from Arts Council England (page 11) https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Equality_Diversity_and_the_Creative_Case_A_Data_Report_201920.pdf**
- b. [2] Only 16 percent of the creative workforce are from working class social origins, compared to just under one-third across the whole UK economy (Carey et al, 2020, 2021b) **Taken from Creative Majority Report, APPG (September 2021): <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/cultural/resources/reports/creative-majority-report-v2.pdf>**

2. [Images available here](#)

- a) BSO Associate musicians work with people of all ages away from the stage ©BSO
- b) Chief Executive of the BSO, Dougie Scarfe ©Mark Allan
- c) Head of BSO Participate, Bea Hankey ©BSO
- d) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan

3. **About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**

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 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.

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.

4. **About Allianz Musical Insurance** – Supporting Partner of BSO Young Associates and BSO Resound
www.allianz.co.uk/music | @AllianzMusic

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.

Brian Hillstead at Allianz Musical Insurance, said: *“We are proud to be entering into our fourth successive year of sponsorship with the BSO. This is a continuation of our commitment and support to musicians at all levels, going beyond the role of an insurer by engaging and supporting the wider music industry. Our experience as an insurer, and the depth of knowledge of our music experts, means we are focused on the needs of our customers and the support required so they can focus on what’s important to them... making music.”*

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.)

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