

PRESS RELEASE

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YOUNG MUSICIANS INSPIRING OTHERS THROUGH NEXT GENERATION TRAINING SCHEME



Sehyogue Aulakh and Lila Bhattacharjee announced as BSO Young Associates ©BSO

- **Sehyogue Aulakh** and **Lila Bhattacharjee** appointed as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's first **BSO Young Associates**.
- The aspiring community music leaders will gain the skills to deliver life-empowering projects with people of all ages as part of the BSO's award-winning team.
- The nine-month bursary-supported placements are designed to increase diversity in the sector, offering the next generation of community music leaders a career springboard through practical experience, training and mentoring.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) announces the appointment of two talented musicians, who become its first BSO Young Associates. Sehyogue Aulakh and Lila Bhattacharjee will work with community groups in education, health and care settings throughout the South West during their nine-month placements.

Sehyogue Aulakh, a percussionist from Devon who is currently completing her studies at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, joins London-born flautist **Lila Bhattacharjee** — a postgraduate student at Cardiff's Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama — in becoming a BSO Young Associate.

The pair will bring their musicality and training to community groups throughout the South West as they join Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's award-winning outreach team. They'll experience the full range of the organisation's participation work, helping those both young and old in a variety of projects.

Sehyogue Aulakh, BSO Young Associate musician, said, *"I feel lucky to have been exposed to a rich mix of music whilst growing up, thanks to Plymouth Music Zone, which helped me develop an interest in orchestral music alongside my love of North Indian classical music. I'm really looking forward to exploring how music can have a positive impact on people's lives, whilst developing my tool kit as a musician."*

Lila Bhattacharjee, BSO Young Associate musician, said, *"Since discovering the world of community music through my first graduate job, I've developed a deep interest and appreciation for the field. I can't wait to develop my skills as a facilitator further and connect musically and socially with people across the South West as a BSO Young Associate."*

Bea Hankey, Head of BSO Participate, said, *"We're proud that coming out of the pandemic — at a time when the empowering impact of music has never been needed more — the BSO has been able to create these opportunities for the next generation of community music leaders. We're grateful to our loyal philanthropic community, who helped fund the programme through the Big Give campaign, and for additional support from Allianz Musical Insurance. I know that Sehyogue and Lila will bring a fresh insight and energy to the brilliant work of BSO Participate — we can't wait to begin."*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra leads hundreds of events each year, from award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs. It 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.

The BSO Young Associates programme was launched at the start of 2022, with the aim of increasing diversity^[1] and opportunity within the classical music sector. The programme was created through funds raised through the **Big Give Christmas Challenge** to help support aspiring musicians to launch a career in the arts.

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

For further information see bsolive.com

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

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1. [Images available here](#)
 - a) BSO Young Associate musicians Lila Bhattacharjee and Seyogue Aulakh ©BSO
 - b) Bea Hankey, Acting Head of BSO Participate ©BSO
 - c) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan
2. ^[1]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 are underrepresented in the arts to launch a career.

- 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>

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**. In 2021, **Horn player Felix Klieser** made a memorable UK concerto debut as the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence, and the BSO resumed its symphonic touring of the South West.

Committed to new music, the Orchestra celebrates a triptych of contemporary symphonic 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.